St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

TRUSTEES REPORT

for the year ending 31 March 2026

Charity No: 1053992 Company No: 3174679



Living as Pilgrims of Hope

Mission, Vision & Values

Contents

Page 3: National President & CEO welcome
Page 4: Our impact
Page 5 : Our work in numbers (with secretarial returns)
Page 6 & 7: Special Works (Leyland Food & Furniture Project)
Page 8: Social justice
Page 9, 10 & 11: Young Vincentians
Page 12, 13 & 14: Community Support Projects
Page 15: Housing
Page 16 & 17: Overseas Twinning
Page 18: Retail
Page 19: Gift in Wills
Page 20: Our fundraising year in numbers

Since the Charity's foundation in 1833 in Paris, the St Vincent de Paul Society has lived by the Christian principles of its founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, who said we should, "embrace the whole world in a network of charity."

In 1833 the work of the Charity was prompted by the abject poverty in the slums of Paris. The first SVP members reached out in person to help those in need. The first SVP Conference in England and Wales was established only eleven years later, in 1844. Sadly, though the world has changed in so many ways, poverty remains embedded across society. Today our members continue to reach out to those in need with kindness, compassion and a welcome that is non-judgmental.
As a 19-year-old university student, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam had the vision to create that network of Charity. If he attended an SVP Conference meeting today, visited a St Vincent's shop, support centre or any other of our many projects, he would recognise the same ethos of Vincentian service and welcoming acceptance of others. The doors of hope are always open.

Today, the SVP numbers around 800,000 voluntary members in some 153 countries, with nearly 9,000 members in England and Wales. The work of the Society continues to evolve in response to present needs, while remaining person-centred, ensuring everyone has the right to be a valued member of the community in which they live.

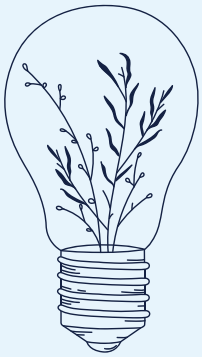
MISSION

Our mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice, and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.



VISION

Our vision, inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is to give hope & restore the dignity of individuals and families, empowering them to live more fulfilling lives in a fairer world.



VALUES

Christ-centred - We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.
Compassionate - We aim to show compassion that is non-judgemental towards those with whom we work.
Respectful - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.
Generous - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.
Responsive - We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs of the communities in which we work, and to respond accordingly in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms.
Accountable - We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help, while acting within the limits of our own knowledge & skills.
Confidential - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental wellbeing of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

Together, we're living as **Pilgrims of Hope**



Kate Nightingale
CEO



Elaine Heyworth
National President

Each year, writing this introduction provides a moment to reflect on the progress and challenges the SVP has faced in the last year. As always, some things change, and some things remain the same.

The backdrop to our work continues to be the cost-of-living crisis, conflict, poverty, and societal tensions, too often fuelled by entrenched views and a lack of respect for the dignity of others. These realities continue to shape the lives of those we serve. Yet amid these challenges, the SVP has remained steadfast in its mission, seeking out those in need and responding with practical help, friendship, and hope. Every day, our members, volunteers, and staff witness the realities of hardship, and the difference compassion and hope can make. This was especially evident during the Church's 2025 Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Its themes closely mirrored our own mission: giving preference to the poor, standing alongside migrants, supporting those in prison, encouraging young people and campaigning for social justice. These activities remain at the heart of all we do.

Our presence in communities remains strong. Across England and Wales, we provided practical support on over 80,000 occasions and made over 301,000 visits and calls to people in need. Nearly 39,000 people received assistance, whether in the form of food, financial help, household essentials, friendship, or advocacy. We continued to support those experiencing homelessness, older people facing loneliness, refugees and asylum seekers seeking safety and support, families struggling with the pressures of poverty and those in hospitals and prisons. Behind every statistic is a person, a family, and a story. Every act of service reflects our commitment to treating everyone with dignity and compassion.

The year was also both momentous and poignant for the wider Church community. We mourned the passing of Pope Francis and welcomed Pope Leo XIV, while celebrating the canonisation of two new saints, including Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, himself a proud SVP member who dedicated his life to serving the poor. These events were powerful reminders of the enduring call to service and gave renewed energy and inspiration to our work.

We are pleased that the Society has continued to strengthen its financial position. However, like many charities, we face ongoing financial pressures and recognise that maintaining a sustainable future requires hard work, careful stewardship, and continued generosity of our supporters.

There were also significant changes in those who support and guide the Society. We said farewell to Cardinal Vincent Nichols as an SVP Patron and offer our sincere thanks for his support and encouragement over many years. We were delighted that his successor as Archbishop of Westminster, Archbishop Richard Moth, has become a Patron. We were equally pleased to welcome Georgina, Duchess of Norfolk, as a Patron and are grateful for her commitment to our work.

We also thank Fr Paul Roche for his dedicated service as National Spiritual Advisor and warmly welcome Fr Eugene Curran to the role.

Another positive development was the addition of Hopeworx in Rayleigh, Essex, to the SVP family. Hopeworx plays a vital role supporting local people facing hardship providing affordable furniture and household goods.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our members, volunteers, and staff. We are equally grateful to our generous supporters, trusts, parishes, organisations, and donors whose generosity enables our mission to continue.

As the Jubilee Year ended, its message of hope remained. Hope is built through practical action, friendship, and faith. Inspired by those we serve and strengthened by the dedication of our people across the Society, we look to the future with confidence, continuing our shared pilgrimage of hope.

Hope in numbers

Through the work of our volunteer members

In 2025-26 our SVP Conferences in England and Wales had nearly 9,000 active volunteer members. These Conferences continued to reach out proactively to those in need within their communities.

The nature of support provided was shaped by local needs, circumstances and resources.

Our volunteer members' core focus is on visiting those facing loneliness or hardship - offering support and friendship for as long as needed. Last year in England and Wales, over 301,000 visits and calls were made to more than 38,000 people, with over 80,000 instances of practical help provided, mainly food and transport, including more than 16,000 hours which were given to food runs.

38,761
people supported
across England and Wales

Every 2 minutes
we had one support call or visited someone in need

80,462
occasions of practical help
delivered

301,254
visits & calls
made in a single year

247
full-time workers volunteering
for a year (equivalent)

Over 16,600
older people supported

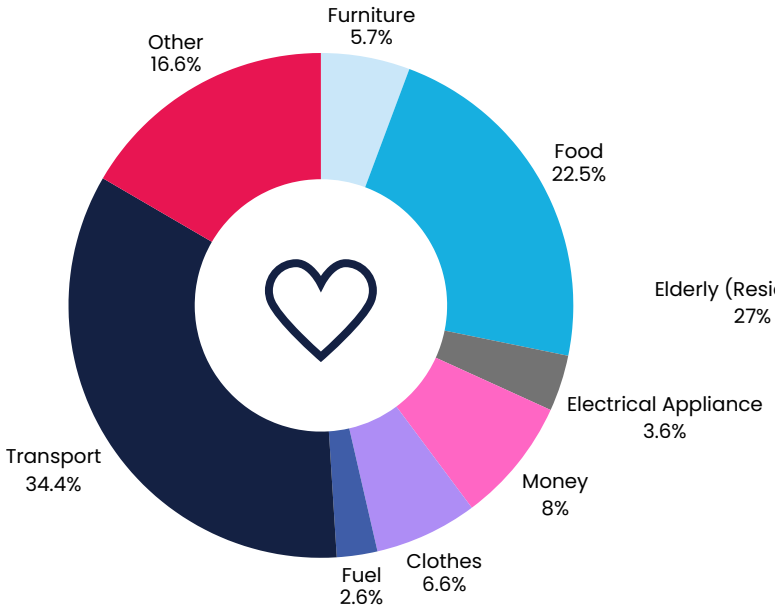
53,817
food bank and soup runs
servings provided

514,553
volunteer hours
delivered

Hope in action

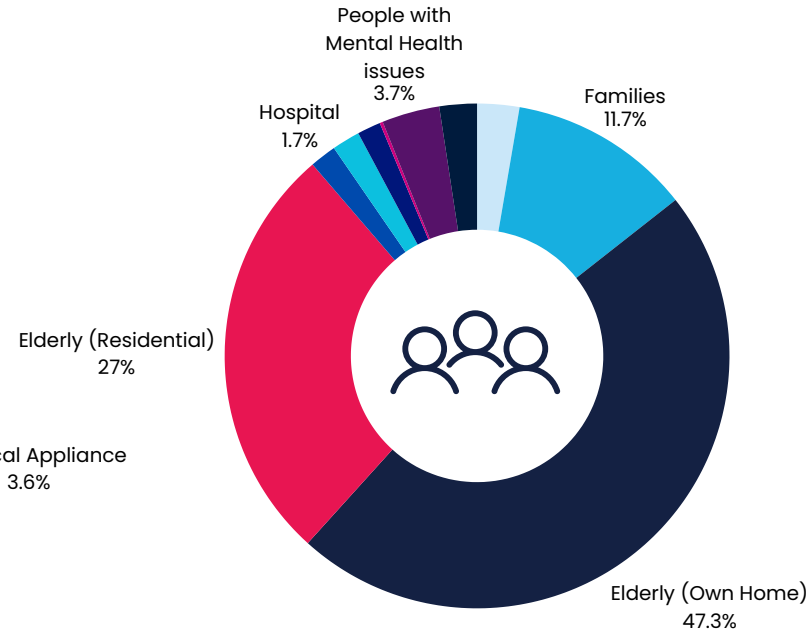
Through the work of our volunteer members

Types of practical assistance given:



- Transport (27,713)
- Food (18,135)
- Other (13,265)
- Money (6,428)
- Clothes (5,331)
- Furniture (4,607)
- Electrical Appliances (2,898)
- Fuel (2,085)

Types of beneficiaries:



- Elderly (Own Home) (10,747)
- Families (9,781)
- Elderly (Residential) (5,948)
- Refugees (2,541)
- Other (2,449)
- Homeless (2,378)
- Hospital (1,883)
- People with Mental Health Issues (1,614)
- Offenders (1,269)
- Travellers (151)

Coming Together as One Vincentian Family

The first St Blaise Festival, hosted by the St Blaise Allenby House Conference in Bradford, brought together 40 SVP members from across the Central Councils for a day of connection, reflection and celebration.

The event created a valuable opportunity for staff and volunteer members to come together, share experiences and celebrate our shared Vincentian mission. Inspiring stories, from local writer Nabeela Mohammed's, journey from receiving SVP support to helping others through our advice and immigration service and Mack's story of rebuilding his life through volunteering highlighted the lasting impact of compassion and community.

Members also took part in workshops, explored the Centre, shared fellowship in the community garden and enjoyed time together over a meal at Vinnies Café. The day concluded with prayer, hymns and readings led by members, celebrating the strength and unity of our Vincentian family.
The festival was a powerful reminder that, together, staff and volunteers bring hope to communities across England and Wales.





Putting Hope into action

Through our Special Works of Charity



St Mary & St Catherine Conference Members

Leyland Food & Furniture Bank

Special Works provide specialist support where local need is greatest. From furniture and food to advice and practical assistance, these projects offer help that goes beyond the work of individual Conferences.

Our journey

1970/80s
The two initiatives began at St Mary's Leyland Conference

1990s
Significant growth meant the schemes were transferred to the St Mary's Congregation

2000s
More growth meant the initiatives were passed to Churches Together Leyland

Today
Following COVID, the schemes were passed on to the SVP and local Conference

Our numbers

Up to
485
individuals supported with food per month

Approx
750
enquiries to the furniture bank per year

142
deliveries of pre-loved furniture

128
collections of pre-loved furniture

Providing essential furniture

We collect and deliver pre-loved furniture, white goods and small electrical items to help create warm and safe homes.
Each year, we respond to hundreds of enquiries, showing the vital role this service plays in the community.

Powered by volunteers

None of this work would be possible without the amazing team of volunteers. From collecting donations to driving deliveries and welcoming people with kindness, their time and compassion are at the heart of everything.

Supporting families

Our foodbank supports families and individuals during times of crisis, providing up to 16 visits a year to help bridge the gap. Beyond providing food, we listen, signpost to other agencies and walk alongside people facing challenges such as debt, addiction, mental health issues and homelessness.







The Special Work provides a valuable service, not only does it provide those in need with essential items, it also prevents furniture and white goods going to landfill.
But ultimately the benefit is to the individual, ensuring that they are provided with the most basic of human needs including sustenance, furniture, warmth and dignity.

Putting Hope into Action

Through our Special Works of Charity



When Karl came to the Leyland Foodbank he was upset, embarrassed and worried having recently lost his job, had no benefits and was unsure how to provide for his family.



He had always had a good job and was advised to come to the foodbank through the Job Centre. Karl was greeted by a volunteer who sat and took details about his family and his circumstances. After a chat and being reassured that there was help available, Karl was provided with food parcels for his family. He was also given a toiletry bag containing toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, shampoo and hygiene products for his wife and teenage daughter.

As the weeks went by Karl shared with the volunteers his job search progress and was always grateful for the help given, always pleased with the household products and 'orange' Everyday Aldi vouchers he received.

Each week Karl thanked the volunteers for their help. As a relationship was built with Karl, he spoke about how the family were coping on benefits. Although it was hard, the additional household and toiletry products really helped, as did the vouchers, enabling the family to enjoy some fresh food.

On one visit Karl asked about the furniture van in the church car park and advised he was asking for a friend's daughter who was starting over having left an abusive relationship. Volunteers encouraged him to ask the woman to phone and speak to a volunteer.

One day Karl arrived with the biggest smile to which he explained he had started a new job and was set to travel abroad to the Head Office for training.

The young woman Karl had given the number of the Furniture Bank to had been in touch too, with her request being various items of furniture and for some white goods.

When the furniture coordinator arranged the delivery, she said "Fab, thank you so much. You are lovely people and I appreciate this so, so much."

A few weeks later when the van crew delivered the furniture and white goods, they were given a 'Thank You' card. This simple gesture to the crew was both heartening and humbling. The recognition of the work involved gave all the volunteers pleasure, whilst strengthening their resolve and commitment to help those who come to us in times of crisis.

None of this work would be possible without the amazing team of volunteers. From collecting donations to driving deliveries and welcoming people with kindness, their time and compassion are at the heart of everything.

Advocating for Hope

Through our Social Policy work

Our social policy work is rooted in our front-line experience. We listen, we research and we speak up for change.

In 2025/26, we continued to advocate for a society where everyone can not only get by but thrive. Here are some of our key policy achievements and milestones from the year.

Launched our
in-work poverty report
May 2025

Addressing the hidden crisis on in-work poverty: a frontline perspective

Our latest report reveals that in 2022/23, 63% of those living in poverty were in households with at least one working adult.

Despite historically high employment rates, in-work poverty has risen steadily in the UK for nearly two decades, challenging the assumption that work alone is not a reliable route out of poverty.

To capture the reality of this crisis, we conducted national research, receiving over 200 responses from our regional staff, members and individuals with lived experience. We further refined our policy priorities through a series of workshops and roundtables with expert stakeholders, including the Resolution Foundation, Child Poverty Action Group and The Trussell Trust, ensuring our recommendations are grounded in frontline expertise.

This evidence has been instrumental in our advocacy as we used the report to **influence MPs** to address the structural causes of poverty.
We called for higher wages, a strengthened social security system, including ending the two-child benefit cap and better in-work support.
By bringing these frontline truths to policymakers, we aim to ensure that work once again provides a genuine and dignified route out of poverty.

200+
responses
from our staff, members and people with lived experience

Expert insights
from leading organisations
including Resolution Foundation, Child Poverty Action Group and The Trussell Trust

76%
respondents reported
that working individuals they support must choose daily between essentials like food, heating and rent.
Households with children (59%) & single parents (53%) are at highest risk

Top drivers
of in-work poverty
72% high cost of household bills
66% low wages

We joined the
Crisis Resilience Fund Working Group

This year we joined a coalition of civil society organisations working to strengthen the Government's new Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). Through close collaboration with civil servants, we draw directly on insight and experience from our frontline centres to help shape a Fund that is responsive, effective and fit for purpose.

Building a future of Hope

Through our Young Vincentians

Young Vincentians are the youngest members of the SVP family, inspiring children, young people and young adults to live out the Vincentian values of faith, friendship and service in their communities.
Through Mini Vinnies (aged 7-11), Youth SVP (11-18) and SVP1833 (18-35), thousands of young people across England and Wales are discovering that they have the power to make a difference, whether through acts of kindness, social action, fundraising, advocacy or direct service to those in need.







Mini Vinnies have continued to put concern into action through practical service, fundraising and outreach within their schools, parishes and local communities; age is no barrier to compassion. In Shropshire, Mini Vinnies have been active with pupils at St Mary's, Madeley, raising funds to support communities in South Sudan. At St Luke's, Trench, children painted 180 commemorative pebbles for the Society's anniversary, prepared cards for care home residents and local hospital patients and began a new partnership with the hospital chaplaincy team. Whilst pupils at Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School and Nursery collected for the SVP at their Christmas Service.

Mini Vinnies are developing a lifelong commitment to service while making a tangible difference to the lives of others.

Through the Vincentian approach of "See, Think, Do", Youth SVP Members are growing as leaders, advocates and changemakers, responding creatively and compassionately to the needs they encounter. At Cardinal Allen Catholic High School in Fleetwood, the Heart to Heart Lent campaign enabled pupils to reflect on community, service and companionship. Through shared meals, sponsored walks and acts of charity, students became more aware of those who may feel lonely or overlooked. Inspired by Christ's example at the Last Supper, they learned that service is often found in simple acts of kindness, listening and presence. Their reflections demonstrated a mature understanding of the Vincentian call to recognise Christ in others and respond with compassion. A particular highlight was their "SVP Soup and a Sarnie" event.

Youth SVP groups identify local needs and take practical action, developing the confidence and skills needed to become the next generation of Vincentian leaders.







Building a future of Hope

Through our Young Vincentians

Inspired by the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, SVP1833 empowers young adults to live out their faith through friendship, service and social action.



Thomas' experience

My experience of the SVP has been genuinely life-changing. I was introduced to the SVP through volunteering at Flame and was president of my Youth SVP group in secondary school. I was then encouraged to apply to be a helper on Holy Island Camp Week 1 and I'm so glad I did. I feel like I have a whole other family on Holy Island for that one week each year and I love giving the children the fun holiday they deserve.

There are ten Vinnie Camps across England and Wales, offering a week of fun, excitement and friendship to children who may be in need of a break away from school and family life. I feel so privileged to be able to serve in this way, knowing that I am part of something much bigger.

After leaving secondary school, it was really important for me to remain part of the SVP family, so I joined SVP1833. Being part of SVP1833 also gave me one of the best opportunities of my life – attending the International SSVP Youth Conference in Rome in 2025. I made friends from across the world and joined more than two million young Catholics for Mass with Pope Leo.

I am eternally grateful to the SVP for giving me the chance to grow up in the Society with all of these amazing opportunities. I feel blessed to be part of the Vincentian family.



Thomas's story shows how young adults can deepen their faith, develop lifelong friendships, serve their communities and become part of a global Vincentian network.

Building a future of Hope

Through our Young Vincentians

Bringing Generations Together







The national SVP Towards 2033 event brought Mini Vinnies, Youth SVP, SVP1833 members and adult Conference members together to reflect on the future of the Society.

Through prayer, discussion and fellowship, participants renewed their commitment to the Vincentian mission whilst celebrating the diversity and vitality of the SVP family. One participant described it as being "full of joy and great conversations with like-minded people", while many highlighted the importance of seeing young people actively involved in shaping the future of the Society.

The same spirit was present at the annual SVP Pilgrimage to Walsingham during the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Led by Bishop Peter Collins, the pilgrimage brought together young Vincentians and adult Conference members in a joyful celebration of faith. The Pilgrims were united by a shared desire to deepen their faith and strengthen their service to others. Bishop Peter encouraged members to continue bringing hope to the vulnerable and to nurture faith in future generations, affirming the vital contribution made by young Vincentians.

Together, Mini Vinnies, Youth SVP and SVP1833 are ensuring that the Vincentian charism flourishes, inspiring a new generation to serve Christ in those most in need.

Follow us

Young Vincentians (England and Wales)

@svpyoungvincentians

Hope in our communities

Through our Community Support Projects

Being there for people in their local community

Every day, across our 11 Community Support Projects, people walk through our doors looking for advice, support, or simply someone who will listen.

Many arrive feeling overwhelmed by poverty, loneliness or difficult life circumstances. Yet our Centres are places filled with warmth, dignity and hope.

Every person is welcomed as an individual with their own story and supported on their own journey.

In April, the Hopeworx furniture project which is based in Rayleigh in Essex became part of the CSP team.

This successful project had been operated by local people who wished to step back, but wanted to ensure the project continued in an organisation with similar values to their own, from there, the SVP was chosen.



Centre of Sanctuary

St Vincent's Newcastle became a recognised Centre of Sanctuary, providing a safe and welcoming place for people seeking asylum and refuge.

Inclusion

The Deaf Centre strengthened its work in advocacy, research partnerships and improving communication for deaf people.

Growing Hope

Community gardens and allotments in Bradford, Leeds, Southend and Wirral brought people together, improved wellbeing and created spaces where communities flourish.

Children & families

Wirral's new children's club helped young people build friendships and confidence.

Hope in our communities

Through our Community Support Projects

Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis

Across our projects, practical support continued to grow as more people needed help for the first time.
Each of our Centres are self-funded and are required to fundraise for upkeep costs from staffing to building maintenance, insurances and more.







Making a real difference

884
new advice cases
Bradford Advice & Immigration Centre

£2 million
secured
in welfare benefits

1,159
beds provided
Sheffield Furniture Project

3,012
people supported
including 1,397 children helped

Remembering Paul McBeth



In April, we sadly lost Paul McBeth, founder of Chorley Buddies.

This fantastic project was started by Paul in 2020 during the COVID pandemic when Paul and his trusted volunteers offered food and medication deliveries to those in need. Over time, this project has blossomed and in 2025/26, 26,450 people have been supported through food clubs and activities to help forge a sense of inclusion and community.

> **Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another**
>
> St Vincent de Paul



Hope in our communities

Through our Community Support Projects



More than a meal

Southend

16,976 meals

served through the Kindness Kitchen operating five days a week.

Alongside meals, guests accessed dental care, NHS nurses, veterinary support and so much more.

Newcastle

10,746 meals

served at Vinnies Kitchen, creating opportunities for conversation, friendship and belonging.

Brighton

Tower House brings older people together for shared meals, helping to reduce loneliness.

Following a Pilot light project:

80% felt less lonely

74% made new friends

Wellbeing beyond food

Boxing

Ely Bridge hosts men's and women's boxing classes to build confidence, health and connections

Gentle Exercise

Gentle exercises take place at Tower House to support physical wellbeing for all

Beyond Differences

A peer-led group based in St Vincent's Ely supporting people with disabilities - seen or unseen - and their carers

Tea Rave

St Vincent's Brixton hosted a Tea Rave for older people who enjoyed an afternoon of dancing, music and cake

Homes of Hope

Through our Housing projects



Our housing projects provide accommodation, support and hope to individuals and families who need it.

Newcastle Project

Our Newcastle project provides 23 units of supported accommodation for single people.

The project units are comprised of:

- A twelve-bed hostel, with 24/7 staffing, for single men aged over 30 who have moved on from crisis accommodation.
- Nine units of self-contained support accommodation for those who are ready to move on but require continued low-level support.







Last year the hostel provided accommodation for 33 residents, a mixture of local residents and 10 refugees originally from Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Mali and Afghanistan.

The reason for homelessness ranges from relationship breakdowns, loss of employment, long-term homelessness, release from prison, mental health issues, completing rehabilitation for drug use and army veterans.

After spending more than 30 years experiencing homelessness, Peter* found stability at our hostel where he was supported for six years.

During this time, the team worked closely with him to understand his individual needs, helping him manage everyday living and maintain his independence.



With ongoing support, Peter was able to move into his own flat, where he could receive the additional care he needed while retaining his freedom.
The team continues to see Peter regularly at St Vincent's, demonstrating that our support does not simply end when someone moves on. It is about building lasting relationships and helping people find a place to call home.
*name changed for anonymity.

In 2025/26 our North Norfolk Temporary Emergency Accommodation units housed:

23 households

29 adults

54 children

16 pets

Of those 83 people:

- Nine adults and 25 children were fleeing domestic abuse
- Over half the parents were supporting child with mental health illness or SEN
- Over half the adults were living with a mental health condition
- ⅓ of the households had an adult with a physical health condition

Hope overseas

Through our Twinning work

Twinning is the SVP's response to international support in other countries where the need continues to grow.

Through our Conference twinning and projects, the SVP around the globe looks to eradicate poverty through long-term solutions and sustainability. The SVP offers not just a step-up, but a companion for the journey ahead. Person-to-person contact lies at the heart of the SVP's work across the globe - this is more than a single donation or faceless support. Here are some examples of hope in action.

Conference activity

Thanks to Conference twinning support, members in Guyana use some of their contributions to ensure Christmas is a special & celebrated time. Whether hosting a Christmas lunch for 20 people who would otherwise be alone, or distributing 100 baskets of goods to a care home and local families, members ensure no one is forgotten.

Employment opportunities which benefit the family

Since 2018, the Ozanam Community Centre in Chengleput has offered women in the local community tailoring courses and a night tuition programme. Building on this success and with a grant from SVP England and Wales, SVP India has now expanded its activities to provide secure employment and career progression opportunities. A space within the Centre has been equipped with sewing machines, giving eight tailoring graduates jobs through a partnership with a local uniform manufacturer. Their income supports children's education, food and better living conditions for all the family.





Winter Appeal - emergency relief

Winter in Romania can be harsh, especially for many families and elderly individuals living in rural areas and it is a challenging and stressful time of the year. Over 65% of homes in rural areas rely on firewood, oil stoves or coal to heat their homes, which comes at a cost many can't afford. An emergency grant from England and Wales of over £7,000 supported more than 50 families and individuals throughout this tough time of year.

Hope overseas

Through our Twinning work

The GRANS scheme

The GRANS scheme was launched by SVP Grenada in 2010 through the vision and compassion of the late Bishop Vincent Darius, with the aim of providing regular support to elderly vulnerable individuals. There are currently around 13 beneficiaries on the scheme, each receiving a monthly stipend of £30 to contribute towards food, medicine or household bills. As part of the GRANS scheme, local members make regular visits to offer practical support as well as friendship.

> The support from England and Wales is consistent over the years. It is tangible and impactful. It has allowed us to reach into margins and touch lives. There is no word in the English dictionary to say thank you enough.
> **- SVP Grenada National Council Member**



Education, healthcare and a bright future

John was a young boy living on the streets of Juba, when then SVP offered him a safe place at the Be in Hope Home. This home provides 25 young boys with an education, medical care, food, stability and the chance to be a child. After leaving the home aged 18, having now completed his primary school education and with a determined work ethic, John was also reunited with his family and continues to receive support from the SVP.



> I came with nothing but hope. The SVP Be in Hope Home gave me tools & people who believed in me. Now I want to build a life I can be proud of & help others do the same.
> **- John, aged 18**

South Sudan in numbers:

460 graduates from Vocational Training
Over **700** infants fed each week
3,000 internally displaced persons received food
120 tukul huts constructed for internally displaced persons
1 community centre constructed

TOTAL SENT OVERSEAS:

Twinning (over 1,100 twins)	Projects	Small Conference Projects	National Council
£176,446	**£180,693**	**£50,213**	**£4,000**

Trading with Hope

Through our shops and retail

Our network of St Vincent's shops allows us to further our mission by raising vital funds for the Society to help those in need.

However, they are more than just retail outlets; they provide employment and volunteering opportunities, affordable goods and significant impact diverting goods from landfill and recycling to reuse.

They are vibrant 'community' shops where staff, volunteers, customers, and donors come together. They create supportive networks that enrich lives and strengthen community. Our inclusive and welcoming environments ensure that everyone feels valued and connected and helps to create lasting relationships within the communities within which they are based.

Retail growth:

The commitment of our staff, volunteers, and the continued support of our loyal customers have been instrumental to our stability during a turbulent year for trade.

Sadly three shops, Blakelaw, Maltby and Gurnos were closed during the year due to untenable cost increases and lease ends.

Whilst we remained focused on raising funds and continuing to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve, we have not opened any new shops this year but focussed on consolidating and stabilising the growth of income within our current shops as costs continue to rise.

By re-launching the SVP loyalty card and selling and redeeming St Vincent's gift vouchers we are continuing to be flexible with our offers, as with the significant reduction of income from Recycling Merchants as their businesses collapsed, and an increase in Online selling, our shops are having to be innovative with ways in which to utilise all stock and make as much income as possible.

Our Vincentian values underpin our continued engagement and support of the local community which is key for our shops' success and this year we have begun to really focus on building stronger relationships with local members in order to further complement their work and for them to support the shop and staff.

Our retail year in numbers:

£4.8million
raised in income

£57,000
raised through eBay

More than
107,000
volunteer hours

£6 average
transaction value



Hope that lives on

By leaving a Gift in Will

Gifts in Wills help the SVP continue supporting people facing poverty and loneliness today and for generations to come.



Kindness that lasts

Every day, SVP members and volunteers turn concern into action through practical help and support people facing difficult times. Gifts in Wills help this kindness continue, giving the Society the flexibility to respond to changing needs and support people with dignity in communities across England and Wales.

"I was first inspired to join the St Vincent de Paul Society by their clear message of putting faith into action and helping people in need.

As former National President, I have seen for myself what a difference kindness can make to someone's life, and the positive influence it can have. I truly believe that leaving a gift in your Will is one of the strongest and most sincere ways to continue that kindness."

Helen O'Shea
Legacy Ambassador

Your kindness can shape the future

- Practical help when it's needed
- Friendship for people experiencing isolation
- Support for local communities



Thinking about leaving a gift?

There is no minimum gift. After providing for loved ones, a gift of any size can help the SVP be there for people in need.

Find out more: svp.org.uk/gift-in-will

legacies@svp.org.uk | 0207 703 3030

Our Hope in numbers

Through our fundraising this year

Across the SVP, the incredible support of our members, volunteers, supporters, major donors and partners continues to make a real difference.

From generous donations and gifts in Wills, to grant funding and community fundraising, every act of kindness helps us to reach more people in need and bring hope to communities across England and Wales.

Thank you

£790,105
raised in legacies
made in a single year

17
raffle winners

287
friends of the SVP

£59,897
in match funding
for our Christmas Appeal

74
gifts in Wills

535
new supporters

£235,767
raised in Awards for All

153,817
Free Will requests

£79,950
raised in requests through Acts 365

94,887
Summer Raffle tickets sold

131
lottery players

5,699
donations for where needed most

£159,010
raised from Help Lift a Life Appeal

145
in-memory donations

£11,053
raised through weekly lottery

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Allenby House,
Rees Way,
Bradford,
BD3 0DZ

Company No: 3174679 Charity No: 1053992

READ OUR FULL REPORT WITH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

DONATE BY SCANNING BELOW:

Structure, Governance & Management

As part of an international lay Christian organisation, Catholic in origin, character, and traditions, which respects religious liberty and the value of all God's people, the objects of the Charity are:

- The relief of poverty and sickness without differentiation on the ground of race, colour, creed, ideology or sex and in particular, but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing., to bring spiritual and/or material solace to the sick or individuals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress due to their social, economic or other circumstances.
- The undertaking, in any part of the world, of such other object or objects which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Society in its discretion shall see fit.

The overall objective of the Charity is the relief of poverty, both material and emotional in England & Wales and abroad through the person to person involvement of its voluntary members engaged in befriending and through 'Special Works', which are projects established to address specific needs in the local community, such as food banks or advice and support centres.
The Society is constituted under the laws of England & Wales as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 3174679). The Society is also a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number: 1053992).

The overarching governing document of the Society is the Articles of Association and is to be read in conjunction with the International Rule and the National Statutes. Where there is a conflict between the Articles of Association and the National Statutes of the Society, the Articles will take precedence. However, there are periodic reviews that take place to ensure alignment where practicable to do so.

The Articles of Association describe the Society's objects, guarantees, powers and their limitations. They define 'Membership' of the Company (i.e. the National Council) and describe the governance processes, including how changes and decisions are made. The National Statutes provide the framework for the governance and operation of the Society. Detailed management of the Society's affairs are covered in relevant Policies and Procedures, which should be treated as a part of the Rule.

The first International Rule was introduced in 1835 and is periodically reviewed and updated by International Council General of the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Society adopts this corporate governance framework to deliver its strategic priorities and objectives and to ensure it complies with the Charity Commission's legal and regulatory requirements (Charities Act 2011, as amended by the Charities Act 2022) and adheres to the legislative requirements outlined in the Companies Act 2006. The Society believes that effective governance is based on ensuring there is a culture of compliance across its works and practices. This is implemented through policies and procedures, external and internal audit plans, robust and resilient risk assessments, and a culture of continuous learning.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of nine and a maximum of thirteen people, including the Chair (also known as the National President). The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the St Vincent de Paul Society (E&W). On the election of a new National President by the National Council, the President shall nominate up to five Trustees, at least three of whom will be Central Council Presidents, and shall also nominate a Vice President and a National Treasurer. Each Trustee must be formally confirmed by the National Council to serve for a period of five years. Up to five new Trustees are selected halfway through the President's five-year term to act as continuation Trustees and serve for a term of five years. Up to four non-members of the Society may be appointed as Trustees provided that they commit to the values of the Society and have skills which are required by the Society. All Trustees are subject to a formal recruitment process based on their skills and experience to ultimately support the deliverables against the charity's objects. The table below shows the current Board members who were all appointed in previous years and new continuation Trustees appointed in May 2025.

Structure, Governance & Management continued

In addition, Fr Eugene Curran took on the role of National Spiritual Advisor in Sept 2025 and attends the Board meetings. The selection of Trustees seeks to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities, as well as bringing increased diversity and inclusion.

An induction programme is offered to all new Trustees to ensure they are briefed on the charity's objectives, strategy and activities, as well as understanding Charity Commission guidance on the role of a Trustee and good governance. The Board meets at least four times a year to review the performance of the charity, both financially and in meeting its charitable objectives. All meeting discussions are recorded in the minutes taken and stored electronically as part of the normal governance process.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE NAME	STATUS	RESPONSIBILITY
Elaine Heyworth	Trustee	National President
Steve Gill	Trustee	Senior Vice President
Mark Branch	Trustee	National Treasurer
Winston Waller	Trustee	Membership Strategic
Liz Creevy	Trustee	Membership Spirituality
Clare O'Brien	Trustee	Property Portfolio
Gustavo Vas Falcao	Trustee	Social Justice
Monica Chidgey	Trustee	Safeguarding
Nasha Pierre	Trustee	General Portfolio
Anita Motha	Trustee	Overseas Aid (Non-Member)
Peter McGauley	Incoming Continuation Trustee	Retail Portfolio
Pat Nobbs	Incoming Continuation Trustee	General Portfolio
Tony McGuigan	Incoming Continuation Trustee	General Portfolio

The remuneration of the charity's key management personnel is reviewed periodically to ensure that pay remains fair, proportionate and appropriate to the responsibilities of each role, while recognising the charity's responsibility to use its resources effectively in furtherance of its charitable objectives. In determining remuneration, changes are considered through the charity's established governance arrangements and as part of the annual budget process. Where appropriate, external benchmarking and comparable salary information from the charity and not-for-profit sector are also considered to provide assurance that remuneration remains reasonable and competitive. Any changes to the remuneration of key management personnel are considered through the charity's established governance and approval arrangements, with appropriate oversight by the Trustees.

Structure, Governance & Management continued

The Society has established clear levels of delegated authority within which:

- some decisions are reserved to the Board alone.
- some decisions are made by the Executive Trustee Committee which consists of the National President, the Senior Vice President and the Treasurer.
- responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive who may in turn delegate authority to the Senior Management team. The Chief Executive attends all Board meetings; other senior managers attend as required.
- the Chief Executive is required to escalate high risk and/or high impact issues for the timely attention and consideration of the Board and produces a CEO report for each meeting.
- the Board sets the strategic direction for the efficient and effective management of the Society's funds and strategic roadmap. In March 2025 the Board undertook a strategic review with the CEO reprioritising some objectives for the remainder of the Board's term until 2027.
- the Board will establish committees, sub committees or working groups to fulfil ongoing or time-limited governance functions (usually at the start of office of the new National President elect), formed of Trustees, other Society members, external experts, and operational staff.
- the Board regularly evaluates its own performance through the 'annual Board review', examining its impact and effectiveness and any improvements required in its organisation or operation. This is done in line with the Charity Commission Governance Code guidance.

The Society's members are organised in local Conferences (similar to Parish groups) to carry out the work of the charity. Conferences are grouped together in geographical areas and are overseen by District Councils which in turn report to Central Councils which are structured, as far as possible, to reflect the 23 Roman Catholic Dioceses across England & Wales. The President of each Central Council sits on the National Council. No Central Council, District Council or Conference may be established as a separate charity and all constitute parts of the Charity operating under the delegated authority of the Trustees.

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

These committees are given delegated powers by the main Board of Trustees where each is chaired by a Board member. They are responsible for supporting a specific area of operational oversight and their activities are reported to the Board. As the number and structure of the committees reflect prevailing priorities, they are reviewed and updated periodically. Each committee has its own Terms of Reference, which are reviewed annually. The role of each of the committees during 2025-26 was as follows:

- Finance: reviews and recommends for approval to the board, budgets and other financial governance matters in addition to fundraising.
- SVP Projects was reformed in Nov 2025 and includes all operational projects run by staff & volunteers. It encapsulates Community Support Projects (CSP's), Special Works and small scale housing projects that respond to specific needs in various Central Councils across the Society.
- Membership & Youth: reviews membership issues, internal relationships, the structure of the Society, recruitment, training at all levels. In late 2024 it incorporated all youth related programmes across schools, colleges, youth hubs, universities, and parishes, as well as oversight of the Vinnie camps through its management team. Vinnie Camps provide a safe and enjoyable experience for young people in accordance with defined Safeguarding and Health & Safety procedures.
- Audit & Compliance: oversee Society wide risks and reviews control systems (Safeguarding, Human Resources, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment, Data Protection, IT support and Insurance arrangements) as well as overseeing all internal audit activity and Governance arrangements.
- Safeguarding: oversee systems to ensure that the controls in place are effective and review ongoing case management, deliver training for Conference members, staff and volunteers to ensure general awareness and that procedures are followed.

Structure, Governance & Management continued

- Twinning: reviews overseas aid activities from local funding to international grant applications and where appropriate emergency aid funding on an ad hoc basis.
- Prisons: ensures that the Society is fully compliant in all matters relating to working in and outside of prisons with offenders, ex-offenders and families, providing both spiritual and practical support.
- Property: reviews and oversees issues and risks relating to SVP property portfolio and maintains statutory requirements where the Society has residential or social housing obligations.
- Retail & Social Enterprise: reviews and oversees all activity associated with the national SVP portfolio of Community shops and other income generating projects that sit in either the Charity or the Trading company.

KEY RISKS IDENTIFIED DURING 2025-26

The Trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity to develop appropriate controls and deliver the charity's strategic aims. The main risks monitored include:

- Delivery of safe, effective, and personalised poverty relief, especially in the context of charitable activities involving children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial sustainability, especially in the context of the current economic situation.
- Strategic and Operational, ensuring that our strategy is proportionate and does not lose sight of our overall charitable objects.
- Security risks including Data Protection, IT and Cyber threats from external parties.

Key themes that develop through the Society's focus on risk management are fed into the annual strategic review. The Society continued to deal with the same themes it faced in 2024 in relation to the triple threat to its operations and can be summarised as:

- the demand on services continued to grow in the sector
- the cost of living continued to rise and;
- the decline in grant funding and legacies continued to add extra burden to the already stretched resources across the Charity sector in general.

As a result, the key risk areas for 2025-2026 were:

Financial risks

Like many charities, the Society has been impacted by rising costs in building maintenance and infrastructure costs coupled with rising utility charges as a result of the cost of living crisis. We continue to see unprecedented demand for funding and for services from beneficiaries, at a time when some public services have declined and charities have either merged or closed down. We remain committed to being a real living wage employer and have seen significant staff cost increases in the last year due to this and NI increases. However, we have managed to mitigate the risks further by rationalising some of our property portfolio with Trustee approval, increased cash flow modelling and built in budget contingency management.

Fundraising and Grant making bodies

The challenging fundraising landscape continues to impact on us, due to the lack of availability of appropriate trusts and grants in the sector, opportunities are reducing as more charities apply for the same funds. To mitigate this, we have invested in further trust fundraising resources at a regional level, taken a more targeted approach to certain applications and invested in a legacy management database and a new CRM for donors.

Operational risks

One of the key operational risks we addressed in Jan 2026 was the ongoing management of the Temporary Emergency Accommodation (TEA) housing services in North Norfolk. With the advent of the new legislation in relation to the Renters Reform Act, the continued rising costs of building maintenance and the more complex needs of the short term tenants we were accommodating, we reviewed the project and concluded this was no longer an area of core expertise for the SVP. So, the Trustees took the difficult decision to move away from this service as there are more experienced specialists in this area that can deliver this. The move away from TEA will be conducted over a 12 month phased period to ensure tenants are not inconvenienced by this change in provider.

Structure, Governance & Management continued

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN 2025-26

As stated earlier a revised strategy was developed in March 2025 as a result of the operational cost challenges we faced in 2024. The Trustees and the SMT looked at ways to rationalise or stabilise operations. For example, reviewing and rationalising the property portfolio and liquidating some assets, maintaining a reduced staffing model and expansion plans remained on hold. Additionally, some departments were streamlined to offer continued services, but in a cost effective and manageable way. The SVP is primarily a membership organisation and so the strategy also refocussed its support for the members, by embedding the ethos of being "member led", ensuring that our members' needs are fully supported to enable them in turn, to respond to the wider needs of our beneficiaries.

The revised priorities focus on 3 new guiding principles:

- Be a member led organisation in which our members fulfil roles appropriate for volunteers
- Focus on our core mission; to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty wherever we can
- Embed Catholic social teaching and our Vincentian spirit and values at the heart of everything we do

REVISED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2025-2027

- Put our faith and values at the heart of everything we do - the Society is Catholic and Vincentian, and the Board is keen to ensure that the organisation keeps true to these aspects of our identity which underpin our culture and ethos
- To reach out to and welcome those on the peripheries who needs our help - this reinforces our core mission and reinforces the words of the Vincentian prayer on the theme of our vocation, "to seek and find those who are forgotten and to bring your love to the suffering or deprived."
- Be a cohesive Society where members and staff work together - we continue to support our members by embedding a "member led" culture across the organisation and enable our staff to deliver against our objects, through effective training and shared values and reaffirmation of Catholic Social Teaching.
- To campaign for social justice in order to effect change for those we serve - in our Vincentian prayer on the theme of social justice we are called "to be a voice for the voiceless", we seek to achieve this by being proactive on social justice and addressing the systemic cause of poverty, be that government policy or regional and national structures which contribute to disadvantage.
- To achieve financial sustainability - sustained growth only if it is underpinned by sustainable income. The Society continues to develop a variety of funding streams to provide resilient funding including fundraising, retail, investments and our trading operations which are all key to those plans.
- Deliver a coherent and consistent brand - in order to respond to demand to deliver our services and develop our income streams, it is important that people know who we are and what we do. We want to develop a strong and well-known identity in all areas of our work that is consistent, easily recognisable and speaks of who we are, what we do and what we stand for.

Structure, Governance & Management continued

OTHER UNDERTAKINGS

The SVP is the custodian trustee for the following three undertakings:

- The Pen-y-Pound House Fund was formed in 1973 to alleviate poverty in the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. It comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.
- The TB Hunt Fund is a permanent endowment fund established with monies left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need in these areas.
- The Francis Thompson Fund is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy whose terms are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool.

In addition, the Society has oversight of:

- The David Young Charity (charity number: 238877) which was originally set up in 1860 to aid poor relatives of the Young family. Under a scheme established in 1978 the charity aims to assist, in addition to the Young family relatives, those who are in financial difficulties and who, because they are members of the Society, are not eligible to seek support from the Society itself.

RESERVES

The Trustees annually review the level of reserves to be held by the charity to ensure they are adequate. Free reserves of the charity are considered to be unrestricted funds not designated for specific spending. Our reserves target is to hold a minimum of three months spending in free reserves; this is considered an appropriate level of reserves to continue core activities in the event of a temporary interruption to income and provides a buffer against unforeseen expenditure without tying up funds that could otherwise be used to deliver our charitable outcomes. At the end of 31 March 2026, we are in line with our policy, but note free reserves are reducing each year as the Society undertakes work in projects and has set up an emergency cost of living fund for beneficiaries.

At the end of 31 March 2026, our total free reserves were: £4.3 million.

INVESTMENTS

The Board of Trustees sets the overall performance and ethical parameters within which our investment managers operate. The investment managers report quarterly and meet annually with the Finance Committee to review performance and outlook. Performance is measured against the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers balance index. The primary objectives of our investment policy are to:

- Generate income to fund operational costs
- Provide capital growth to fund new activities
- Offer diversity across asset classes, including fixed interest investments and medium risk equities.

The Trustees have adopted an ethical investment policy in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Fundraising Strategy

The difficulties facing the whole voluntary sector in recent years show no signs of easing as we move through 2026. Many charities continue to grapple with a tough mix of falling income, rising operational costs, and growing demand for services. At the same time, as households across the country feel the pinch, competition for charitable support has become even more fierce. Investment in a case management database is coming to fruition with meaningful and qualitative data on beneficiary outcomes which can be shared with potential funders.

At the heart of what we do is our Vincentian mission to turn concern into action. We would not be able to do this without the kindness and generosity of our donors and supporters who have helped us reach the peripheries to ensure we can respond and restore dignity to all who are facing a crisis.

The year saw a record breaking and successful summer raffle with 94,887 tickets sold. Our annual Christmas Appeal also raised an incredible £159,010, and a big thank you to the major donors, whose support created a match-funding pot of £59,897 to incentivise pound for pound match giving during the appeal.

We continue to benefit from grants, in-memoriam donations, gifts in wills, and donations made through the purchase of alternative gifts in our Christmas catalogue. The continuation of our weekly lottery, running with 131 players provided another source of income.

Donors to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) can be confident that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice which covers the requirements charities must follow as set out in the Charities Act 2016, which amended the Charities Act 2011.

All our staff in the national fundraising team are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, and we join online fundraising networks, attend webinars and online fundraising Conferences to keep up to date with regulations, the latest research and reports, trends and developments in fundraising and the future funding landscape.

The Board of Trustees is kept informed of fundraising practice through regular reports from the Director of Fundraising. Several board members are personally involved in supporting and promoting fundraising initiatives such as the Christmas and Rise to the Challenge appeals.

No commercial participators were engaged to carry out fundraising on behalf of the Charity. However, due to fundraising staff shortages and a challenging recruitment market, professional fundraisers were engaged on a freelance basis to submit applications on behalf of the Charity during the year. During the year, no failure to comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice was reported and no fundraising complaints were received.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 the group 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; and
- 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.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public. The Board of Trustees has complied with the duties set out in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during 2025-26 have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

The Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) was approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees (in their capacity as company directors) on 20th November 2026 at the annual AGM and signed on their behalf by Elaine Heyworth, National President and Chair of Trustees.



Elaine Heyworth,
Chair of Trustees

Financial Summary

GOING CONCERN
The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. The Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern.

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS
The overall net movement in funds for the year ended 31 March 2026 was a surplus of £1,233,148 compared to a surplus of £1,269,377 in the year ended 31 March 2025.

INCOME
Total income for the year decreased by £634,577 to £15,601,285 compared to £16,235,862 in 2025.

EXPENDITURE
The total expenditure in 2026 amounted to £14,664,848 compared to £18,195,589 in 2025 representing a decrease of £3,530,741. This was largely due to reduced staff costs and the reduction of expenditure on Residential Provision partly due to discontinued operations.

GAINS AND LOSSES
The net gain on investments for 2026 amounted to £203,258 compared to a loss of £21,440 in 2025.

PENSION FUND
The actuarial loss recognised on the pension fund in 2026 amounted to £0 compared to a loss of £47,000 in 2025. There was no gain on pension funds in 2026, last year, the Tyne & Wear Pension fund was exited and crystallised on 30th March 2025 resulting in a pension gain of £3,199,800.

CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND
The group cash at bank and in hand amounted to £8,825,837 in 2026 compared to £4,795,200 in 2025, representing an increase of £4,030,637. This was driven by receipt of the pension fund gain in 2025 and the sale of a property in 2026.

TOTAL FUNDS
The total group funds at 31 March 2026 amounted to £13,748,925 compared to £12,515,777 at 31 March 2025 representing an increase of £1,233,148. A comparative summary of each category of fund is included in the balance sheet, and there is a detailed breakdown in note 24 of the accounts.

Auditors Report

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and charity sheets and the consolidated cash flow statement 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2026 and of the group's 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; and
- 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 group and parent 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 the parent charitable company'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 annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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.

Auditors Report continued

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 which includes the Directors' Report and 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 which includes the Directors' Report and 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 group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company 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 on page 28, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent 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 the 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 parent 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 parent 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

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent 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 noncompliance 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed in the following.

Auditors Report continued

IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING RISKS RELATED TO IRREGULARITIES

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended.

We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sectors in which the group and parent charitable company operate. Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

AUDIT RESPONSE TO RISKS IDENTIFIED

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items, including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non compliance with laws and regulations and fraud. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above, and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. 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 parent 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 parent 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 parent charitable company and the parent charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sally Appleton
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Saffery Audit (UK) LLP
Statutory Auditors
10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP
Saffery Audit (UK) LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Legal Administrative Details

STATUS
The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 March 1996 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1996.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT
The St Vincent de Paul Society was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed under its articles of association revised and adopted by Special Resolution on 2 August 2019.

COMPANY NUMBER: 3174679
CHARITY NUMBER: 1053992

REGISTERED AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE:
Allenby House, Rees Way, Bradford, BD3 0DZ

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
Chief Executive Officer: Kate Nightingale
Director of Finance: Chris Lucas
Director of Governance: Beverley Whittaker
Director of Membership Services: Sarah Barber
Director of Internal and External Affairs: Tim O'Sullivan
Director of Retail, Trading and Social Enterprise: Helen Voyce

PATRONS
Archbishop Richard Moth
Sir John Battle
Georgina, Duchess of Norfolk

AUDITORS
Saffery Audit (UK) LLP, 10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP

BANKERS
National Westminster Bank plc, 250 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4AA

SOLICITORS
VWV, 24 King William Street, London, EC4R 9AT

INVESTMENT ADVISERS
Rathbones (Incorporating Investec Wealth & Investment (UK)), 2 Castlefield Court, Church Street, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0AH

CCLA
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria St, London, EC4V 4ET