PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND (a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Registered Charity - SC047892



Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2025

Contents	Page
Charity Information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	2-9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Receipts and Payments Account	11
Statement of Balances	12
Notes to the Accounts	13 – 15

Charity Information

Charity number

SC047892

Trustees

Louise Marryat Chair

Linn Sailer-Cowie Fiona McHardy Katie Metcalfe

Sarah Rogers-Barbosa

Shilla Shomai (appointed 29 August 2024) **Neil Mathers** (resigned 29 August 2024)

PAS Members Group

Aberlour Children in Scotland **Contact Scotland** Families Outside Home-Start UK One Parent Families Scotland

Relationships Scotland

Scottish Adoption and Fostering (joined 29 August 2024)

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

Principal Office

18 York Place Edinburgh EH1 3EP

Independent Examiner

Paul Hutchison ACA **Azets Audit Services Chartered Accountants** Quay 2 139 Fountainbridge Edinburgh **EH3 9QG**

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and receipts and payments accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is known as Parenting Across Scotland (PAS) and is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which has been registered as a charity since 2 November 2017. It is governed by the rules of its constitution.

Membership is open to any organisation whose aims are compatible with those of Parenting Across Scotland, subject to application and conditions set out in the constitution and governance documents.

The management of PAS is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected by the members under the terms of the constitution. New Trustees receive appropriate induction and training and are sought for their skills and representation. At each AGM, every trustee retires but then is eligible for re-election.

PAS receives core funding through the Scottish Government Children, Young People & Families Early Intervention Fund (CYPFEIF), which is administered by the Corra Foundation.

Objectives and activities

PAS is the national strategic intermediary and network for parenting and family support in Scotland. Its members are national organisations who provide a variety of perspectives on family issues and concerns.

Beyond its members, PAS works with a wide range of stakeholders from the voluntary, community and third sectors, the public sector, Scottish Government, NHS, and academia.

PAS exists to fulfil the following charitable objectives:

- To advance the prevention and relief of poverty of families through being an effective public voice for parents and families in influencing public policy
- The relief of those in need by reason of ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage through being an effective public voice for parents and families in influencing public policy
- The advancement of education through the provision of an online database which contains practices, research and policy for parents and practitioners in Scotland.

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and Performance

Background

2024/25 has undoubtedly been a challenging year for families in Scotland and the organisations that support them. Too many parents and carers continue to experience financial pressures and difficulties accessing support. Organisations have operated with ongoing funding uncertainty against a backdrop of a rising need for their services and the significant global unrest brought about by war, social injustice and the climate crisis. It has been difficult at times to keep believing that positive change can happen.

It is heartening therefore to be reminded of the positive steps and developments that do take place in Scotland, however small. And for Parenting Across Scotland, it has in fact been a very good twelve months. The new staff team, recruited last year, together with a slightly expanded Board and Membership have strengthened the organisation's purpose and sense of direction. There have been some fantastic new developments taking place in terms of gathering evidence about parents lives', testing out new approaches and making impact. And while our funding continues to remain uncertain in the medium and long term, we've brought in new income this year through projects and from other organisations. This has helped us to achieve our best financial performance in six years.

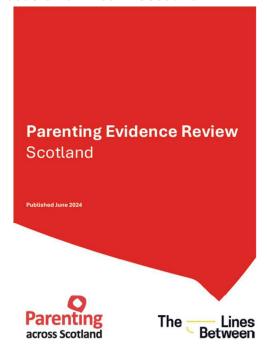
None of this can be taken for granted. But it is worth celebrating how well PAS has managed to ride out its own times of uncertainty and change. And there are exciting plans developing for the future, which will emphasise PAS' unique role as an organisation, highlighting the overlooked experiences of parents and carers and bringing together organisations supporting families in all their diversity. As ever, we are incredibly grateful to our members for their continued commitment to PAS and their willingness to share their experiences and expertise.

1. Legislation, policy and practice that better meets the needs of families in Scotland

In 2024 we took some key steps to ensure that our policy work was grounded in the lived experiences of parents and carers in Scotland.

In June we published our <u>Parenting Evidence Review</u>, produced by The Lines Between. The review brought together research from 2023 about parents and carers in Scotland. It summarised the findings from 28 published research reports including the views of over 4000 parents and carers from across at least 26 different local authority areas. Key themes highlighted in the review were poverty, mental and physical health, education and childcare. Publication of the review was covered in The Herald.

The review has provided invaluable evidence that has enabled us to speak with authority about the priorities of parents and carers in Scotland today. Since publication we have held follow up meetings with decision makers to share the findings, including with the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee and Convenor of the



Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

Children and Young People's Cross Party Group. We have also used the findings to inform our policy activities, particularly our consultation responses.

'I feel like I don't have a voice, so it's great to be able to come to someone and be my voice, and hopefully, try and make a difference. Not just for myself and my little girl but make a difference for other people that are suffering worse than what I am at the moment. It's nice to give people a voice and try and help change things.' (Quote from Parent in our Parenting Evidence Review)

Working with our members

Our Parenting Across Scotland Members Group has continued to meet quarterly in 2024/25, providing PAS with insights into their successes, issues and concerns. The Board and current members reviewed the PAS membership model in 2024 and agreed that it should stay broadly unaltered, namely; that membership should remain free and focused on a small group of national organisations, each working with a unique cohort of parents and carers. We agreed with the current rules outlined in our constitution - that expanding the membership was welcome, but it should be focused on organisations supporting families not already reflected in the current membership. Under these rules we were delighted to welcome Scottish Adoption and Fostering back into membership in August 2024, bringing the number of PAS members to nine.

PAS is often in a position to connect our members with Scottish Government and COSLA teams to support national policy development. This year we worked with members on a number of policy and practice areas including;

- Reviewing and responding to the Scottish Government's Health Visiting Action Plan
- Contributing to new parenting materials supporting conversations about suicide, as part
 of Creating Hope Together, Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Meeting with the Scottish Government's Keeping the Promise team ahead of their consultations
- Reviewing Parent Club's new children's rights content

In addition, we submitted four consultation responses in 2024/25 on United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) statutory guidance, child maintenance, third sector funding principles and moving on from care.

Working with our members – parenting with adults

'Although I feel I do have the ability to "fight" for my child's well-being and right to adequate risk assessment and support, timewise it is like having a second job, and I have carried significant levels of extra stress over many years" (Parent at our roundtable event)

In 2024, members also made recommendations about new policy areas that PAS should explore. Most significantly this included a focus on parenting with adult aged children, a topic that members felt was under-recognised in the Scottish policy landscape. In September PAS was pleased to host a roundtable discussion, inviting parents, carers and the organisations that support them to discuss the issues parents face when supporting adult aged children. This was followed by the publication of a <u>briefing</u> on Parenting with Adults, published in January 2025.

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

Parenting with Adults has been a new area of work for PAS, but a compelling one. The stories parents and carers have shared with us have provided powerful evidence of how parenting can still be a significant role, regardless of the age of the children involved, whether that's because of disabilities, addictions, imprisonment, bereavement or other life circumstances. Furthermore, the impact parenting without sufficient support can have on the physical, mental and financial health of parents is profound. We have committed to undertaking further work on this topic in 2025/26 and hope to see more recognition for parents in this category.



Connecting and campaigning with others

Alongside our own membership, PAS is proud to be a member of other membership organisations, helping us to extend our reach and impact. This includes Children in Scotland, the End Child Poverty (ECP) Coalition, Human Rights Consortium Scotland, Poverty Alliance, Together, SCVO and Voluntary Health Scotland.

In 2024, we maintained our seat on the Children's Sector Strategic Forum (convened by Children in Scotland) thereby collaborating on national children's sector policy activity. This included a meeting with the First Minister in December 2024.



Through our ECP membership, we collaborated with others to campaign for action to address child poverty, both at Scotland and UK levels. With a new UK Government in place from July 2024 we, along with other ECP members, repeatedly advocated for the removal of the punitive and unjust two-child limit. At a Scotland level, we have continued to push for further increases to the Scotlish Child Payment. Our work on both areas will continue until sufficient progress has been made.

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

In more positive news, we celebrated alongside Together's members when the UNCRC (Incorporation)(Scotland) Act 2024 came into force in July 2024. We were also delighted to be part of Together's Tiny Rights Detectives Project Steering Group, which explored pathways to justice for babies in Scotland. The report of that project was published in February 2025.

Advising and influencing

PAS represents our members and the views of parents and carers on a number of national advisory and steering groups, providing us with opportunities to feed into decision making at a strategic level. In 2024 this included; the Scottish Government's UNCRC Strategic Implementation Board and UNCRC Awareness Raising Network, the Scottish Government's Equal Protection Implementation Group and Transport Scotland's Transport Equality Group. We also sat on a number of third sector led advisory groups including the Play Council Strategy Group and Transforming Child Maintenance Strategic Advisory Group.

2. Practitioners working with families are better informed and skilled to deliver support to families

In July 2024 Phase 3 of our Open
Kindergarten project commenced. Open
Kindergartens are a long-standing concept in
parent support in the Nordic countries. Groups
of parents, carers and their young children
meet regularly in family centres and are
supported by highly-qualified early years staff
who work alongside specialists to develop
parents' skills, confidence and knowledge.



PAS has been working to bring Open Kindergartens to Scotland since 2015. Our Phase 3 project is a partnership between PAS, Midlothian Sure Start, Children in Scotland and The Open University. Funded by the Scottish Government's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, this phase runs from July 2024 to January 2026 and focuses on testing the Open Kindergarten approach in a variety of settings, times and locations. We will also be developing a range of learning resources to help embed the Open Kindergarten approach in a variety of early learning and childcare settings.

We are delighted to be leading this phase of Open Kindergarten activity, which was well into its stride by the end March 2025. By the end of the financial year we had nine Open Kindergartens up and running across three local authority areas (Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian) supporting over 150 families. The evaluation will conclude later in 2025, but emerging evidence is already showing that attending an Open Kindergarten had a positive impact on parents and carers' wellbeing, social connectedness and confidence in parenting.

"I feel more confident in how to interact with my child as a parent thanks to Open Kindergarten" (Parent)

A new venture for PAS in 2024/25 was taking on ownership of **Wonderbox**, a beautiful array of creative resources designed to support children and young people's wellbeing through

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

creativity. Wonderbox was originally produced by the Curiosity Collective but was kindly gifted to PAS when the charity wound down. Since taking on Wonderbox in July 2024 we have been updating and testing the resources with a variety of audiences including families attending the Scottish Centre for Conflict Resolution's Big Family Day and families supported by the Kinship Care Advice Service. We're exploring how these resources can support the work practitioners undertake with families and encourage positive interactions between parents / carers and their children. Testing and further roll out of the resources will continue into 2025/26.

We delivered a small programme of **events** through the 2024/25 to support practitioners' knowledge, understanding and skills. This included launch events for our Parenting Evidence Review and Open Kindergarten project and a four nations Parenting Week webinar with Parent Focus (Northern Ireland), Parents Connect Wales and Parent Kind. 156 practitioners attended these events.

We presented on our work at the Right Start Conference, Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Learning into Action Network and Cross Party Group on Families Supporting Children's Learning. We took part in podcasts for Play Scotland and Enquire and wrote blogs for Children in Scotland and Public Health Scotland.

In terms of our wider engagement work with practitioners, PAS continued to put out its quarterly **newsletter** to around 1000 subscribers throughout Scotland, providing up to date information and guidance to the sector. With approval from the Board and Members we stopped posting on X in February 2025 and focused on other social media platforms including BlueSky, LinkedIn and Instagram. Our following on these platforms is smaller than on X, but collectively across all social media platforms including our website, newsletter and X (up to February 2025) we were able to reach approximately 13,200 individuals in 2024/25.

3. Parents and carers views and experiences help inform and influence policy and practice

Much of our work in 2024/25 was focused on listening to the views and experiences of parents and carers.

Publication of our Parenting Evidence Review provided us with up to date information about parents lives to help inform and influence policy and practice. And our work on parenting with adults gave us the opportunity to directly engage with parents and carers on a new policy area for PAS. Open Kindergarten and Wonderbox both provided the opportunity to test approaches that support whole families. Evaluation data from these projects will continue to influence our work in 2025/26.

We were also able to make space for new opportunities to engage with parents and carers on topics that matter to them. Most notably this included our Cyber Scotland Week 2025 webinar with Police Scotland's Cybercrime Harm Prevention Team on Keeping Children Safe Online. The webinar was attended by over 200 parents and carers from across Scotland, emphasising the widespread interest in this topic. Evaluation of the event was resoundingly positive and we have agreed with Police Scotland to deliver this session again in 2025/26.

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

'The facilitator was great and the two Police experts were accessible, clear and transparent. The presentation was useful and not too long, the variety of links excellent and the info shared thorough and solution-focused. THANK YOU VERY MUCH for organising, facilitating and educating us all on such crucial online safety matters. Very appreciated! Will defo have and will continue to have those conversations with my children to safeguard their online wellbeing. THANKS' (Parent participating in our Keeping Children Safe Online event)

Financial Review

In the year to 31 March 2025 the charity had receipts of £213,990 (2024: £106,101) and payments of £174,302 (2024: £91,034), giving net receipts of £39,688 (2024: net receipts £15,067). Total funds under management at 31 March 2025 were £106,973 (2024: £67,285), of which £23,772 were restricted to cover known payments due, £25,510 were designated and £57,690 were held as unrestricted funds.

Reserves

PAS holds reserves, in the form of unrestricted funds to allow the charity to continue to operate for a period of time and meet potential liabilities in the event of loss or fluctuations in funding and cashflow. It is estimated that three months running costs, together with staff redundancies would be in the region of £40,000 to £50,000. As at 31 March 2025, unrestricted reserves were £57,690.

Funding has been confirmed for 2025-26 and so the current level of reserves is sufficient; this will be reviewed again in light of 2026-27 funding.

Trustee remuneration and expenses

The trustees did not receive any remuneration from PAS during the year to 31 March 2025. No travel expenses were paid to Trustees (2024: Travel was paid for one trustee of £364).

Major risks facing the charity

Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The principal risks facing the charity are the withdrawal of the major funding streams, and staff absence and retention. Our core funding is in place to end March 2025. Other funding will be sourced as appropriate for specific activities. The Trustees regularly monitor all reserves to ensure that sufficient funds are held to cover likely eventualities.

Plans for future periods

2025/26 will be a year in which we shape the future for PAS. We will publish our next strategic plan, outlining PAS' key priorities and the actions we will take to achieve them over the next three years. And looking forward to the Scottish Parliamentary elections in 2026, we will develop a manifesto highlighting our key policy calls for the next Scottish Government to improve the lives of families in Scotland.

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 March 2025

Over the year, we will continue to work on our policy priorities; child poverty, family support, children's rights, parenting with adults and leisure and play, bringing in learning from our projects and engagement work with parents, carers and members to inform this work.

In terms of our work to support practitioners, we will continue to deliver our Open Kindergarten project in partnership with Midlothian Sure Start, The Open University and Children in Scotland. This will include publication of an e-learning module and implementation pack to support wider roll out. We will also continue to disseminate Wonderbox resources, working with organisations to find new and innovative ways of utilising the resources to support families.

We will continue to listen to the voices of parents and carers, with a particular focus in 2025/26 on our parenting with adults and leisure and play policy priorities. We will deliver a programme of events throughout the year that inform parents, carers, practitioners and policy makers of some of the key issues affecting families in Scotland. We will actively seek to find new under-represented topics for our events and give them prominence.

Finally in our ambition to become a more sustainable organisation we will be actively seeking new sources of financial support to diversify our income and increase our capacity.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Louise Marryat Chair

2 Carpet

28 August 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 11 and 12 and the related notes on pages 13 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Paul Huldin

Paul Hutchison ACA Azets Audit Services Chartered Accountants Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9QG

Receipts and Payments Account For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Receipts from		_	~	~	~
Grants and donations	2	28,963	185,027	213,990	106,101
		28,963	185,027	213,990	106,101
Payments on					
Charitable activities	3	3,453	170,849	174,302	91,034
Total payments		3,453	170,849	174,302	91,034
Net receipts before transfer	s	25,510	14,178	39,688	15,067
Transfers		4,371	(4,371)	-	-
Net receipts		29,881	9,807	39,688	15,067

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these accounts

Statement of Balances As at 31 March 2025

Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Opening fund balances	53,319	13,966	67,285	52,218
Net (payments)/receipts for the year	29,881	9,807	39,688	15,067
Closing fund balances at 31 March	83,200	23,773	106,973	67,285
Cash and bank balances at 31 March	83,200	23,773	106,973	67,285

The following balances are to provide further information as at 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Owed by PAS		
Payments to OK partners	15,881	-
Payroll creditors	4,594	1,914
Website & Comms	-	5,400
Research costs	322	3,973
Report	-	950
Rent	-	456
Office costs	15	436
Staff travel	=	20
Accounting support	800	800
Independent examination fee	2,160	200

Approved by the Trustees on 28 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Louise Marryat

2 Carpet

Chair

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

VAT

The charity is not registered for VAT and, accordingly, expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Resources expended

Expenditure incurred has been classified on a basis appropriate to the charity's circumstances. All expenditure relates to the charitable activities.

Governance costs are separately identified in the relevant note to the accounts.

2. Grants and donations

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
CYPFEIF Open Kindergarten Wonderbox donation Memorial donation	- - 28,963 -	105,000 80,027 - -	105,000 80,027 28,963	105,000 - - 1,101
	28,963	185,027	213,990	106,101

Notes to the Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Staff costs	1,621	81,022	82,643	59,157
Staff travel & development	36	1,474	1,510	604
Recruitment	-	-	-	610
Payments - OK project partners	-	55,317	55,317	-
Meetings, events, conferences	-	150	150	-
Website & communications	480	7,627	8,107	9,504
Research costs	108	4,953	5,061	3,000
Professional fees	124	1,468	1,592	2,614
Accountancy including IE	_	4,306	4,306	3,497
Insurance	_	791	791	823
IT software and consumables	61	5,111	5,172	3,918
Office rent and rates	-	6,186	6,186	4,944
Office costs	1,023	1,410	2,433	990
Subscription & membership fees	_	591	591	756
Bank charges	_	215	215	77
Trustees travel and meetings	_	228	228	540
	3,453	170,849	174,302	91,034
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			

The March 2025 independent examination fee of £1,800 plus VAT is included in the statement of balances (2024: £200).

4. Staff costs

	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Gross Salaries Employer's National Insurance Employers NI Allowance HMRC opening creditor HMRC closing creditor Employer's Pension contribution Overpaid pension refund Interim CEO	77,795 8,225 (5,000) 1,251 (2,072) 4,966 (2,522)	23,042 2,343 (2,343) - (1,251) 722 - 36,624 - 59,157

5. Payments to Trustees and related parties

There were no payments made to Trustees, or parties related to them, for remuneration or expenses in the year to 31 March 2025 (2023: £364 paid to allow one trustee to travel to attend a Board strategy day).

Notes to the Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Funds

	Balance at 31 March 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
General funds Designated funds:	53,319	-	-	4,371	57,690
Wonderbox		28,963	(3,453)		25,510 ———
Unrestricted funds	53,319	28,963	(3,453)	4,371	83,200
Restricted funds: CYPFEIF Open Kindergarten	13,966 -	105,000 80,027	(111,074) (59,775)	- (4,371)	7,892 15,881
Restricted funds	13,966	185,027	(170,849)	(4,371)	23,773
Total Funds	67,285 	213,990	(174,302)	-	106,973

Unrestricted funds:

General funds are those funds available to the Trustees to spend in line with the charitable objects of the SCIO.

During the year, the SCIO received donated funds from Curiosity Collective which was winding up, there was no restriction on the use of these funds. The Trustees made the decision to designate these funds for the Wonderbox project.

Restricted funds:

CYPFEIF: Infrastructure funding from the Children, Young People & Families Early Intervention Fund and Adult Learning & Empowering Communities Fund in order to achieve the following key outcomes:

- (1) Legislation, policy and practice better meets the needs of families in Scotland
- (2) Practitioners working with families are better informed and skilled to deliver support to families
- (3) Parents are better equipped with the information to ensure their children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

Open Kindergarten: Funding from the Scottish Government to carry out a feasibility study and evaluation concerning the implementation of an 'Open Kindergarten' approach in three education authorities in Scotland through funding from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. PAS is one of four partners in the project and holds the funding on behalf of those involved.

Transfers between funds: A transfer was made to represent the overhead costs incurred on the Open Kindergarten project.