MUSIC
IN HOSPITALS & CARE
Joy through live music

Annual report

2025/26

Contents

"Music in Hospitals & Care leads the charge in seeing that those less fortunate than ourselves have the benefit of music in their lives"

Welcome

"After twenty years I am prouder now than I have ever been to be President of Music in Hospitals & Care.

It was during the making of a promotional video for the charity that I realised fully the significance that music played in the lives of very sick people. I'd seen within my own family when singing for my mother and two aunts, how their dementia was soothed listening to me quietly singing a song they recognised.

That singing of the song goes on tirelessly with the work of the charity and the brilliant array of musicians. Don't ever think that music plays only a minor part in our lives, it's much bigger than that and Music in Hospitals & Care leads the charge in seeing that those less fortunate than ourselves have the benefit of music in their lives."

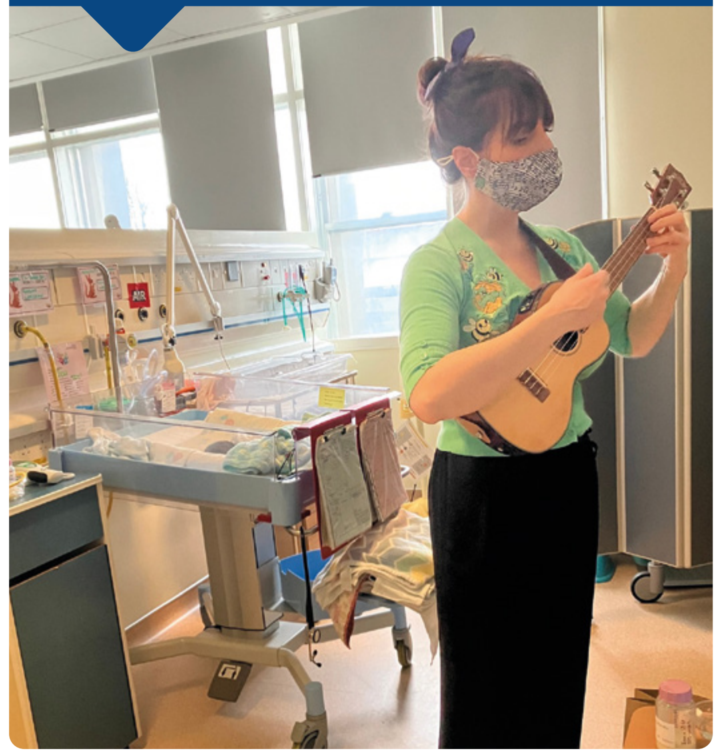
Sir Thomas Allen, President of Music in Hospitals & Care

"Like many charities, we continue to navigate the challenges of a difficult economic climate. Rising costs and an uncertain financial landscape have meant that our fundraising has not grown at the rate needed to meet the increasing demand for our live music. Despite these pressures, what truly stands out is the extraordinary dedication of the Music in Hospitals & Care community. A huge thank you to our staff, volunteers, musicians, health and care partners, and of course our supporters for championing the healing power of live music. We are so proud of what we have been able to achieve together this year."

Barbara Osborne, Chief Executive at Music in Hospitals & Care

"I could hear a baby crying from the room next door, so I stood in the doorway and played for him. It calmed his crying, and he was inquisitively looking around to try and find the source of the music… When I stopped playing and went to the next room, he started crying again, so at the end I had a little bit of extra time so I went back and played more for him, and it was a really lovely moment."

Our musician Elkie Jeffery sharing live music at St Mary's Hospital in London



"Without a doubt, if I could have Music in Hospitals & Care every week, I would! It brings so much to our patients. The music, the interaction... when we see the benefits and get feedback, your heart just glows."

Hospital staff member in Northern Ireland

"There are times where this ward can be hard, these sessions help staff relax and enjoy themselves, improves mood while interacting with patients who bring smiles to the faces with their joy."

Staff member at Furness General Hospital in Cumbria

"Music is a good remedy, it gives you a good feeling. I really appreciate it."

"The music raised the energy of the ward. It made me feel happy, peaceful. Warm euphoria in my heart."

Patients at Tower Hamlets Centre for Mental Health

"Since Music in Hospitals & Care has come into our lives, we have been introduced to a whole host of music and instruments. The families visiting really do enjoy it, and then the residents enjoy seeing their family member and enjoying it with them as well. It shows there is some happiness still, and hope. It's just joyful."

Staff member at Marillac Neurological Care Centre in Essex

"It has been an honour to serve as a Welsh volunteer ambassador for Music in Hospitals & Care since 2013, as a Trustee for nine years until 2025, and now as Honorary Trustee. During this time I have enjoyed raising funds for the organisation in Cardiff, Llandudno, and most recently in London in September 2025 for an evening of Wine, Music & Song."

Dr Jeremy Huw Williams, supporter and successful Welsh baritone

"One of the participants was very taken with our first song, Ave Maria. At the end he called me over and asked that next time we were in, we might consider playing Ave Maria as 'it's a lovely tune'. It made me feel quite emotional as, even though he might not have recalled we already played it, he felt confident enough to make a request and remember a song that he liked."

Our musicians The Brag Gwyn Duo sharing live music at Age Connects Torfaen

"Music has an uplifting, feel-good connection for people no matter their physical, mental or spiritual health. Time and again we see it bringing folk together and having the most amazing therapeutic benefits. It has wonderful effects for staff on their own wellbeing, and seeing patients interact, smile and sing also lifts staff's mood."

Staff member at Gartnavel Royal Hospital in Glasgow

"One lady said that she'd had a harpist at her wedding playing a particular song as she walked down the aisle. I asked her if she would like me to play it for her, and she said yes. She was obviously emotional when she heard this music. When I left, she said, 'Thank you from the bottom of my heart.'"

Our musician Delyth Jenkins sharing live music at Glangwili Hospital ICU in Carmarthen

"It has been exciting to coordinate live music this year! Having exclusively worked in the South of England and Channel Islands since 2023, this was the year I began coordinating sessions outside of the South of England where I am based. New UK wide experiences, all while continuing our work with our regular settings from previous years. Working within grant restrictions with a large enquiry list was a challenge, but I'm really proud of what we achieved.

My personal highlight was working with health and care settings in Northern Ireland. Despite tight funding deadlines and delays receiving paperwork to allow the sessions to go ahead, I managed to coordinate 12 hours of live music in a very short space of time. It was a true testament to the hard work and loyalty of our musicians too."

Elliot Shulman, Live Music Coordinator at Music in Hospitals & Care

About us

At Music in Hospitals & Care, we've been sharing the healing power of live music since 1948.

We believe live music needs to be part of everyone's health and social care. It helps people feel relaxed, confident and can relieve frustration, stress, isolation and reduce perception of pain. Evidence shows easing pain and stress supports recovery.

Music brings back memories and creates new ones. When you move your body to music - even just tapping a finger - it's natural physiotherapy.

Live music can transform relationships between patients, families, healthcare professionals, residents and carers. When people enjoy music together, they feel more connected to each other, which leads to more personalised care.

Yoker Resource Centre Project Coordinator Kirsty Gibbons shares her experience of the live music we have been sharing since 2023 with The Yoker Project, a group offering over 65s in north west Glasgow a space to connect and socialise.

"Communal live music matters so much. It creates collective energy. It reduces isolation. It rebuilds identity. It reminds people of who they are beyond a diagnosis or limitation.

The live music experiences have become a really valued part of the programme for many of our members. You can really see the difference it makes. Music at our group isn't just something people passively listen to, it's something they feel, connect with, and experience together.

The music brings a great atmosphere. We often see members becoming more engaged, joining in singing, reminiscing, chatting more, and just generally coming out of themselves. For some people, music reaches them in a way that conversation sometimes can't.

What makes these experiences especially powerful is how inclusive and engaging the musicians are. They create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels able to join in, whether through singing along, sharing memories, or simply enjoying the performance.

The sessions are also lovely for staff. They create natural opportunities to connect with members in a more relaxed and meaningful way. There's always a real buzz in the room afterwards.

We really appreciate all the time, energy and kindness the Music in Hospitals & Care team and professional musicians bring. It makes a genuine difference."

"Music at our group isn't just something people passively listen to, it's something they feel, connect with, and experience together."

Our strategy

Informed by our vision, mission, purpose and theory of change, our strategy outlines how we will all compose together to move closer to our vision: everyone can access and experience the joy of live music. The melody throughout our strategy is in five parts:

Impact

Understanding and demonstrating the impact of our live music – proving the difference we make.

Voice

Elevating our profile and being a visible voice in music and health.

Recovery

Ensuring financial stability and sustainable music delivery.

EDIA

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility: Understanding and reflecting the communities we work with and those we aim to work with.

Organisational capability

Build the skills, knowledge, information, processes and activities, roles and structure, systems and technology that we depend on.

Outcomes

Our Theory of Change shows the ultimate impact we aim to create through how we work and what we do. We measure our success against these outcomes through our evaluation framework:

People...

engage with and access live music

connect with who they are through live music including their memories and cultural identity

are more able to **communicate** and feel more **confident**

Live music...

creates **connections** with others, allowing patients and residents to be seen as people

eases pain and stress, which can support **recovery**

is **embedded** in health and care

Musicians...

are **supported** to develop further creative skills and peer learn

play in spaces that their commercial careers don't usually allow them to

feel passionate about sharing live music and the impact they make

In 2025/26 we shared:

1,584 hours
of live music

in 290 health and care settings

reaching over **37,457** patients, residents, service users, visitors and staff

Health and care staff rated the music:

★★★★★

4.9 out of 5 benefits to patients (97% gave 5/5)

4.9 out of 5 benefits to staff

in hospitals...

889 hours
in **128 settings** including 131 hours ICU Hear® and 82 hours Lullaby Hour

Staff reported that **60%** of patients felt more connected to others and loved ones

...and **28%** experienced less physical pain

in hospices...

48 hours
in **8 settings**

Staff reported that **56%** of patients felt more connected to each other and their loved ones

... and **50%** were able to express themselves more during a challenging time

in care homes...

364 hours
in **87 settings**

Staff reported that **71%** of residents were less bored and **52%** expressed themselves more

...and we shared over **217 hours** of music for those experiencing dementia

in community settings...

284 hours
in **67 settings**

We shared **88 hours** of music in community settings for people living with dementia

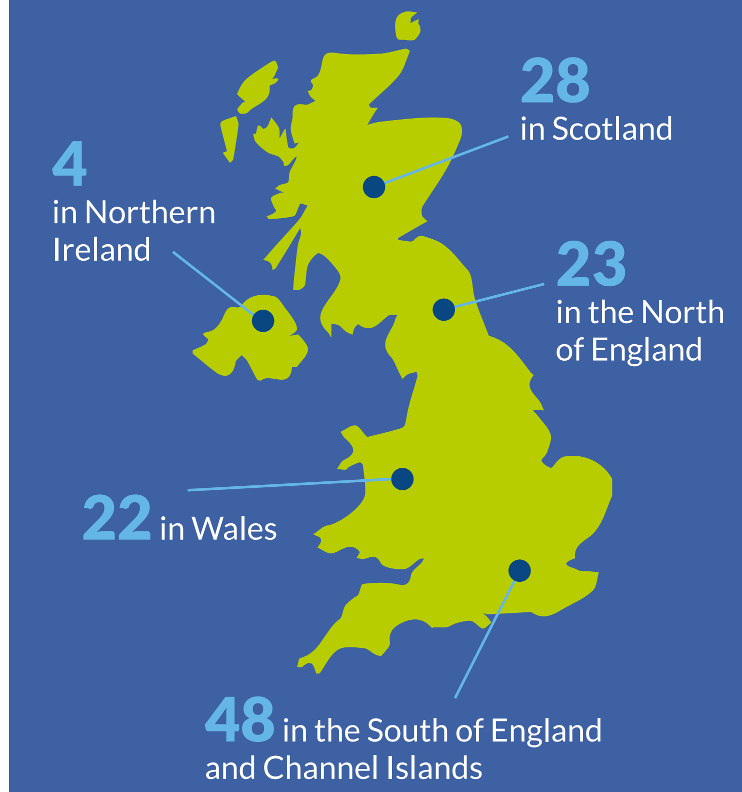
...and **184 hours** of live music designed to improve overall wellbeing

Staff reported that **59%** of service users expressed themselves more

...and **49%** experienced less stress after the music

Our musicians

In 2025/26 we worked with **125 professional musicians**



- **70** are singers
- **54** play the guitar
- **28** play the piano
- **16** play the harp
- **14** play the fiddle or violin
- **11** play the ukulele
- **8** play the flute
- **6** play the accordion
- **6** play the cello
- **4** play the clarinet
- **4** play the saxophone
- and **28** other instruments

This year our live music was delivered by:

65% soloists

32% duos

1% trios

Striking a chord that resonates

2025/26 has marked a sixth challenging year for the charity sector as we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic, which have been compounded by the cost of living crisis and shape of the economy. In 2020, we had to stop our live music overnight. We pivoted then, and continue to adapt to meet the needs of the people who need us most. But demand for our services exceeds what we are able to financially deliver. We have had to make difficult decisions about where to focus our resources. Despite this, we are proud to have continued creating meaningful musical moments, reaching over 37,000 people.

We used this period as an opportunity to reflect on where live music can have the greatest impact and to refine the priorities that will guide us through to 2028. We continue to evidence the change we seek to make as outlined in our theory of change: people in hospitals and care settings enjoy a better quality of life and improved health outcomes. This year, we focused our evaluation activity more strategically across targeted areas of delivery. This has enabled us to deepen our understanding of the impact of our work and identify opportunities to strengthen and improve our approach.

Measuring our impact in critical care

It has been a decade since our ICU Hear® programme started in critical care wards across the UK. During that time, the NHS has changed significantly. Increasing pressures on services, workforce challenges and rising demand mean there is growing recognition of the need for other interventions that can support patient recovery and wellbeing while easing the strain on staff and services.

Our current strategy aims to understand and demonstrate the difference our live music makes. As part of this, over the past year we have focused on priority areas of delivery to explore how we gather more meaningful feedback and data. A more targeted approach allows us to tailor our methods to different settings, ensuring we collect the right type of information in ways that are practical, relevant and sensitive to each environment. Our health and care partners also benefit from access to this data, supporting their own evaluation, planning and continuous improvement.

In 2025, we worked with 17 critical care units across the UK, nine of which had live music four or more times. We have been sharing monthly live music at Hammersmith Hospital ICU since 2024 as part of a wider partnership with Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust across four of its hospitals.

Our musician Paul Kerr, who visits Hammersmith Hospital regularly, explains: "In ICU, even a gentle melody can slow breathing, ease tension, and help patients feel calmer and more connected. I remember a family had gathered to say their goodbyes to their elderly father who was receiving end of life care. The music allowed all the emotion to finally come pouring out, in tears and in words."

In November 2025 we began working with resident doctor, Dr Wei-Chee Lee, and critical care consultant Louit Thakuria, to support data collection over three months of live music. The study measured clinical indicators such as heart rate and respiratory rate alongside mood and stress levels for patients, visitors and staff.

One family member shared: "It brings calm and healing and helped so much with my husband coming out of sedation after more than a week."

Paul adds: "Part of my role is not to make it a performance as such, but a musical ambience or experience that people can join in with. I'm not desensitised to the challenging environment of the ICU, I've grown accustomed to it. You have to be responsive and pick up on subtle changes, especially in a ward where a lot of patients are non-verbal. It's really all about collaboration and using music to support patient and staff wellbeing."

Following this pilot, we are rolling out more targeted approaches to data and feedback collection across different areas of our work and locations throughout the UK. We hope to build a deeper understanding of our impact, strengthen our evidence base, and ensure our work continues to deliver meaningful, measurable benefits. This will help to move closer to our vision that everyone can access and experience the joy of live music.

31% of patients had an improved heart rate after the live music compared to before

20% of patients had an improved respiratory rate after the live music compared to before

80% of staff and visitors reported a lift in their mood after the music

“Where medicine meets melody” – Lullaby Hour in the *British Medical Journal*

This year we aimed to share our expertise in the arts and health sector, enabling more people to find out about and access the benefits of live music in health and care. Our award-winning Lullaby Hour programme offers babies, children and their parents or carers the chance to experience special moments and memories together. We were featured on the *British Medical Journal’s* website, which receives over 1m page views per week, in an article about Lullaby Hour at St Mary’s Hospital in Paddington. Monthly live music in the neonatal unit forms part of our long-term partnership with Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. Our musician Mica Bernard, Impact and Insights Manager Vicky Daborn Tedder and Neonatal Consultant Jay Banerjee spoke about the impact the live music is having for poorly babies and their families.

During the year we also gained coverage for Lullaby Hour on BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4 and in *The Nursing Times*.

> **“To be able to provide moments of calm through Lullaby Hour is something we’re incredibly proud of. These music sessions not only help parents bond with their baby but also provide a moment’s respite from an uncertain and stressful situation. The feedback from families and the clinical team here has been universally positive.”**
>
> Jay Banerjee, Neonatal Consultant at Hammersmith Hospital

‘Musical Hospitals’ could save the NHS money

Findings from our ‘Musical Hospitals’ project with Swansea Bay University Health Board demonstrate the powerful role live music and other arts activities can play in improving people’s health and wellbeing.

The two year project, funded by the Arts Council of Wales, showed that arts activities boosted staff morale, supported patient recovery and strengthened human connection. The evaluation also indicated the potential for over £100k in annual NHS savings per ward.

This collaborative project represents a significant step towards our goal of enabling people in hospitals and care settings to experience a better quality of life. Delivered in partnership with BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Welsh National Opera, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and Live Music Now, it demonstrates how collective action across the arts and health sectors, especially in today’s changing landscape, can create positive and meaningful outcomes that extend the reach and impact of our work for those who need it most.

Music in Hospitals & Care shared **174 hours of live music** across Neath Port Talbot and Tonna Hospitals. In one neurological rehab ward alone, we saw:

- **98%** reduction in physical assaults
- **99%** reduction in verbal assaults
- **99%** reduction in sedative use
- **43%** drop in staff sickness

Scoring our live music in Fife

We have been implementing creative evaluation tools at our live music experiences right across the UK, involving interactive activities that support people to give feedback in a fun and accessible way. At The Friendship Cabin in Glenrothes, group members have been using a musical score to express how they feel about the music by placing words and pictures.

"People were up dancing, clapping along, and singing, which showed they were fully engaged and having a good time. Moments like these highlight the power of music to lift spirits and connect people, especially in community settings like The Friendship Cabin."

Pearl Weepers, Founder and Volunteer Coordinator at The Friendship Cabin

IMAGINED

There are an estimated 982,000 people in the UK living with dementia, but more than a third of people with the condition do not have a diagnosis. The number is expected to rise to 1.4 million by 2040[1]. This remains a priority area for our live music, as we know the important benefits it can have for people living with dementia and their loved ones.

Through our research partnership with the Edinburgh Centre for Research on the Experience of Dementia (ECRED) on the IMAGINED project, we were invited to speak at the Dementia Care: Future Directions workshop and the Advance Care Research Centre 2025 conference. IMAGINED stands for Investigating Meaning-making and the cocreation of Guidelines for Evaluation IN participatory Arts for Dementia. The project was also featured in the Scottish Parliament Cross-party Group for Culture and Communities annual report. It is hoped it will be used as an example to influence future policy-making around dementia care.

Building on insights gathered through a sector-wide survey of participatory arts activities, we have been contributing to a new evaluation tool and online training course for practitioners as part of the next phase of the project. These resources will be made available nationally and internationally to help to improve confidence and skills in delivering and evaluating arts and dementia programmes.

[1] Alzheimer's Society (alzheimers.org.uk)

"We have been delighted to work in partnership with participatory arts organisations Music in Hospitals & Care and Scottish Ballet. This project focuses on how to evaluate meaning-making and wellbeing in community and social care settings. IMAGINED's findings are informing policymakers' and practitioners' understandings of how participatory arts and people living with dementia are valued and evaluated."

Dr Olivia Turner, Deputy Director of ECRED

Turning the page, changing the tune

Over the past year, the fundraising landscape has continued to shift. Increasing competition for charitable grants, our largest source of income, and ongoing economic pressures have made it more difficult to secure traditional sources of funding.

In response, we continue to adapt and diversify our approach to income generation, embracing new strategies and strengthening existing relationships to set ourselves up for the future.

Despite these challenges, the incredible commitment and generosity of the Music in Hospitals & Care community really shines through. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us this year, helping to keep the music playing when it matters most. We really couldn't do it without you.

197 supporters with a **regular donation**

£241,089 raised from **5 legacies** - an increase of **12x** the income from last year

27% increase in **grants** received from charitable **trusts and foundations**

36% of our **grant funding** was unrestricted

20% increase in income from **individual donations**

345 new donors

£36,224 raised from **26 community fundraising events** and talks

55% of our live music had **a financial contribution** from our health and care partners

Investing in the future

Core costs are the vital yet often overlooked areas of our work that are needed to ensure that we are able to share live music where it is needed most. This includes essential costs, from our finance and fundraising teams to the IT systems we use to organise each live music experience.

A huge thank you to the players of Postcode Lottery, who have raised £1 million since 2017 to help share the healing power of live music across the UK. Our current unrestricted funding from Postcode Culture Trust runs until March 2027 and has been instrumental in progress made against the key aims of our organisational strategy.

The flexibility of this funding enables our team to respond quickly to changing needs and new opportunities. In 2025/26, it supported the launch of our new evaluation framework, further developing our programmes of live music for people who are seriously ill, and the diversification of our income streams to help us secure more funding in the future.

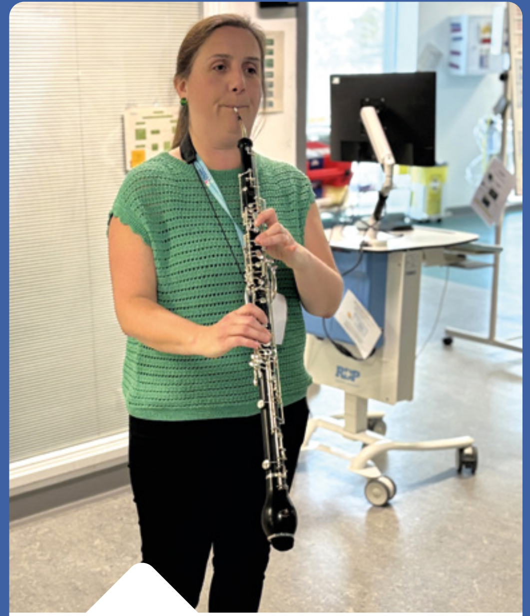
We also received the fantastic news of an unrestricted grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support our work across the UK. Starting in November, this funding is helping to build consistent programmes of live music where it can have the most impact.

Unrestricted funding enables us to strengthen our organisation and be more responsive to the demand for our live music, safeguarding our work for the future and helping to move closer to our vision that everyone can access and experience the joy of live music. Not only does this benefit people's health and wellbeing, but it contributes to relieving growing pressures on health and care by supporting staff, helping people to recover quicker and reducing the need for strong medications and long hospital stays.

This ensures the future of sustainable live music, creating moments of joy and connection for people who need it most. Thank you.

"Music in Hospitals & Care uses funding thoughtfully and effectively, ensuring it reaches those who need it most. Seeing their live music sessions in action is truly special. The joy, comfort and sense of connection they bring to patients, residents and staff is immediate and powerful. It's clear how much care and dedication goes into every performance."

Morag Fodor, Long term Partnership Officer at Postcode Lottery



“I’ve received some really lovely feedback from one of the nurses on shift, as well as from families who were there. It clearly meant a lot, so thank you and, of course, thanks to your musician for delivering such a meaningful session… it was such a precious moment for the patient and his daughter to share at the end of his life.”

North Tyneside General Hospital Palliative Care Unit

Partnership building in the North of England

Long-term programmes involving regular visits from our musicians help to increase access to live music and lead to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for people in hospitals and care. They also provide stable income to enable future planning. Throughout 2025/26 and into 2026/27, we have increased the number of NHS trusts and health boards we work with by 8% across the UK.

We recognised that in some areas there was a real opportunity to build new long-term relationships. In the North of England, we partnered with two NHS trusts and associated charities to lay the foundations for sustainable, long-term live music programmes. A pilot delivered at Salford Royal Hospital in collaboration with the Patient Experience Team at Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust supported by NorthCare Charity, saw our musicians visiting wards and public spaces right across the hospital to explore the benefits of regular live music for patients, families and staff.

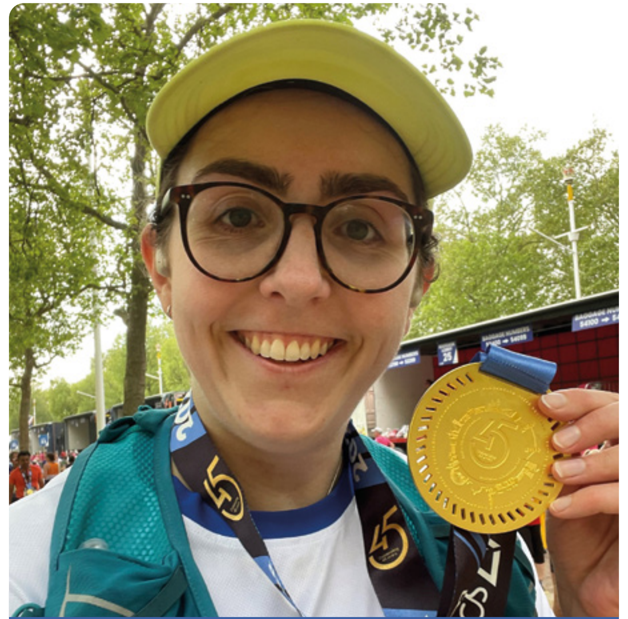
We also trialled live music throughout 2025/26 with Bright Northumbria Healthcare Charity at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust hospitals North Tyneside General Hospital, Berwick Infirmary, Hexham General Hospital, Alnwick Infirmary and Blyth Community Hospital. These sessions have been very successful and have led to a new agreement for regular live music in 2026/27.

Marathon miles for music

We’re so proud of our amazing team of runners who completed the 2025 London Marathon, raising over £15,000 in support of Music in Hospitals & Care. Each runner had their own inspiring reason for taking part and fundraising for us.

“From the moment I joined Team Music in Hospitals & Care, I felt part of something bigger than just 26.2 miles. Training was tough, but as a musician and teacher I know music has a magical way of lifting spirits, easing pain, and connecting people – and knowing that my miles could help make more of that magic happen kept me going. I’m so proud to have been part of it, and I’ll carry those memories with me forever.”

Simon Burvill



“Running for Music in Hospitals & Care was a very rewarding experience. Throughout the fundraising period I was amazed to hear stories from family, friends and colleagues about how music has helped their loved ones in the past. Music really does have a special power and it was fantastic to have the opportunity to raise money for the charity to continue to do the great work they do!”

Lucy Moss

In memory of Jenny Logan

Our professional musicians are at the heart of the Music in Hospitals & Care community. Many have dedicated decades to sharing the healing power of live music in health and care settings, and their commitment extends even further through volunteering and fundraising.

Jenny Logan was a much-loved musician, supporter and friend of Music in Hospitals & Care. Joining us as a musician in 1987, she was a talented mezzo-soprano who performed over 2,000 times, sharing live music in health and care settings across Scotland, including helping to audition new musicians. Jenny continued to support the charity through fundraising, volunteering and attending events such as our annual Winter Warmer in Edinburgh.

We were deeply saddened by Jenny’s death in late 2025. Her memorial service was appropriately musical, with her church community and friends from choirs across Edinburgh joining in to sing her chosen hymns. The family generously asked for donations to be made in her memory to charities including Music in Hospitals & Care.

There was a strong personal connection within the community and a desire to continue Jenny’s legacy. One of her music students, and a supporter of Music in Hospitals & Care, is also a trustee of the James and Jessie Shaw Charitable Trust. The Trust made a donation of £12,000 to honour Jenny’s lasting impact.

Jenny’s husband, Bruce Logan, said: “I was really touched to learn that there have been so many charitable donations in memory of Jenny. She was so loved and respected for the contribution she made to Music in Hospitals & Care over so many years. I was so proud of her. She will not be forgotten.”

The generosity of Jenny’s family and friends has been deeply moving. Through donations and ongoing fundraising inspired by her life, it is clear how much she meant to so many.

Jenny brought warmth, kindness and music wherever she went, and she will be remembered with great fondness and gratitude by everyone at Music in Hospitals & Care.

Seasonal singing

A huge thank you to the wonderful choirs who were out and about raising money for Music in Hospitals & Care this Christmas, not only donating an incredible £2,403, but increasing awareness of our cause. Christmas is one of the busiest times of year for our live music, so it is fantastic to receive increased support from people who clearly understand the value of live music at this time of year.

Shortlands Community and Youth Choir donated the proceedings from their Christmas concert at Bromley Parish Church

Companies House choir once again gave up their lunch hour to come and sing at St David's Shopping Centre in Cardiff

A super-choir made up of West London Singers and Highgate Musical Theatre Choir gathered under the tree at Trafalgar Square to share a song

We were delighted that the Friends of London Symphony Chorus chose to fundraise for us when they sang in Trafalgar Square

Edinburgh Choral Union performed Handel's Messiah at The Usher Hall and kindly arranged a bucket collection

Doubling donations for twice the impact

Our Christmas appeal asked supporters to imagine life without music. Never hearing the opening bars of a favourite song again, or sharing those moments with loved ones. During the week-long appeal, donations were matched up to £60,000 by our pledgers and champion trust. This was our largest appeal to date and played a significant role in diversifying our income in an increasingly challenging fundraising landscape. We were thrilled to exceed our target, raising a total of £65,718 including Gift Aid.

In March, there was another opportunity for Big Give donors to support, with our Arts for Impact appeal, which focused on our work in critical care and had a target of £5,000. Donations were matched by The Big Give Trust, helping us raise £5,513 including Gift Aid.

During our Christmas appeal

£65,718
raised including Gift Aid

57 donors
gave for the first time

Videos from our Vice President Katie Derham and voice of our 2023 Radio 4 appeal Mark Radcliffe received over **3,000 organic views** across our social channels and more than **467,500 views** through Meta ads

Playing our part

In the final investment year of our strategy, we continued to ensure we had the right people, systems and structures in place to take the organisation forward. We were working in an incredibly challenging economic situation for the charity sector, but have continued to adapt to be able to share live music where it matters most.

We have taken intentional steps this year to ensure we are set up for the future and hold ourselves responsible for our wider impact on the environment and equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility.

Orchestrating positive change

We work with people from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and communities, and we believe that strengthening equality and diversity across all areas of our work is essential to ensuring our programmes are relevant, inclusive and accessible to everyone who needs them.

Our equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) action plan focuses on five key priorities: strengthening our use of data and evidence; increasing representation across our live music programmes and external communications; diversifying our workforce by attracting and recruiting people from under-represented groups; building awareness and understanding of EDIA among staff and volunteers; and fostering an inclusive organisational culture by removing barriers to participation.

In 2025/26 we:

Developed and launched a **new charity website** with enhanced digital inclusion and accessibility features

Introduced **creative feedback tools** to reduce barriers and enable more people to share their experiences

Created an **Inclusive Language Guide** to help staff and volunteers communicate with confidence in respectful and inclusive ways

Formalised our ongoing commitment to fair pay by registering as a **Real Living Wage** employer

In considering our responsibilities as an organisation, we recognise that our work has an environmental impact. We work across the UK with a network of professional musicians who travel to hospitals, hospices, care homes and community settings to deliver live music. In 2025/26 we:

Participated in **Culture for Climate** training focused on climate justice

Established baseline **environmental reporting** to be submitted to Culture for Climate to identify areas for improvement

Drafted an updated **environmental policy** and developed an action plan for 2026/27 onwards

90% of staff and 60% of musicians that worked with us in 2025/26 responded to our **EDIA survey**

22% of musicians are aged 25-44, 36% are 45-65 and 42% are over 65

45% of our musicians are **women**, 53% are **men** and 2% are **non-binary**

In 2025/26 our **environmental reporting** estimates that our emissions are 20,725kg CO_2e, which is equivalent to 2.5 average UK homes

We review and update both our EDIA and environmental action plans annually and remain committed to reporting on our progress

CREATIVE SCOTLAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

The acceleration of work in these areas would not have been possible without multi-year funding from Creative Scotland. We were delighted to be successful in our application to become a portfolio organisation for the first time from April 2025.

In addition to developing our live music delivery across Scotland, the grant has created an opportunity to further demonstrate our commitment to EDIA and environmental sustainability, and provides year-on-year support for our long-term strategic plans and vision.

Harmonising our teams across the UK

Over the past year we have taken steps to bring our fundraising, communications and live music teams together to improve collaboration and implement more efficient ways of working remotely.

We have developed two new Live Music Development Manager roles, focusing on programmes and operations respectively, to consolidate our work across the UK and make sure we have strong foundations for our future growth.

While our Live Music Coordinators will continue to support musicians and health and care partners in their local area, they are now able to arrange music anywhere in the UK. This means we can bring the benefits of learnings from across our teams to work in a more programme-led way that still prioritises local relationship building and knowledge of different areas.

Staff having their say

In January, we surveyed our team to find out how they feel about working for Music in Hospitals & Care. The results will be used to make improvements to current policies and our employee package for staff in the future.

We made a commitment to investing in our staff through the team restructure and training and development opportunities. We are pleased to see that these changes have translated into how staff feel about working for the charity.

97% of staff said they **feel proud** to work for Music in Hospitals & Care

91% said they **would recommend** working for the charity

84% said that the charity's mission, vision and purpose **motivates them**

79% said they feel they have a **good work-life balance**

Financial summary

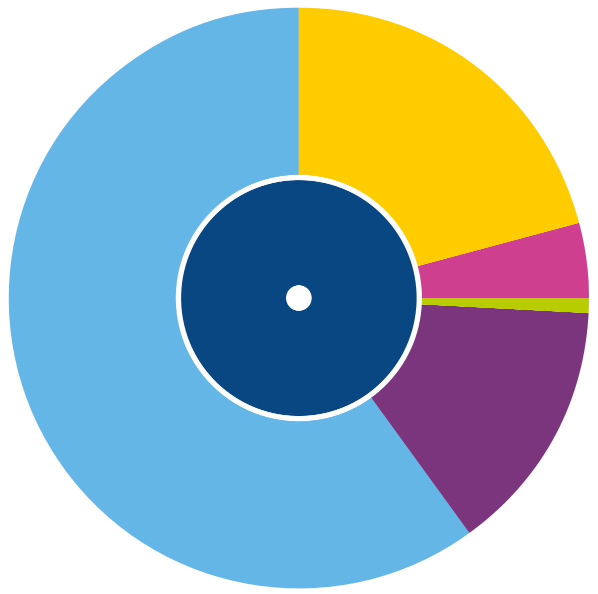
How we raised money

As we reached the final year of the investment strategy, we are pleased to report growth in nearly all areas of income. Whilst the previous year did not show our in-year returns, we can see across the last three years that we have continued to diversify our income and begin to create more sustainability for the future.

While the rate of growth has been slower than our original strategy predicted, we have focused on recovery and diversification of funds against a difficult financial and fundraising landscape over the last six years. We still have a long way to go, but were able to apply learnings to our approach in 2025/26 and see the results.

Our income from trusts and individuals (£687,175) saw growth compared to 2024/25 (£549,979). This is a result of diversifying our fundraising income and continuing to recover income streams like trusts and foundations.

We were also fortunate to receive a significant increase in legacy income in 2025/26 (£19,771 in 24/25 and £241,089 25/26). We are hugely grateful to the individuals who remember Music in Hospitals & Care in their will, and our committed fundraisers, supporters and health and care partners throughout the year.



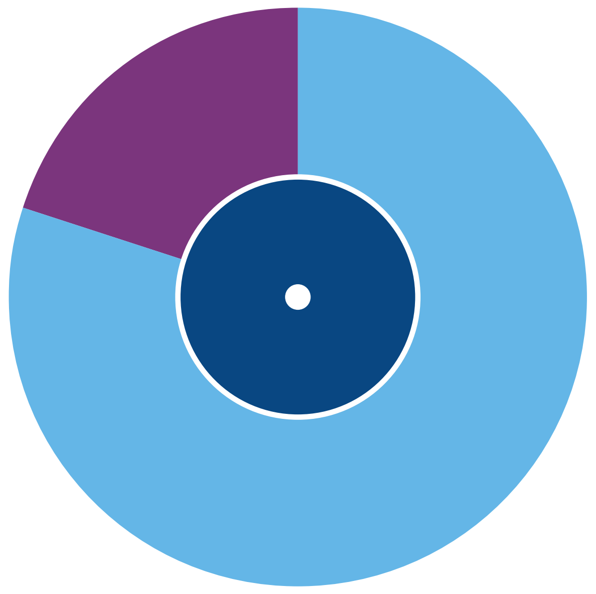
Total income: £1,139,052

Legacies	21%
Fundraising events	4%
Investment income	1%
Contributions from health and care partners	14%
Grants and donations	60%

How we spent our money

In 2025/26, we spent £1,210,082, a £372,013 decrease compared to 2024/25 (£1,582,095). Next year, marks the end of the investment phase of our strategy and shows the work we did over the last three years to ensure we are working efficiently and effectively. Prior year increased costs were due to one off costs to support the organisation to achieve its ambitions such as our digital transformation and strategic financial support.

Once again, as part of our investment strategy, we planned for a deficit. Before investment gains and losses, the deficit was £71,029. This is in line with the strategy agreed by the board of trustees to invest in the future of the organisation and support our long-term ambition – to make sure people in hospitals and care enjoy a better quality of life and improved health outcomes.



Total expenditure: £1,210,082

Charitable expenditure	80%
Fundraising	20%

Our musicians

We paid our musicians £162,004 in 2025/26; this is made up of fees, expenses and essential training. Average expenses reduced this year, as we looked to ensure we work within the local community and consider our environmental responsibility.

Full accounts for 2025/26 are available on our website: **mihc.org.uk/annual-report-2025-26**.

Planning for the future

We enter 2026/27 with clarity on what we need to achieve to reach the end of our strategy in 2028. Financial success is defined by removing the funding gap, and increasing both established and new income streams. We also recognise the need to operate with a balanced budget going forward, having come to the end of our current three year investment strategy.

We have spent a lot of time over the last six years rebuilding and developing our income streams, including three years of investment within our strategy. We are proud and hugely appreciative of our individual supporters who have enabled us to grow our individual giving, and will continue to create more opportunities for music lovers to engage with us and our musicians in meaningful ways. While we continue to recover income from trusts and foundations, we have made great steps forward in raising more unrestricted and core cost funding, which is essential to enabling the organisation to deliver where there is the greatest need.

Next year we will sustain some of the previous year's growth and build on this further. We aim to diversify our fundraising income through developing new corporate partnerships. We will also continue to build a sustainable programme of live music by working with our health and care partners to seek out further funding opportunities presented as a result of the impact of our live music.

Looking ahead

Our Chair, Maureen Hall, reflects on her experiences of our live music and what this means for the future of Music in Hospitals & Care.

Attending one of our Music Jam sessions at the Edinburgh Royal Hospital was a wonderful experience for me. Our musician Charlie Gorman has been sharing live music at this large psychiatric hospital for many years and both he and the staff encourage those attending to perform for the audience.

One young man started singing *500 Miles* by The Proclaimers. He began very hesitantly and avoided eye contact with the audience, but Charlie expertly encouraged him by playing along and gently guiding his singing. By the end of the song, the man was engaging with the audience and getting everyone to clap along and join in with the chorus. The transformation in his demeanour was incredible and I could just see his confidence grow before our eyes.

Many of those who attended were younger long term psychiatric patients. As the close relative of a young man who has spent much of his adult years in and out of psychiatric care, I know how important it is to combat the isolation and lack of social confidence that come with such periods in hospital.

Live music strategic review

One key investment in the past year was to give staff time to work on a new live music strategic review, and I am delighted that one outcome of that work was a decision to roll out the Music Jam approach across the UK in the same way we have already done with ICU Hear® and Lullaby Hour. Another new approach, Room for Music, combines group live music in communal spaces with one-to-one music at people's bedsides. This has been trialled successfully in a number of settings and will also be rolled out more widely.

Performance framework

To keep track of progress in achieving our goals, a new performance management framework was created last year for the whole organisation, consisting of milestones and key performance indicators (KPIs). These now form the focus of staff activity for the year and are reported against quarterly to the Board. This enables both staff and trustees to see progress in a balanced way across the whole organisation.

Looking to the year 26/27, we have agreed total of 43 milestones to support 34 KPIs across our five areas of focus. To show just one example from each area:

Impact

To roll out the Music Jam and Room for Music approaches to eight new settings across England & Wales.

Voice

Conduct a survey of our audiences to gauge brand awareness and recognition.

Recovery

Development of new corporate partnership relationships to diversify our income.

EDIA

Implement changes to create a consistent and inclusive musicians recruitment approach, increasing diversity and a positive impact on our travel emissions.

Organisational capability

All staff have objectives and development plans in place.

Our future strategy

In 2024, we extended our previous overall strategic goals for a further two years to 27/28, as we were confident they remained relevant. We can see that the financial investment of the last three years is already bearing results. We are, however, already thinking about 2028 and beyond. As new trustees join the Board, we will continue to welcome fresh insights and challenges around our work and purpose.

We now work to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves that is sufficient to mitigate financial risks, covering primary costs in the event of a shortfall or delay in income generation to ensure operational continuity. This means that we also need to have a balanced budget going forward, with all of our costs and music delivery supported by identified funding.

We are encouraged by the huge opportunity for future growth. We have increasing evidence of the positive impact of our work, and demand for our services is ever increasing. Live music generally is enjoying an increase in audiences, and we are optimistic that we can tap into that popularity to increase individual and corporate financial support, further diversifying our income. We are excited to work with all of our staff, musicians, volunteers and supporters to ensure that people in hospital and care can access and experience the joy of live music.

Become a Friend

"A large motivation throughout the 45 years we have supported Music in Hospitals & Care has been the day-to-day complete dedication of its staff to the cause of music for health and care. It has been a pleasure to see how the charity has progressed and expanded over the years and we will continue to support its work in whatever way we can, including regular donations and remembering Music in Hospitals & Care in our wills."

Regular donors, volunteers and fundraisers
Robin and Anne Barr

Over the years, our Friends have enabled us to reach thousands of children and adults with live music.

Demand for live music in hospital and care settings continues to grow, and we can only meet that need with the support of people who believe, as we do, that everyone deserves access to the joy and comfort that music can bring.

Regular support for our work is crucial. By becoming a Friend or a Champion, your commitment allows us to plan confidently and ensure musicians can return consistently to the same wards and care homes to build meaningful programmes of live music. These moments of connection – reducing anxiety, supporting communication, and easing isolation – depend on reliable funding.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our work this year. Whether you have attended an event, made a donation, volunteered your time or helped spread the word, you have played a part in sharing live music with those who need it most.

If you are able to become a regular donor, we would be delighted to welcome you as part of our community of supporters. To find out more about making a regular donation, please get in touch:

Mary Goodman
Fundraising Manager
0204 553 9219
mary@mihc.org.uk

Join us today:

Friend

£5 a month or **£60** a year:

- Friends newsletter full of impact stories and updates
- Pin badge and welcome letter with our thanks

Champion

£20 a month or **£240** a year:

- All the Friends benefits plus...
- Annual update video
- Early access to our annual report
- Opportunity to submit questions to our musicians
- Annual thank you from our Chief Executive

Partner with us

"The Trustees of the Valerie Emily Munday Day Centre Trust are delighted to hear of all the incredible ways the trust's donation has helped to contribute to your work. Music is an invaluable tool and one that cannot be overlooked when trying to improve quality of life. It is truly wonderful to know that the donation has helped to unify people through a lived experience and that those people have really benefitted from the work you do."

The Valerie Emily Munday Day Centre Trust

Trusts and Foundations

Generous funding from charitable trusts and foundations makes our live music possible.

It is vital in helping us to break down the barriers that prevent people in hospitals and care from being able to experience and enjoy live music.

We have a passionate team who love to build relationships with the Trusts and Foundations who support us. We want to ensure that your partnership with us is joyful, impactful and, of course, musical.

If you are a Trustee or connected to a trust that believes live music should be available to everyone, regardless of illness, injury, age or disability – please get in touch to find out more.

Jenny Jones

Trusts and Foundations Fundraising Manager

0204 553 9219 | jenny@mihc.org.uk

Corporate partnerships

Whether you are a small local business or a global company, we want to work with you to create a strategic partnership that will change the lives of people in hospitals and care.

We were delighted to be Linn Products' Charity of the Year for 2025. The team got stuck in with a great year of fundraising activities, including Glasgow's Kiltwalk, a Christmas challenge day (involving indoor archery and racing mechanical pigs!) and a summer party. The total raised was a fantastic £11,602, which included matched funds from The Linn Foundation.

There is no set template for building a partnership with Music in Hospitals & Care. We will work together to understand what drives you, your business and your team to create a partnership that aligns with both organisations' values and goals.

We would love to hear from you and talk more about the kind of partnership we could build together.

Emily Honey

Head of Engagement and Development

0204 553 9219 | emilyh@mihc.org.uk

Thank you

Trusts and Foundations

Army Benevolent Fund
Arts Council of Wales
Community Foundation for Surrey (Haslemere Challice Community Fund)
Creative Scotland
DWT Cargill Fund
Esme Mitchell Trust
French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Hodge Foundation
Hugh and Mary Miller Bequest Fund
Hugh Fraser Foundation
Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust
Lady Marion Gibson Charitable Trust
Mullock Charitable Trust
National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All Scotland
Players of Postcode Lottery
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust
Scott (Eredine) Charitable Trust
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust
Sir John Fisher Foundation
The Chalk Cliff Trust
The Eveson Trust
The Gannochy Trust
The James and Jessie Shaw Charitable Trust
The Pilkington Charities Fund
The Plum Trust
The Roger & Douglas Turner Charitable Trust
Veterans' Foundation

Health and care partners

Adamson Hospital
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Bright Northumbria Healthcare Charity
Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
Friends of St Mary's Hospital
Friends of Dorking Community Hospital
Gartnavel Royal Hospital
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
Gloucester Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust
Healing Music Trust, Guernsey
Hywel Dda University Health Board
Imperial Health Charity
Jersey Arts in Health Care
Murrayfield Dementia Project
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
NHS Lothian Charity/Tonic Arts
Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Northwick Park Hospital
South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture
St Andrew's House Care Home
Stepping Hill Hospital
Swansea Bay University Health Board
Trafford General Hospital
Vale of Leven Hospital
Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy

MUSIC
IN HOSPITALS & CARE
Joy through live music

Annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

mihc.org.uk @MiHCUK

Music in Hospitals & Care is a Registered charity in England and Wales no. 1051659 and SC038864 in Scotland
Company limited by guarantee registered in England no. 3138683
Registered office address: Canopi, 82 Tanner Street, London SE1 3GN

Public benefit

Trustees have referred to guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit. They are satisfied that the information given in this report, in particular how planned activities contribute to the charity's aims and objectives, demonstrate that requirements to identify public benefit have been met.

Financial review for the year to 31 March 2026

The total income for the year was £1,139,052. In 2024/25, it was £824,849. In 2025/26, our expenditure was £1,210,082. This compares to £1,582,095 in 2024/25.

The deficit for this year before gains/losses on investments and transfers between funds, was (£71,029). Last year, this figure was (£757,246).

This year we reduced the deficit in the third and final year of our investment strategy. This is a combination of increased income and reducing expenditure as we realise the benefits from previous years' investments.

Principal funding sources

We have seen an increase in income compared to 2024/25. This is due to increases in legacy, trusts and foundations and individual donations.

In 2025/26, 60% of our income came from a variety of trusts and foundations, from our fantastic individual supporters and committed corporate partners (£687,175).

Once again, we are hugely grateful to the individuals who remember Music in Hospitals & Care in their will; we received £241,089 from legacies this year.

Contributions from health boards, hospitals and social care environments continues to make up a significant portion of our income. In 2025/26 it was 14%, totalling £159,865.

We have reviewed our income strategy as we end the investment period of our strategy reflect on our learnings and the external factors that led to slower growth than we originally anticipated. However, we are pleased to show the long-term gains of our investment strategy with year-on-year growth in many of our income streams.

As we look to the end of our strategy in 2028, we know it continues to be a difficult economic backdrop for fundraising but will continue to work towards removing the funding gap and establishing new income streams.

The charity is not dependent on any one donor or group of donors and receives support from a substantial number of separate sources. This includes individuals, companies, statutory authorities and charitable trusts. Some of our principal supporters are shown at Note 17 and on page 35 of this annual report. It is not possible to list all individual supporters across the UK who give generously to Music in Hospitals & Care. Without them, we simply could not share live music with so many adults and children in health and care.

Investments

In November 2025, the Trustees reviewed and revised the Investment Policy after careful consideration of the needs of present and future beneficiaries. The financial strategy is to aim for income to match expenditure on an annual basis. The investment objectives have been framed with these principles in mind.

The trustees adopt a total return approach to the investment portfolio. The core objectives for the portfolio are to: maintain the value of the capital sum in real terms and to keep pace with inflation; and to distribute from any excess capital growth or income at least 4% annualised return.

The trustees have considered the charity's primary aims to promote health and their duty to act in the best interests of the charity in laying out investment principles. As such, they require the investment managers to take appropriate consideration of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks and to not invest in organisations involved to any material extent in activities that are clearly detrimental to human health.

We continue to monitor our investment portfolio on a regular basis at Trustee and Finance and Audit Committee meetings and through regular contact with our investment managers. This year we have made investment gains of £21,036. The portfolio has decreased to £360,567, which is result of strategic investment in the development in the organisation and sits within our expected threshold of investments to hold at this time.

Reserves

Reserves are that part of the unrestricted funds which are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes.

Reserves policy

The organisation employs a strategic, risk-based approach to manage its Reserves Policy, considering potential changes in income and expenditure, and the level of substitute reserves required.

The Finance and Audit committee monitors the charity's management accounts, including reserve levels, before submission to trustees. Detailed forecasts are updated quarterly reporting the level of free reserves.

In 2023, trustees committed to a three year strategy to invest in the organisation using unrestricted free reserves to support the long-term goals. This aligns with the current 5-year business plan, which includes a three-year investment strategy to develop the digital and fundraising capabilities, and a funding model closer to full cost recovery.

Trustees regularly review our required level of reserves using a clear risk framework to assess our activities, the portfolio of risk in our income generation and expenditure commitments to create an accurate reserves calculation. This is a dynamic approach and is updated as required, at least annually.

For 2025/26 trustees have identified £300,000 as the target level of free unrestricted reserves to mitigate financial risks; providing cover for primary costs in the event of a shortfall or delay in income generation and to ensure operational continuity of our live music delivery, ability to pay staff and any contractual obligations.

As of 31 March 2026, the level of free unrestricted reserves held by the charity was £469,957. This is within the agreed target range of reserves. The increase above the target calculation is the result of the receipt of a large legacy. Legacy income is unpredictable for the charity and ranges significantly on an annual basis. The trustees are satisfied that sufficient reserve levels are held.

Reserves at 31 March 2026

The free unrestricted reserves available to the trustees to be used for the purposes of the Charity at 31 March 2026 amounted to £469,957. (2024/25 £234,459). Refer to note 16 for a full breakdown of unrestricted funds.

The designated fixed assets funds represent the net book value of tangible and intangible fixed assets.

Funds

Three different types of funds are held by the charity:

(a) Restricted funds

These funds come from donations with express wishes attached. They can be restricted to a specific area or, most commonly, our live music. Trustees have no discretion in the use of these funds.

(b) Designated funds

These funds cover the net book value of tangible and intangible assets and fund the development and expansion of the charity, including offices and IT infrastructure.

(c) Unrestricted funds

This fund is available to be used for any of the charity's purposes.

A summary of the funds at 31 March 2026 was:

	2026 £	2025 £
a) Restricted funds	112,942	361,127
b) Designated funds	71,809	109,117
	184,751	470,244
c) Unrestricted funds: available to the trustees to be used for the purposes of the charity	469,957	234,458
Total funds	**654,709**	**704,702**

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Music in Hospitals & Care is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Music in Hospitals & Care is a company limited by guarantee registered in England no. 3138683.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association were last amended 26 March 2025.

Trustees (Board of Directors)

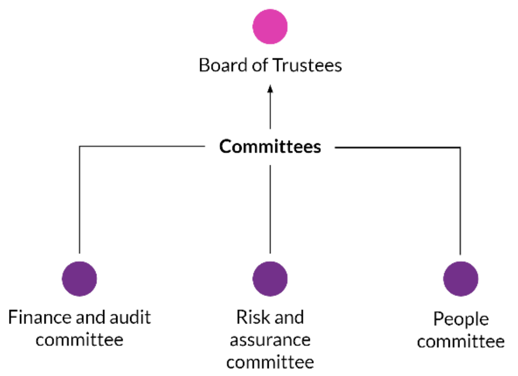
Our Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the charity law, have overall responsibility for the strategy, management, and control of Music in Hospitals & Care. The trustees are listed on page 43. Our Chief Executive, working with the Senior Leadership team, is responsible for delivering the vision and strategy and for the day-to-day operations.

The charity regularly reviews the Board of Trustees to ensure it aligns with our strategic aims and to ensure the charity is championing equality, diversity and inclusion, by having a diverse and representative board. The majority of the board members have lived experience of dementia, mental health problems or serious illness (whether personally or through caring responsibilities). Before each round of recruitment, we assess what skills are required and target our recruitment.

Trustees are appointed for a three-year term of office, with the option of renewal for two further terms to a maximum of nine years. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Chair and abstain from voting where a conflict of interest arises.

Trustees have all received the Charity Commission Guidelines on Trustees' Responsibilities. All trustees have sufficient understanding of the charity's activities and resources to allow them to properly fulfil their responsibilities. Job descriptions are in place for the Chair, Honorary Treasurer and trustees.

As part of their induction, new trustees receive full details of the charity and its operations, including information on governance and finances. New trustees also undergo a briefing with the Chair and appropriate senior management staff across the Charity. All trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training where this will help them in their role, as well as attending our live music. In carrying out their responsibilities for governance and setting the strategic direction of the organisation, the Board is supported by a number of committees. There are terms of reference for each of these sub-committees which guide how they operate. All Committees are accountable to, and report to, the Board:



All trustees have the benefit of a qualifying third-party indemnity provision as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Key management

Key management personnel are the trustees, the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership team. All Trustees carry out their roles on a voluntary basis and received no benefits from the charity. They are unpaid but may claim legitimate expenses incurred. Details of trustees' expenses are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.

Chief Executive pay and benefits, as well as the payment and benefits of the remaining Senior Leadership Team and all other staff members, are approved by the Trustee Board, based on review and recommendations by the People Committee. In considering pay and benefits, the People Committee is provided with information on the sector and similar-sized charities, to inform decisions.

Fundraising regulation and management

Fundraising is led by the Head of Engagement & Development and is carried out in-house by the fundraising team, where possible. We also work with fundraising consultants when we don’t have capacity or specialist knowledge in-house. This helps us to deliver fundraising of a high standard.

We have a number of volunteers who fundraise on behalf of the organisation. They follow the same policies and best practice as staff and liaise with the in-house fundraising team on all activities.

All our fundraising is carried out in accordance with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Practice and our Fundraising Policy. This year, we also implemented a Donations Acceptance and Refusal Policy. All fundraising is also carried out in accordance with this new policy as well, which uses the Charity Commission’s guidance on knowing your donors as a key framework. We are committed to ensuring all fundraising activities are carried out in a legal, open, honest and respectful manner. All fundraising members of staff have access to and complete regular training to ensure the best possible standards are upheld.

Music in Hospitals & Care is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is committed to following its standards. Throughout the year we reviewed and updated our fundraising practices to ensure compliance with the new Fundraising Code of Practice. All fundraising members of staff received training and resources on the changes.

During the financial year, there have not been any recorded breaches of these standards, nor have there been any complaints received by the charity with regards to its fundraising activities.

We continue to be responsible in our fundraising practice and will never exploit vulnerability. We have a Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy to ensure best practice is embedded throughout our work, including fundraising.

Music in Hospitals & Care does not accept donations where it has reason to believe the donor may be experiencing vulnerable circumstances and accepting the donation would be harmful to the donor or morally wrong.

Risk management and assurance

Trustees have overall responsibility for the management of risk within Music in Hospitals & Care. Trustees view this as an essential discipline to support the Charity in achieving its strategy and aims. This includes setting the risk appetite for the charity, ensuring that there are reasonable procedures in place to detect and monitor major risks and put in place sufficient mitigations, including where there is a risk of fraud or other irregularities.

The Risk and Assurance Committee supports the board and the Senior Leadership Team in their responsibilities for ensuring the adequacy of risk management arrangements, internal controls, and compliance with the organisation’s regulatory obligations.

The charity has a Risk Management Policy in place that is subject to periodic review. The Senior Leadership Team and trustees have continued to develop the charity’s approach to risk management to ensure that risk is embedded within the day-to-day running of the charity. In 2025/26, the Risk and Assurance Committee’s work has additionally supported the organisation to develop a clear Scheme of Delegation and to approve a Policy Review Framework. These pieces of work have enabled further clarity around the roles and responsibilities of management and the board and have helped ensure the board’s role is focused on strategic decision making, risk management and governance.

The Risk and Assurance Committee reviews the risks that have been highlighted from all levels of the organisation and monitors our strategic risk register at each meeting, additionally considering emerging risks and whether these should be captured within the Strategic Risk Register. This register is then reviewed by the full Board of Trustees annually. The Risk and Assurance Committee completes a series of risk ‘deep dives’ throughout the year, where one of the strategic risks is selected to be reviewed in detail to provide assurance to trustees that the risk has been appropriately defined, that there are sufficient mitigations in place, that the risk is supported by a clear action plan, and to ensure that scoring is appropriate and in line with the Risk Management Policy.

The Strategic Risk Register is informed by departmental risk registers, which have been developed by staff within each department to highlight specific risks within each area of our work.

Strategic risks, controls and mitigations

Impact Voice Recovery

EDIA Organisational capability

1. *Challenges in successfully embedding new systems and ways of working and that the benefits of the ongoing programme of change are not fully realised.*

Change from 2024/25: emerging risk
Target risk status: green
Current risk status: amber
Management and mitigations
- Staff training and change management.
- System owners to oversee and understand different systems and capacity.
- Clear project plans, organisational milestones, KPIs and objectives.

2. *Lack of sufficient resource across the organisation to deliver on the strategy and business plan.*

Change from 2024/25: slight increase
Target risk status: green
Current risk status: amber
Management and mitigations
- Introduction of management team and meetings to distribute responsibility.
- Co-production of key metrics in annual planning with teams to enable assessment of activity based on capacity.

3. *Failure to comply with legislation and regulations as applicable to the charity's activities.*

Change from 2024/25: no change
Target risk status: green
Current risk status: amber
Management and mitigations
- Continuing to update our policies and processes, complying with relevant regulations and legislations.
- Staff and volunteer (including trustees) training and guidance.
- New HR partner and all staff receiving essential training on key functions.

4. *Loss of stakeholder trust due to insufficient or ineffective governance arrangements*

Change from 2024/25: emerging risk
Target risk status: green
Current risk status: green
Management and mitigations
- Robust recruitment process for trustee vacancies including references and DBS checks before appointment
- Trustee handbook and effective induction programme for all new trustees, and regular refresher training for trustees via external partners.
- Conflicts of interest standing agenda item, register of interests, and conflicts of interest policy.

5. *Safeguarding risk to a vulnerable person and/or harm to a musician, resulting in an investigation by statutory authorities and/or the Charity Commission.*

Change from 2024/25: no change
Target risk status: green
Current risk status: green
Management and mitigations
- Regular safeguarding training for all staff and musicians.
- Risk assessments required for all health and care partners.
- Health and care partner staff are required to stay throughout live music.
- Clear safeguarding procedures in place and communicated.

6. *Misrepresentation of our brand or voice in public.*

Change from 2024/25: no change
Target risk status: green
Current risk status: amber
Management and mitigations
- Musicians, staff and volunteers receive induction and regular updates on our voice and representing the charity.
- All volunteer speakers receive information for presentations.
- All communications reflect our voice and key messages.

7. *Lack of sufficient funds due to not achieving required income targets and underperformance of investment portfolio.*

Change from 2024/25: slight increase
Target risk status: amber
Current risk status: amber
Management and mitigations
- Restricted funds spend process updated and actively managed, alongside working to a full cost recovery model.

- Quarterly financial reporting to the finance and audit committee and the board quarterly, monthly monitoring by the management team.
- Treasurer holds regular meetings with Investment managers.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Music in Hospitals & Care for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 – the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees must prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommend Practice (SORP)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the charitable company and allow them to make sure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

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 preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- they 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.

Auditors

The auditor, Sumer Auditco Limited, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed:

Maureen Hall, Chair Date: 21/07/26

Administrative information

Music in Hospitals & Care is a company limited by guarantee, Registered in England and Wales No.3138683.

Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1051659 and in Scotland SC038864.

Registered office:
Canopi
82 Tanner Street
London
SE1 3GN

Royal Patron: HRH the Duchess of Gloucester GCVO

President: Sir Thomas Allen CBE

Vice Presidents: Dame Evelyn Glennie CH DBE, Julian Lloyd Webber OBE, Dame Felicity Lott DBE (deceased 15 May 2026), Sir Richard Stilgoe OBE, Toby Spence, Katie Derham, Sir Andrew Parmley, Christopher Glynn

Presidents Emeriti: Nella Kerr MBE

Chair: Maureen Hall

Vice Chair: Dr Jeremy Huw Williams (to 26 November 2025)

Hon Treasurer: Andrew Ling

Trustees (Directors): The following trustees served to 31 March 2026 and up to the date covered by this report: Maureen Hall, Andrew Ling, Charmian May, Dimple Keen, Angharad Thomas, Dr Alasdair Dow, Dr Jennifer MacRitchie, Thomas Parker, Chloe Good and Robert Harding.

The following trustees also served during the period: Dr Jeremy Huw Williams (to 26 November 2025) and Silvia Denaro (to 24 September 2025).

Solicitors:
Turcan Connell
Princes Exchange
1 Earl Grey Street
Edinburgh

EH3 9EE

Auditors:
Sumer Auditco Limited
Fitzroy House
Crown Street
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 3LG

Bankers:
National Westminster Bank plc
Walton-on-Thames
Surrey
KT12 1DW

Virgin Money UK
Edinburgh
EH2 2QW

Investment Advisors:

Rathbones, 30 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7QN

Chief Executive: Barbara Osborne

Independent auditor’s report to the trustees of Music in Hospitals and Care

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Music in Hospitals and Care (the ‘charity’) for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity’s affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of 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 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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 charity 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 charity'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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 42, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity'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 charity 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 auditor under Section 44 (1) C of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Based on our understanding of the charity and its activities, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, UK tax legislation, pensions legislation, employment regulation and health and safety regulation, anti-bribery, corruption and fraud, money laundering, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We

also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Companies Act 2006.

We evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to use of restricted funds, income recognition (which we consider to be pinpointed to the cut-off assertion) and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- Discussing with the trustees and management their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, section 44 (1) C of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity'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 charity and the charity's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed:

JAPerry

John Perry (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Sumer Auditco Limited
Statutory Auditor
Fitzroy House, Crown Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3LG

Date: 27/07/26

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Income & Endowments							
Donations and legacies	2	544,924	383,341	928,265	334,875	234,875	569,750
Charitable activities	3	162,236	-	162,236	188,632	-	188,632
Events		36,224	-	36,224	38,209	-	38,209
Income from investments	4	12,327	-	12,327	28,258	-	28,258
Total operating income		**755,711**	**383,341**	**1,139,052**	**589,974**	**234,875**	**824,849**
Expenditure on raising funds							
Fundraising costs		244,363	-	244,363	444,898	-	444,898
Investment management costs	5	2,811	-	2,811	6,863	-	6,863
Total cost of raising funds	5	**247,174**	**-**	**247,174**	**451,761**	**-**	**451,761**
Expenditure on charitable activities							
Musicians' fees and expenses for live music		79,382	82,622	162,004	-	262,021	262,021
Other expenditure		252,000	548,903	800,903	599,507	268,806	868,313
Total charitable expenditure	5	**331,382**	**631,525**	**962,908**	**599,507**	**530,827**	**1,130,334**
Total operating expenditure		**578,556**	**631,525**	**1,210,082**	**1,051,268**	**530,827**	**1,582,095**

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

Net operating (expenditure)/income		**177,155**	**(248,184)**	**(71,029)**	**(461,294)**	**(295,952)**	**(757,246)**
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	11	**21,036**	**-**	**21,036**	**11,974**	**-**	**11,974**
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		**198,191**	**(248,184)**	**(49,993)**	**(449,320)**	**(295,952)**	**(745,272)**
Transfers between funds	16, 17	**-**	**-**	**-**	**49,174**	**(49,174)**	**-**
Net movement in funds		**198,191**	**(248,184)**	**(49,993)**	**(400,146)**	**(345,126)**	**(745,272)**
Total funds brought forward		343,575	361,127	704,702	743,721	706,253	1,449,974
Total funds carried forward		**541,766**	**112,942**	**654,709**	**343,575**	**361,127**	**704,702**

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those included above. All amounts relate to continuing activities.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible fixed assets	9	49,958	79,105
Tangible assets	10	21,850	30,012
Investments	11	360,567	546,481
		432,375	**655,598**
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	69,281	47,301
Cash at bank and in hand		230,514	207,190
		299,795	**254,491**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	**(77,462)**	**(205,387)**
Net current assets		**222,334**	**49,104**
Net assets	15	**654,709**	**704,702**
Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds	16	541,766	343,575
Restricted funds	17	112,942	361,127
		654,709	**704,702**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities. Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Maureen Hall
Chair of Trustees

Andrew Ling
Hon. Treasurer

Date: 21/07/26

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income	**(49,993)**	**(745,272)**
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	43,308	27,158
(Gain)/loss on investments	(23,243)	(11,974)
Investment income	(12,327)	(28,258)
Trade and other debtors	(21,980)	47,913
Trade and other creditors	(127,925)	(106,479)
Cash flows (used in)/generated from operating activities	**(192,160)**	**(816,912)**
Purchase of investments	(426,987)	(499,449)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	636,144	1,085,309
Investment income	12,327	28,258
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(2,484)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	(6,000)	(53,681)
Cash flows (used in)/generated from investing activities	**215,484**	**557,953**
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents (note 18)	**23,325**	**(258,959)**
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	**207,190**	**466,149**
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	**230,514**	**207,190**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

Note 1 - Accounting policies

Music in Hospitals & Care is a company limited by guarantee no. 3138683 and a registered charity in England and Wales 1051659 and in Scotland SC038864. It does not have share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to its assets in the event that it is wound up during the time that they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member. This is for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be a member. It is for an amount as may be required, not exceeding £10.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Charitable Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102. Therefore, the charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended by the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2014.

(b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular, the Trustees have considered the charitable company's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income by having adequate cash resources to meet liabilities.

We are forecasting a three-year budget with regular reforecasting and review points for our trustees and senior leadership team.

They have maintained constantly updated and detailed cash flow forecasts that anticipate expected changes of income and expenditure going forward to March 2027.

The risk committee meets regularly to consider and report on key risks. This allows trustees and the senior leadership team to regularly monitor and manage these risks.

The charitable company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

(c) Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Amortisation is not charged on assets in the course of construction. Amortisation will be charged from the date implementation is complete.

Amortisation has been provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated net residual value of each asset over its effective life, as follows:

CRM system	33 1/3% straight line on cost
Musicians' App	33 1/3% straight line on cost

(d) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation has been provided on tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated net residual value of each asset over its effective life, as follows:

Freehold property	2% straight line on cost
Office equipment	20% straight line on cost
Computer equipment	20% straight line on cost
Musical equipment	17.5% reducing balance

Freehold property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

At the end of each reporting period, the residual values and useful lives of assets are reviewed and adjusted, if necessary. In addition, if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable then the carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment.

(e) Income

All income is recognised when there is entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Legacies are recognised following probate and once there is sufficient evidence that receipt is probable and the amount of the legacy receivable can be measured reliably.

Income is deferred when the donor attaches conditions outside the charity's own control or specifies that the resources are to be used in a future accounting period.

All grants and donations, whether received specifically for live music or to contribute to the shortfall in income from live music, or for any other purpose, are treated as donation income. Costs attributable to live music specifically funded by a grant or a donation may fall in a subsequent accounting period to that in which the grant or donation was received.

(f) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. Shared costs and support costs, including overall direction and administration on each activity, are apportioned as set out in note 5a.

(g) Pension costs

The charity operates a group pension scheme for eligible employees. The scheme is a defined contribution scheme and contributions are charged against income as they are paid. All employees have the opportunity to join the scheme.

(h) Fixed asset investments

Investments are initially measured at their cost and subsequently measured at their fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is based on their quoted price (inclusive of accrued income) at the balance sheet date without deduction of the estimated future selling costs. Changes in fair value and gains and losses arising on the disposal of investments are credited or charged to the income or expenditure section of the Statement of Financial Activities as 'gains or losses on investments'.

(i) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the income and expenditure section of the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the sale proceeds and the opening market value, or cost, if purchased during the year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the end of the year and the opening market value, or cost, if purchased during the year.

Realised and unrealised gains are not separated in the Statement of financial activities.

(j) Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets this criterion is charged to the fund.

(k) Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(l) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In the view of the trustees, in applying the accounting policies adopted, judgement determining useful economic lives has been applied. The annual depreciation charge for tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic value of the assets. The useful economic lives are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets.

(m) Comparative information

Certain expenditure has been re-classified between fund raising and charitable activities and between direct and support costs, as set out in notes 5 and 5a, to give more detail on activity-based and other support costs. Comparative information has been aligned for consistency. The impact of the change in 2024 expenditure groupings is to: (1) increase fundraising costs by £29,611, (2) separately identify governance costs of £19,765 and (3) decrease charitable expenditure by £49,376, with no net change in gross expenditure, overall.

Trivial rounding errors in originally reported 2024 figures have been amended in notes 16 and 17.

(n) Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as a basic financial instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

(o) Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

(p) Cash at bank and in hand

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

Note 2 – Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations from individuals	106,792	1,660	108,452	62,025
Grants and donations	197,043	381,681	578,724	487,954
Legacies	241,089	-	241,089	19,771
	544,924	**383,341**	**928,265**	**569,750**

Note 3 - Income from charitable activities

	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Contributions from healthcare partners	159,865	186,182
Products and merchandising	2,371	2,450
	162,236	**188,632**

Note 4 - Investment income

	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Bank Interest	1,347	2,049
Investment income	10,980	26,209
	12,327	**28,258**

Note 5 – Expenditure

	Fundraising 2026 £	Charitable expenditure 2026 £	Governance 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Fundraising 2025 £	Charitable expenditure 2025 £	Governance 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Musicians' fees and expenses	-	162,004	-	162,004	-	262,021	-	262,021
Staff costs	193,562	272,620	-	466,182	306,829	364,321	-	671,150
Travel and meetings	102	374	-	476	4,289	6,503	-	10,792
Consultants – income growth and engagement	9,189	4,360	-	13,549	57,499	2,500	-	59,999
Fundraising expenses	10,830	-	-	10,830	30,548	-	-	30,548
Communications and publicity	6,824	-	-	6,824	7,794	-	-	7,794
Investment management	2,811	-	-	2,811	6,863	-	-	6,863
Audit fees	-	-	20,601	20,601	-	-	19,740	19,740
Trustee and board expenses	-	-	235	235	-	-	567	567
	223,317	**439,358**	**20,836**	**683,511**	**413,821**	**635,345**	**20,307**	**1,069,475**
Support costs (see note 5a)	23,857	502,714	-	526,570	37,939	474,682	-	512,622
	247,174	**942,072**	**20,836**	**1,210,082**	**451,761**	**1,110,027**	**20,307**	**1,582,095**

This year we spent £631,525 on restricted fund activity (2025 - £530,827).

Note 5a – Support costs

	Fundraising 2026 £	Charitable expenditure 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Fundraising 2025 £	Charitable expenditure 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Finance, HR and Operations	-	325,688	325,688	-	310,117	310,117
Consultants – business planning and financial strategy	-	53,125	53,125	-	52,927	52,927
Travel and meetings	-	5,833	5,833	-	8,544	8,544
Premises	5,337	30,243	35,580	3,860	21,872	25,732
Office facilities and equipment	2,345	13,289	15,364	4,875	27,628	32,503
Finance and administration	7,110	40,292	47,403	3,550	20,127	23,677
Digital transformation and system costs	-	-	-	15,661	16,302	31,963
Depreciation and amortisation	9,064	34,244	43,308	9,993	17,165	27,158
	23,857	**502,714**	**526,570**	**37,939**	**474,682**	**512,622**

Support costs, and other shared costs, are allocated to activities in line with management estimates and staff time spent, where appropriate.

Note 6 – Net operating income

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
This is stated after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration	20,601	19,740
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	35,146	20,334
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,162	6,824
Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	-	21,500
Operating lease rentals – other	1,599	2,251

Note 7 – Employees

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Wages and salaries	669,863	844,236
Social security costs	73,186	65,603
Pension costs	41,636	51,799
Other staff costs	1,392	3,342
Staff costs	**786,077**	**964,980**

Note 7 – Employees (continued)

	Total 2026	Total 2025
The average number of staff employed by the charity was:		
Chief Executive	1	1
Fundraising and publicity	9	10
Live music organisation and support	14	20
	24	**31**

Employees earning £70,000 to £79,999 – 0 (2025 – 1)

Employees earning £80,000 to £90,000 – 1 (2025 – 0)

Note 8 - Trustees and key management personnel

No trustees received emoluments in the year (2025: none).

There was £235 of travel expenses paid to four trustees in 2025/26. In 2024/25 £567 of travel expenses was paid to four trustees.

The total employee emoluments of the charity's key management personnel were £196,442. Last year this was £263,595.

The charity spent £nil on Board meetings in 2025/26. In 2024/25, the figure was £nil.

This year, six trustees donated £21,710 to unrestricted funds. Last year four trustees donated £886 to unrestricted funds.

Note 9 - Intangible fixed assets

	Website Development £	Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system £	Musicians' App £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2025	0	85,339	14,100	99,439
Additions	6,000	-	-	6,000
At 31 March 2026	**6,000**	**85,339**	**14,100**	**105,439**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	-	17,984	2,350	20,334
Charge for the year	2,000	28,446	4,700	35,146
At 31 March 2026	**2,000**	**46,431**	**7,050**	**55,481**
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2026	**4,000**	**38,908**	**7,050**	**49,958**
At 31 March 2025	**-**	**67,355**	**11,750**	**79,105**

Note 10 - Tangible fixed assets

Our freehold premises, which are in Edinburgh, are occupied by Music in Hospitals & Care for charitable purposes.

	Freehold Premises	Office Equipment	Musical Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
Cost	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
At 1 April 2025	42,253	12,039	15,505	127,713	197,510
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31st March 2026	**42,253**	**12,039**	**15,505**	**127,713**	**197,510**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2025	25,350	12,039	14,802	115,307	167,498
Charge for the year	843	-	703	6,616	8,162
At 31st March 2026	**26,193**	**12,039**	**15,505**	**121,923**	**175,660**
Net Book Value					
At 31st March 2026	**16,060**	**-**	**-**	**5,790**	**21,850**
At 1 April 2025	16,903	-	703	12,406	30,012

Note 11 – Investments

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Quoted shares and securities		
Market value at 1 April	546,481	1,120,367
Additions at cost	426,987	499,449
Disposals at opening market value	(636,144)	(1,085,309)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation	23,243	11,974
Market value at 31 March	**360,567**	**546,481**
Historic cost at 31 March	503,834	503,834

Note 12 - Debtors

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Sundry debtors	26,790	20,479
Accrued Income	32,103	13,790
Prepayments and other debtors	10,388	13,032
	69,281	**47,301**

Note 13 - Creditors

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Trade creditors	2,821	16,757
Musicians' fees and expenses	13,012	8,291
Accruals and deferred income	34,826	158,058
Taxation and social security	18,074	16,091
Other creditors	8,729	6,190
	77,462	**205,387**

Deferred income	Total £
At April 2025	124,151
Income deferred in current year	304
Amounts released from previous year	(124,151)
Deferred income at 31 March 2026	**304**

Deferred income comprises grants received in advance of the conditions having been met and fees received in advance for which entitlement has not been met.

Note 14 - Financial commitments

The only operating leases committed to by the charity relate to photocopiers, and are considered to be immaterial.

Note 15 - Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £
Tangible and intangible assets	71,808	-	71,808
Investments	247,625	112,942	360,567
Current assets	299,795	-	299,795
Current liabilities	(77,462)	-	(77,462)
	541,766	**112,942**	**654,709**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Tangible and intangible assets	109,117	-	109,117
Investments	185,354	361,127	546,482
Current assets	254,491	-	254,491
Current liabilities	(205,387)	-	(205,387)
	343,575	**361,127**	**704,702**

Note 16 - Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/(out) £ (note 17)	(Losses)/Gains £ (note 11)	At 31 March 2026 £
Designated Unrestricted Funds						
Fixed asset funds:						
Scotland	19,317	-	-	(2,692)	-	16,625
England and Wales	10,695	-	-	(5,470)	-	5,225
Intangible fixed assets	79,105	-	-	(29,146)	-	49,959
Total designated funds	**109,117**	**-**	**-**	**(37,308)**	**-**	**71,809**
General Unrestricted Funds	234,458	755,711	(578,556)	37,308	21,036	469,958
Total	**343,575**	**755,711**	**(578,556)**	**-**	**21,036**	**541,766**

The designated fixed assets funds represent the net book value of tangible fixed assets and intangible fixed assets.

Note 17 - Restricted funds

Donors	**At 1 April 2025 £**	**Income 2025/26 £**	**Expenditure 2025/26 £**	**Transfers from/(to) unrestricted funds £ (note 16)**	**At 31 March 2026 £**
Ailean Young Legacy	182,685	-	(146,385)	-	36,300
Margaret J Stephen's Charitable Trust	21,545	-	(21,545)	-	-
Live music in specific areas of the UK	115,729	210,734	(291,193)	-	35,269
Live music in specific categories of healthcare environment	41,168	172,607	(172,403)	-	41,373
	361,127	**383,341**	**(631,525)**	**-**	**112,942**

Funder	Restrictions
Ailean Young Legacy	For any use in Scotland
Margaret J Stephen's Charitable Trust	For live music in Dundee and Angus

Note 18 – Commitments

There were £nil capital commitments at 31 March 2026 (2025 - £nil).

Note 19 - Pension costs

The company operates contributory pension schemes. They are defined contribution schemes and contributions are charged against income as they accrue. The charge for the year was £41,636 (2025- £51,799). Contributions of £8,729 were payable to the scheme at the end of the year and are included as creditors. In 2024-25, the figure was £6,190.

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