



People First Forum's Annual Report and Accounts

April 2024 – March 2025



People First Forum



We are a self-advocacy group for adults with a learning disability.

Our Vision:

Our vision is a world where people with learning disabilities are treated as equals, living safe and happy lives.



Our Mission:

Our mission is to give people with learning disabilities the support and opportunities to live the lives they choose.



Our Committee



Our Management Committee have been amazing at helping us get our services right for people with learning disabilities.

We will talk more about the Committee later.

Our Staff



We have a team of 16 learning disabled staff and 8 non-disabled staff.

This means our team has grown! We
welcomed:

Lisa Selby

Siân Haynes

Jonathon Wilding

Todd Stone

Joe Lopez

Stephen Kelly

Kerry Martin

Chris Mellor

Our volunteers and members



People (including a lot of our members) have **volunteered 2,945 hours** over the year. That is over 1000 more hours than the year before.

We have 806 members.

That is 11 more members than last year.

A special thanks to our many volunteers that help with lots of things from training to running stalls. A particular shout out goes to:

- Dan Murray
- Ash Folgate
- Shaun Hayward
- Todd Brooks
- Mark Dyde
- Natalie Wilson
- Russell Knipe
- Dan Short
- Jenny Phillips



Members



379 are from Bournemouth

286 are from Poole

22 are from Christchurch

The rest are from other areas, or they have left their area blank on their membership form.



**What did we do
to help members?**

Information, Advice and Advocacy



We have supported 937 people with information, advice and advocacy in the year.

That is 44 more people than last year, and it seems to keep going up every year.



Our top 5 enquiries were about:

1. Emotional wellbeing
2. Our groups and events
3. Work and education
4. Health and social care
5. 'Other'

Safe Places



We have 170 Safe Places. That is 48 more than last year.

We have:
102 in Bournemouth,
11 in Christchurch,
57 in Poole.

What is a Safe Place?

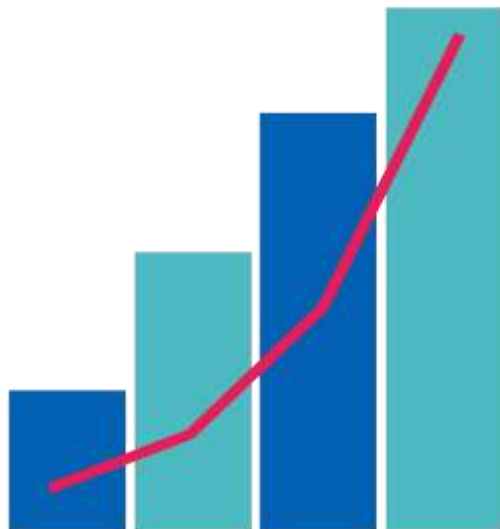


A Safe Place is where people can go if they are being bullied, harassed, become ill or get lost.

Witness Support, Preparation, and Profiling Service



The service gives support for victims and witnesses of crime with learning disabilities.



April 2024 - March 2025

Last year we worked with 39 people with 73 referrals.



Often there is more than 1 referral for the same person.



For example: 1 person may have been a victim of an assault and a theft. That would be 2 referrals.



Court

Out of those 73 referrals, 39 referrals were completed resulting in:

- 20 “guilty” verdicts/pleas
- 2 “not guilty” verdicts
- 1 resulted in a Community Resolution
- 13 resulted in no action/dismissed
- 3 for Keeping Safe work/advice





facebook

Go Live on Facebook

We STOPPED our
Facebook Live videos.

Friends Forum

We have Friends Forum online, with lots of topics and guests including:

- Access to Wellbeing Hub
- Community Dentist
- BCP Council
- Dorset Police
- More Buses





In August, Friends Forum members got together to have a picnic in the park.

It was lovely to see everyone.

Big Lottery fund



We are in the 3rd year of our **Big Lottery Funded** project called **On The Move**.



As part of the project, we had...



Social groups



Speaking up
groups



Van visits



Bill Of Rights Event



We had a fantastic event celebrating 20 years of our Bill Of Rights.

Shaine Singer and John Lyle were brilliant presenters, getting everyone cheering and having fun.

Over 70 members were there.



Camp Bestival



DJ Kelly was our first female DJ to perform at Camp Bestival in 2024!

We performed again in 2025 and had loads of fun!



We had 2 more Big Nights Out With Suttles in 2024.





DJ Retro (Shaun) was also busy DJ-ing for other people.



He even DJ's on New Years Eve for Parkstone Connect.

We want to thank all our DJ's for giving their time at our events.





**What did we do
to help services?**



The Learning Disability Partnership Board is a meeting with:

- people with learning disabilities
- health services
- social services
- advocacy services
- carers
- support providers



Action Groups



We also support people with learning disabilities to take part in the Partnership Board Action Groups:

- Keeping Safe
- Staying Healthy
- Where I Live
- Task and Finish groups

Keep Safe Event



We also supported BCP Council in running a Keeping Safe event in November 2024.

Over 60 people came.



We had guest speakers including Dorset Police Crime Commissioner, Dorset Police - Fraud and Hate Crime and Escapeline.

Easy Read Information



We made lots of easy read information for services. Including:

- Escapeline leaflets
- Blood pressure leaflets
- Extra Care Housing

Training



We have continued delivering a lot of training for:

- Other charities
- BCP Council - Care Certificate
- Oliver McGowan training across Dorset.



We have now employed more trainers.

Stephen Kelly's story



Over 20 years I have been in and out of work. Some good, some bad.

When I heard that I got this job, I was over the moon, with tears down my face.

I feel like this job has changed my life; it has turned it around so quickly and completely.



Throughout my life, I have always wanted to make sure everyone is treated equally.

I know I am making a difference to people, and this job has made a difference to me.

"This is my life!"

BCP Council Day Opportunities



We are part of the BCP Council Day Opportunities Co-production Group.

We have helped people to speak up about the day service consultation, including filling in forms and speaking up at council meetings.



We are part of an **Engagement Forum** to support Dorset Healthcare in co-production with people with learning disabilities.



As well as Dorset Healthcare's Easy Read group to help make easy read information better.



We were members of the **LeDer Steering Group**.

LeDer is about looking at the early deaths of people with learning disabilities and how we can make things better.



This group has now stopped.



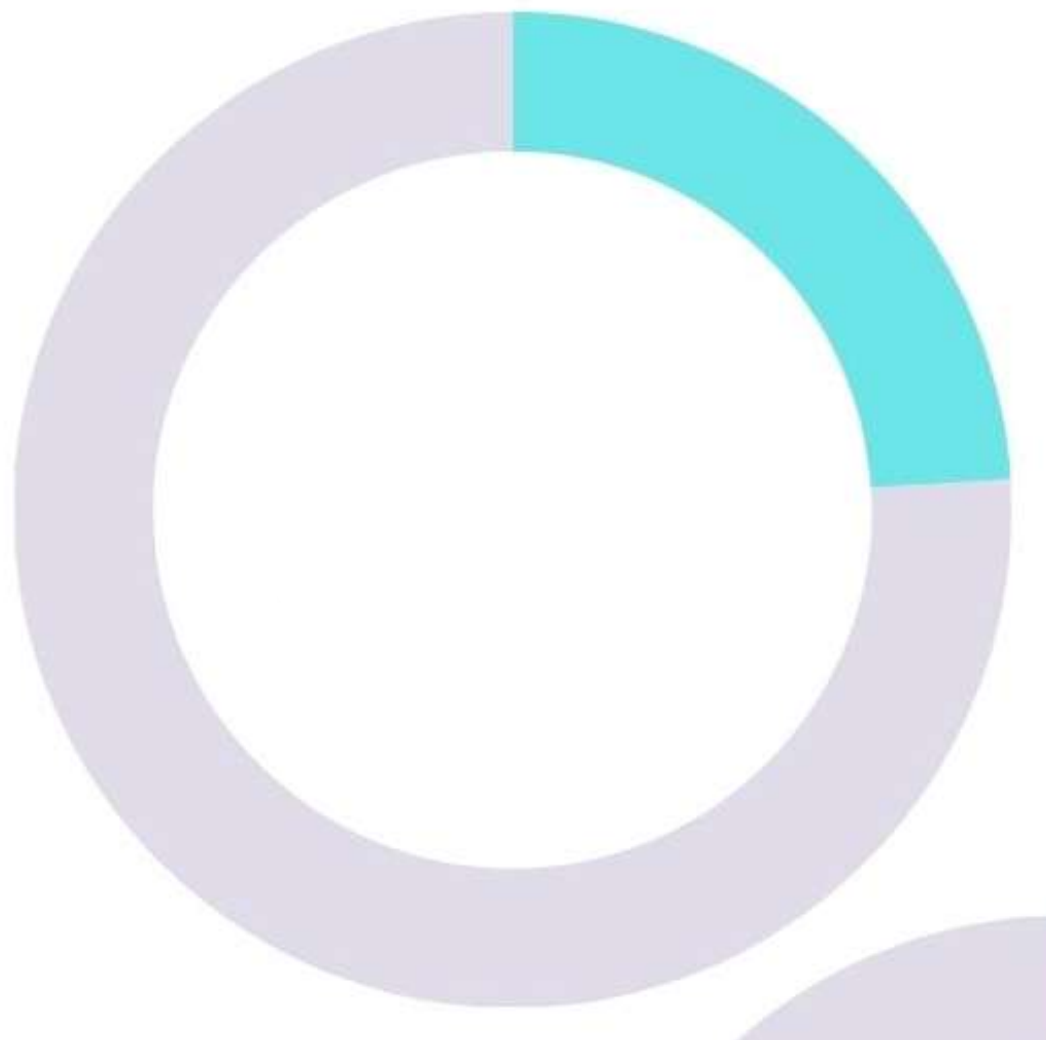
Our money for last year



We will tell you about the money we got given for last year (income).

April 2024 – March 2025

BCP Council and NHS Dorset



£100,940

BCP Council and NHS Dorset

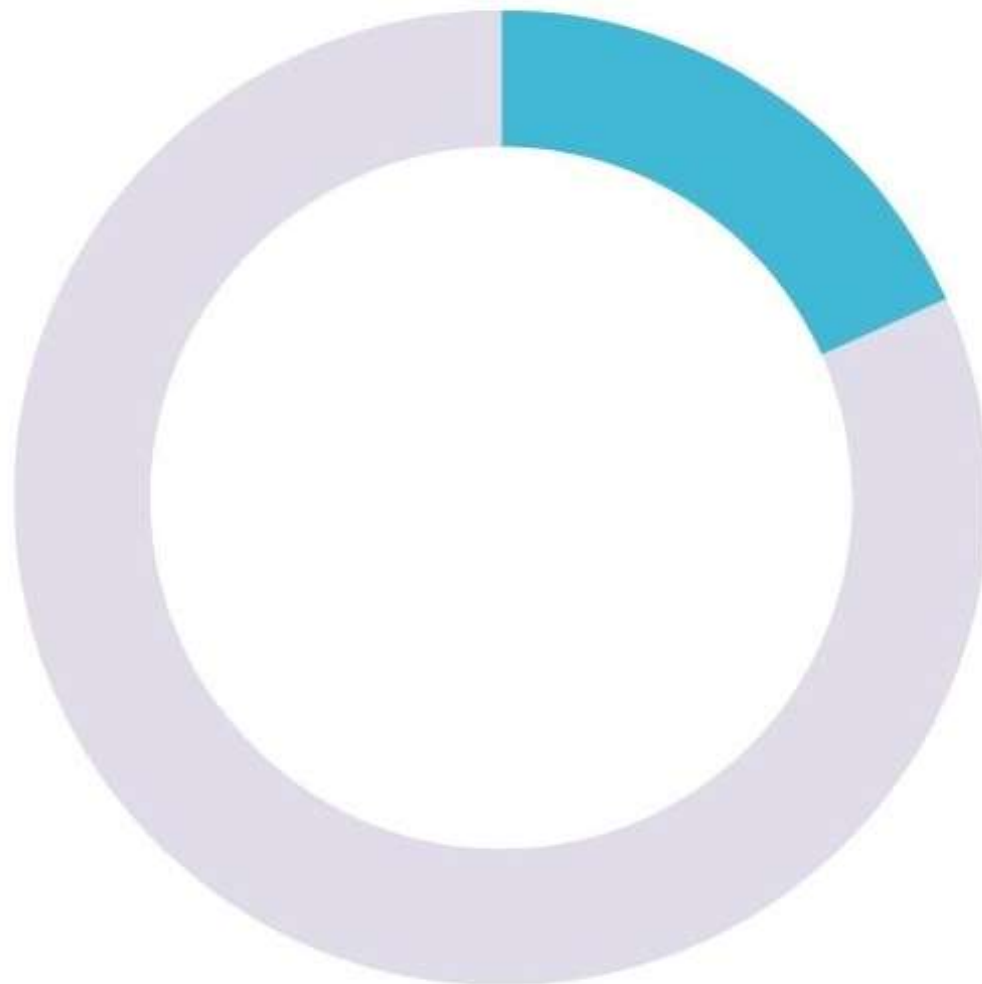


Most of our money comes from BCP Council and NHS Dorset.

This pays for us to speak up, give advice and take part in the Partnership Board.

The National Lottery Community Fund

£76,918



The National Lottery Community Fund

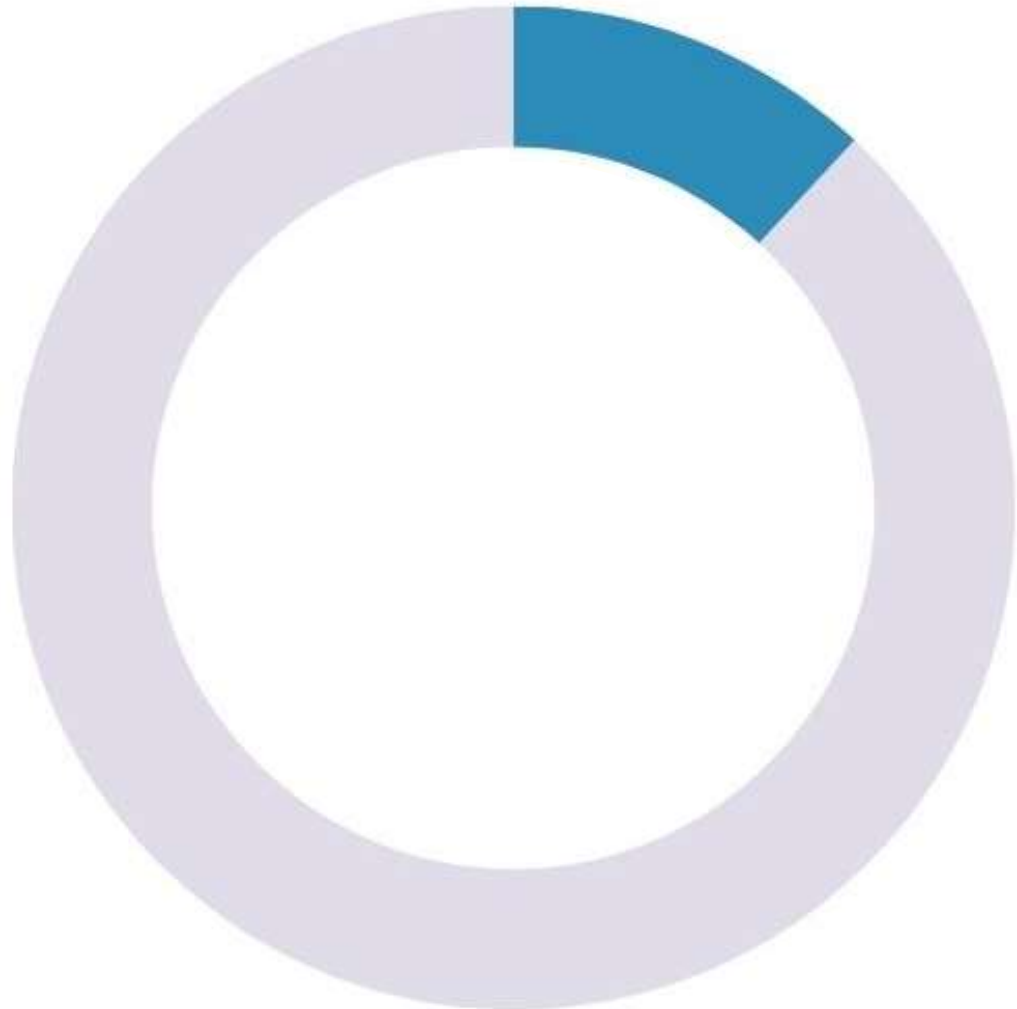


We were lucky enough to get funding for a 5-year project called On The Move.



Witness Preparation and Profiling

£49,949



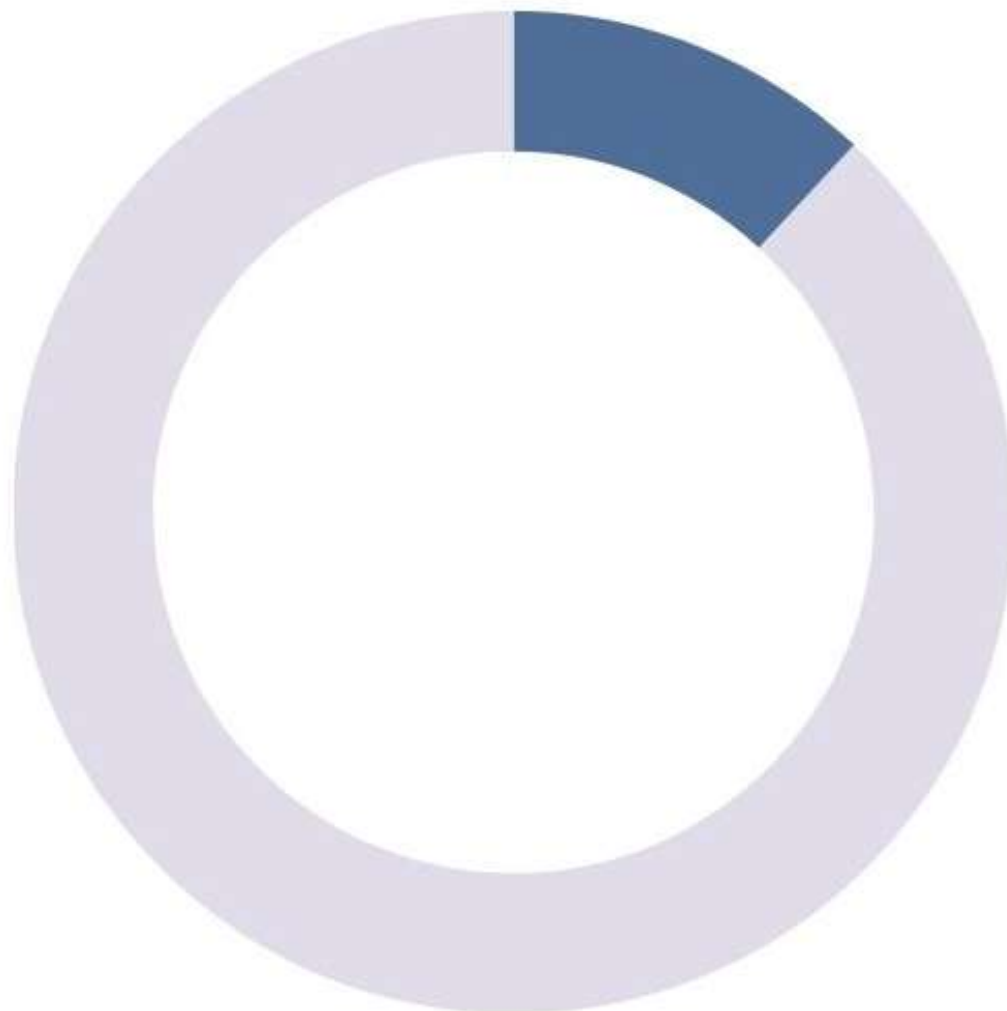
Witness Preparation and Profiling



£21,949 was given to us to by Dorset Police Crime Commissioner and £28,000 from BCP Council to pay for this service.

Access to Work

£7,627



Access to Work

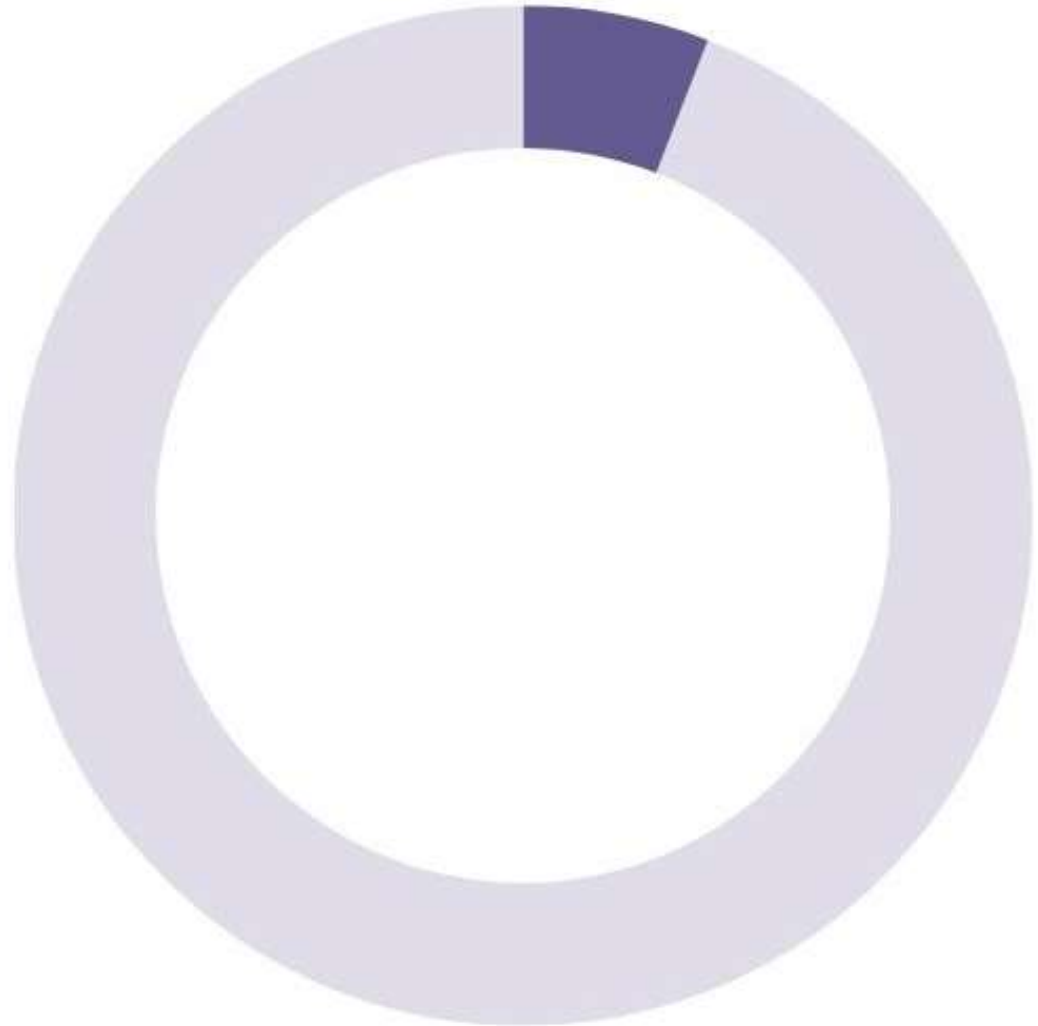


Access to Work is from the Department of Work and Pension.

It gives us money so that Amanda Frost and John Cotton can have support with some of the tasks in their jobs.

Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales

£25,000



**LLOYDS BANK
FOUNDATION**

England & Wales

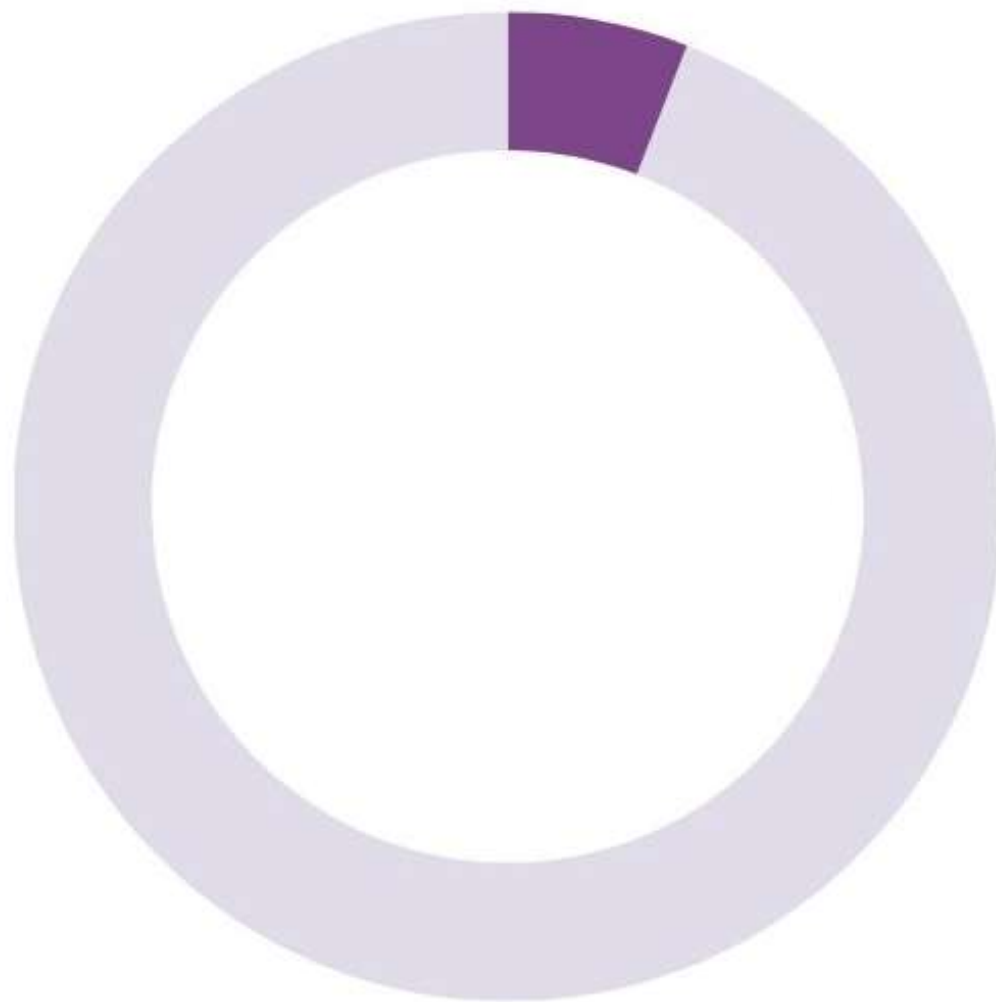
Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales



The Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales gave us £25,000 to help us keep up our good work and help people speak up. They also provide 'in kind' support for a business plan, Trustee recruitment etc.

The players of People's Postcode Lottery

£50,000



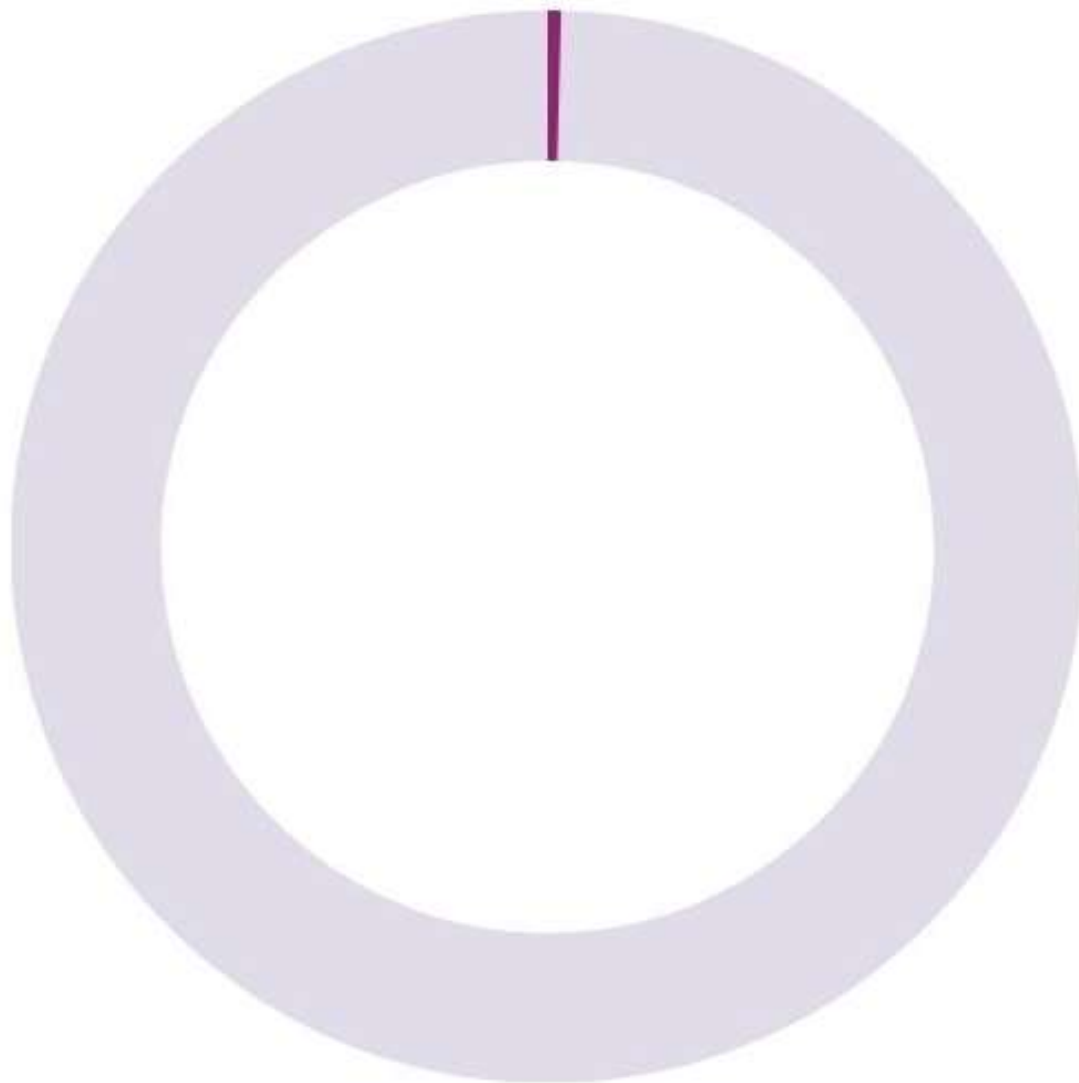
The players of People's Postcode Lottery



The players of People's Postcode Lottery gave us £50,000 to help us carry on supporting people with learning disabilities in all that we do.

Easy Read Information

£1,510



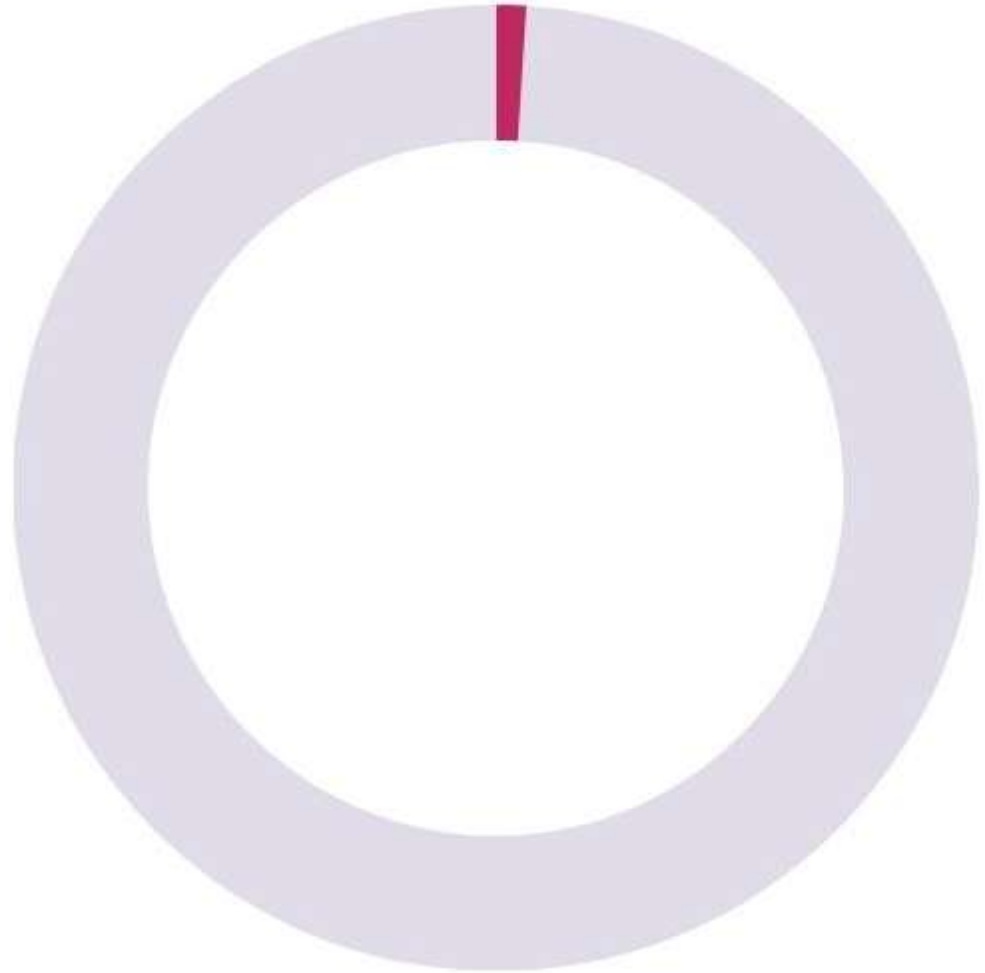
Easy Read Information



We made £1,510
making easy read
information.

Big Night Out With Suttles

£4,268



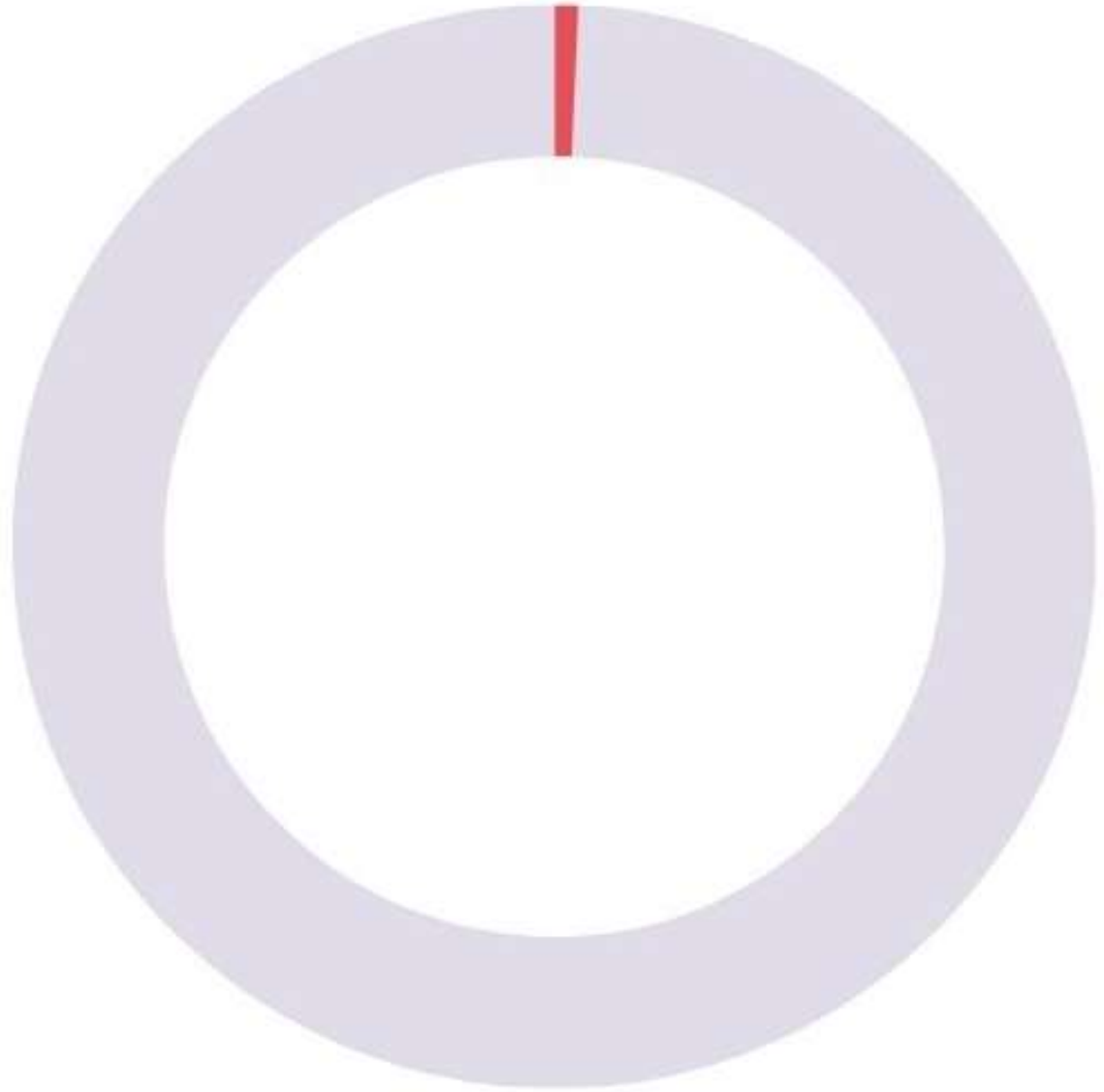
Big Night Out With Suttles



We got some money from Suttles which helped pay for the Big Night's Out With Suttles.

Training

£2,758



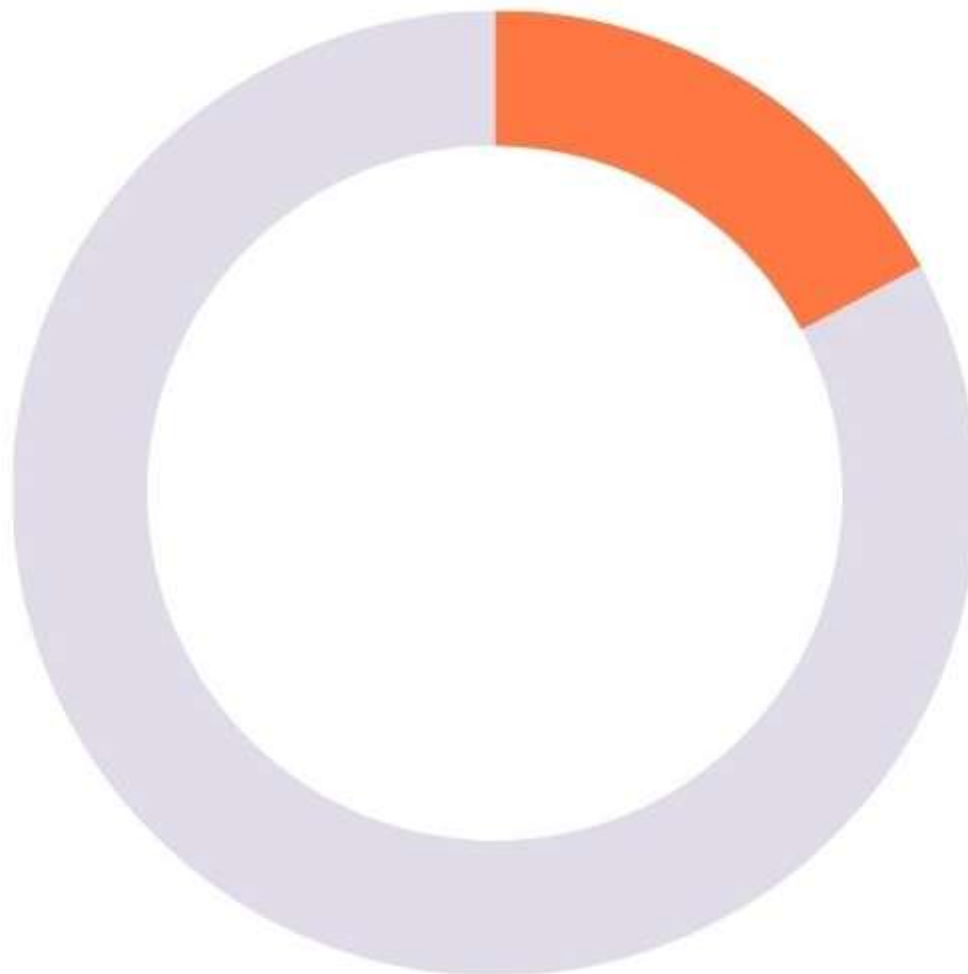
Training



We got money
delivering learning
disability and autism
awareness training.
We also deliver
bespoke training to
other organisations.

Oliver McGowan Training

£72,472



Oliver McGowan Training

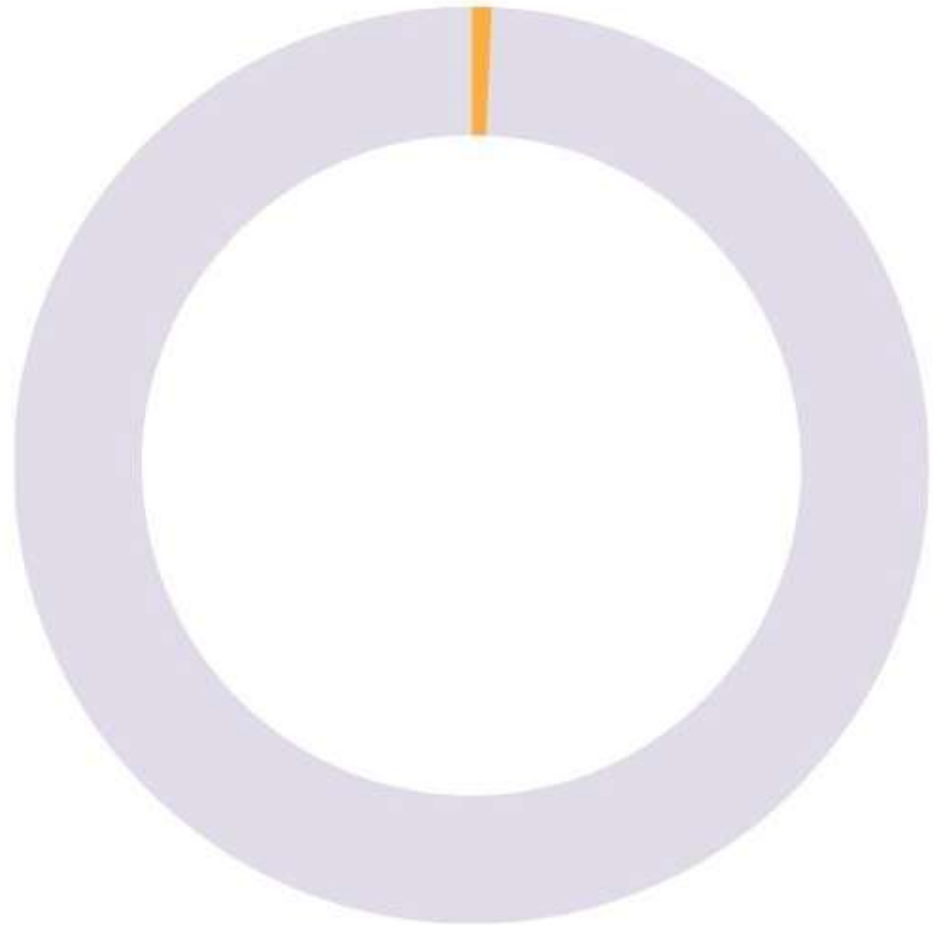


We got money
delivering the Oliver
McGowan training.



Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust

£3,060



Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

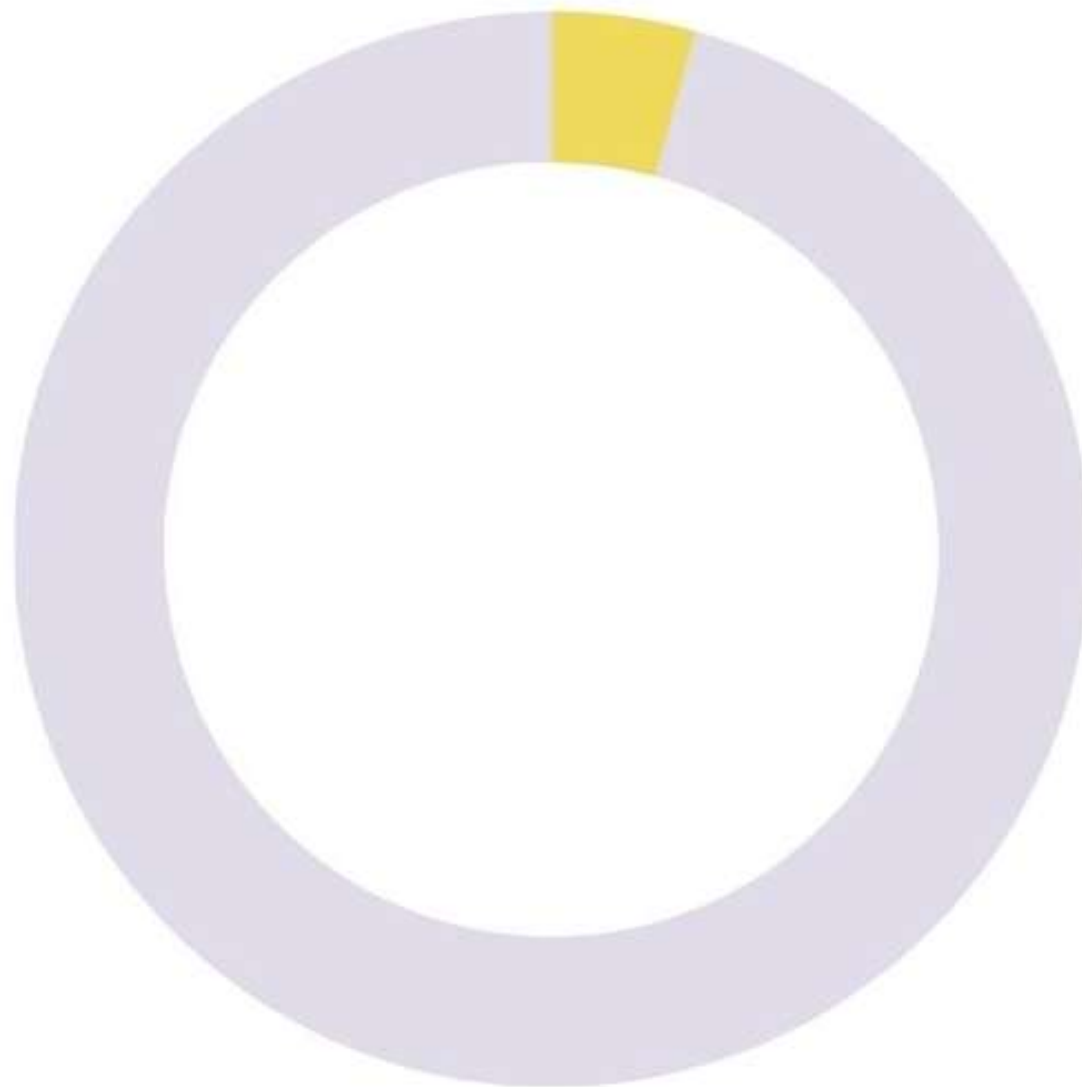
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust



We got money for going to Engagement Forum meetings. These meetings help Dorset Healthcare with co-production.

Safe Places

£18,098



Safe Places

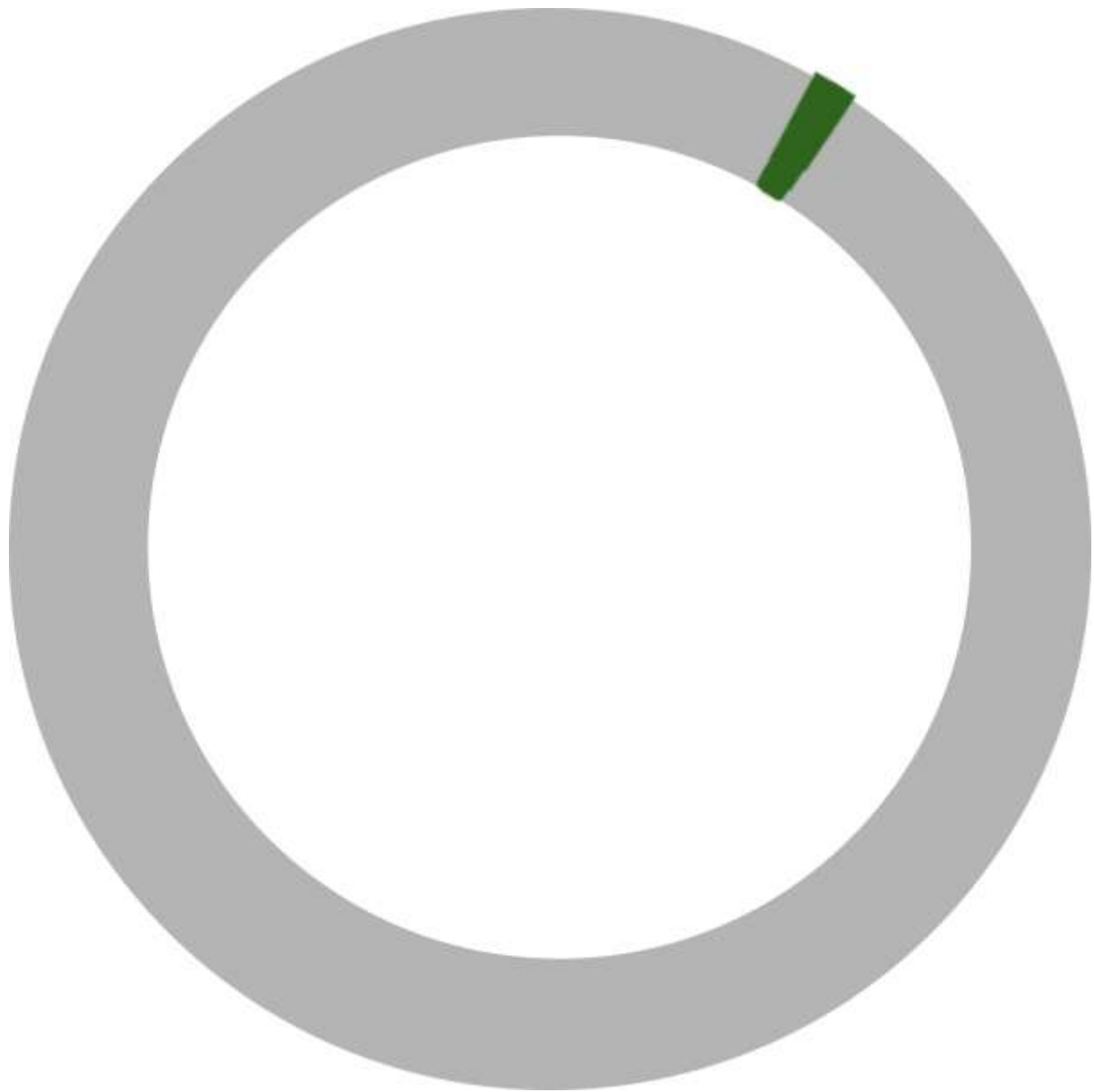


We are working with BCP Council Community Safety Team to expand Safe Places.

This will make it available to everyone who needs it.

Other

£7,993



Other



We got money from helping with other small bits of work, interest and donations.

As we have had more money in the bank this year, it means we have had more interest.

Interest went up from £3,277 to £5,626.



The total money that we got was **£420,593**.

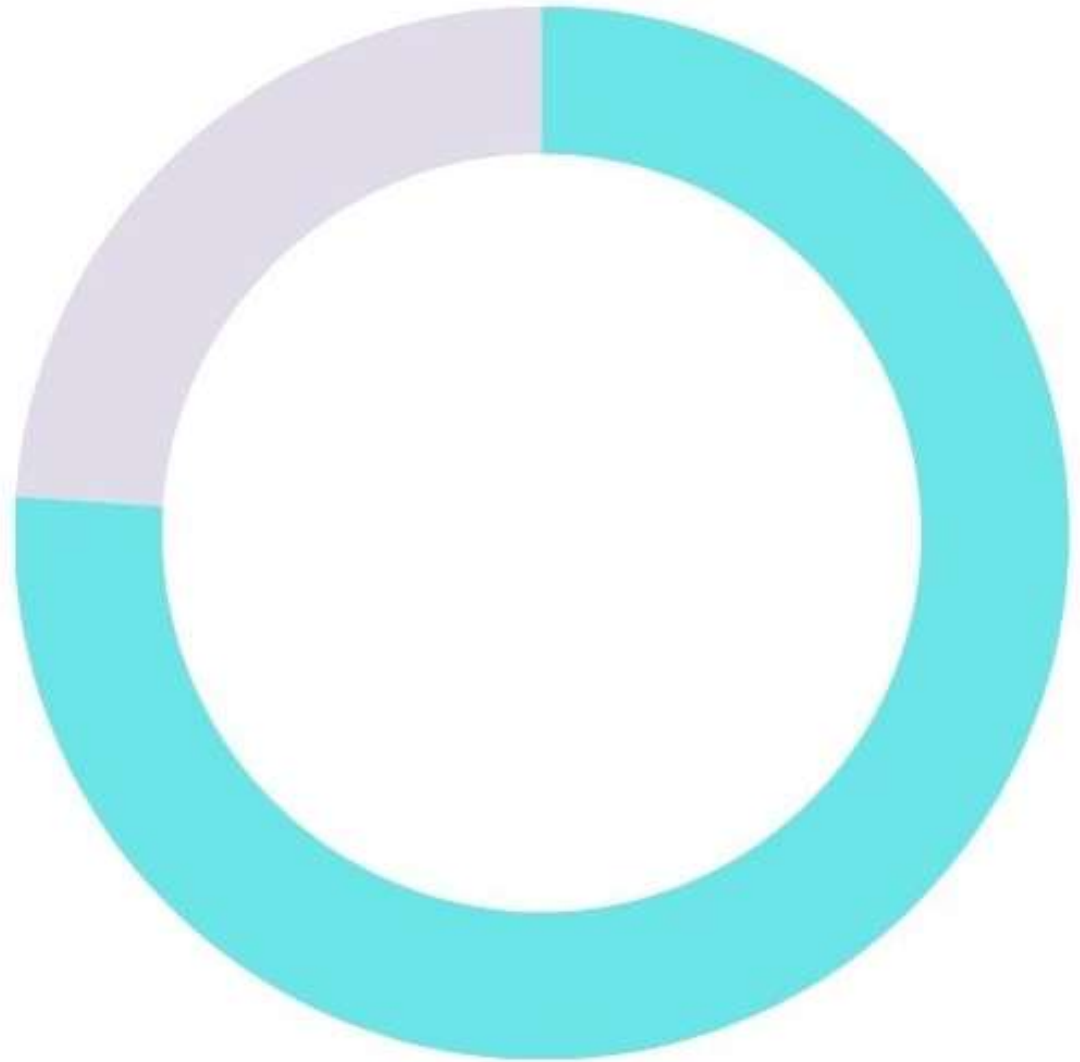
That is £107,956 more than last year.



We will tell you about the money we spent (expenditure).

Staff

£262,545



Staff

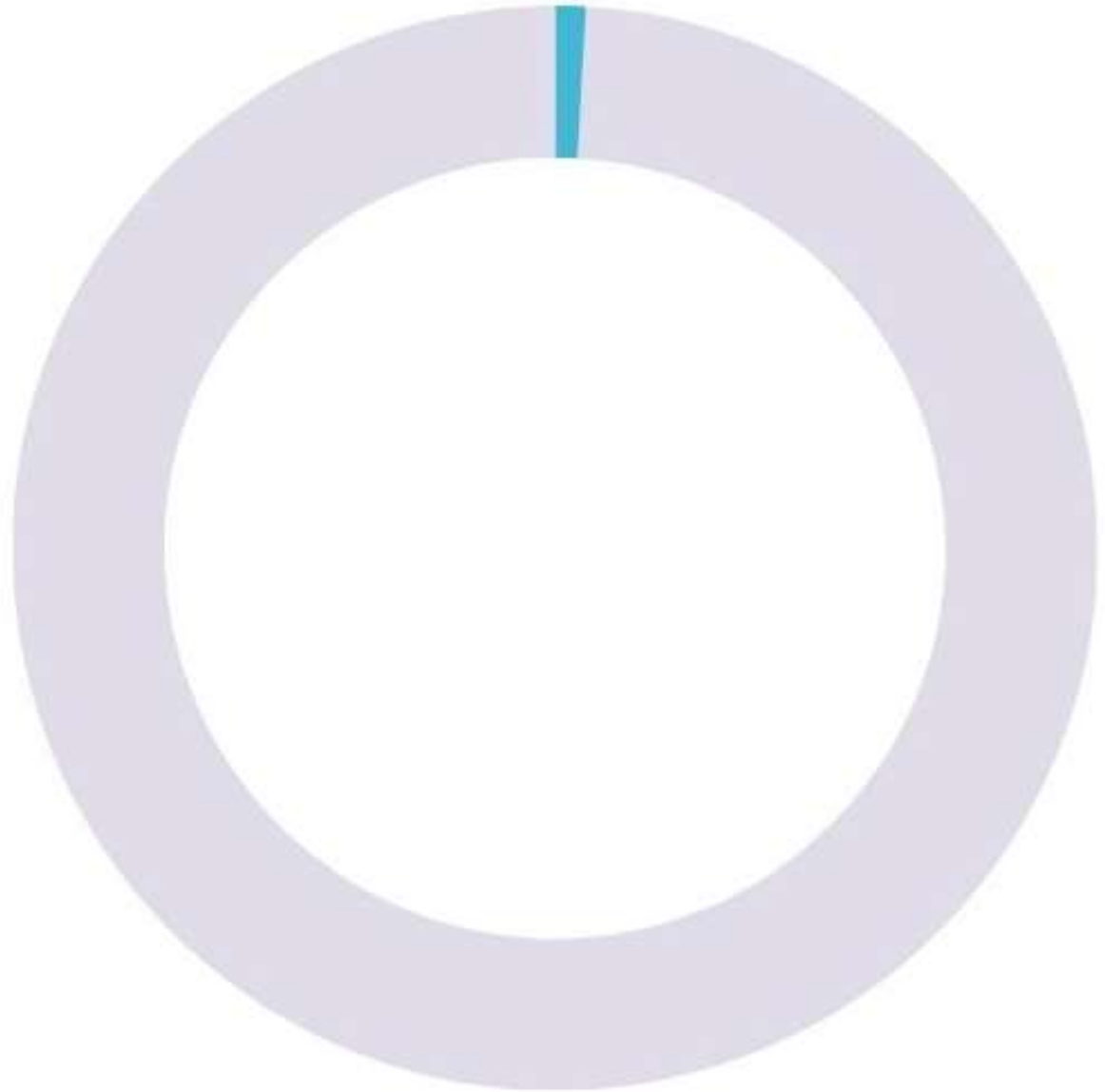


Our biggest cost is the staff. We now employ 26 staff.

This includes staff wages, National Insurance contributions and pensions.

Premises

£3,237



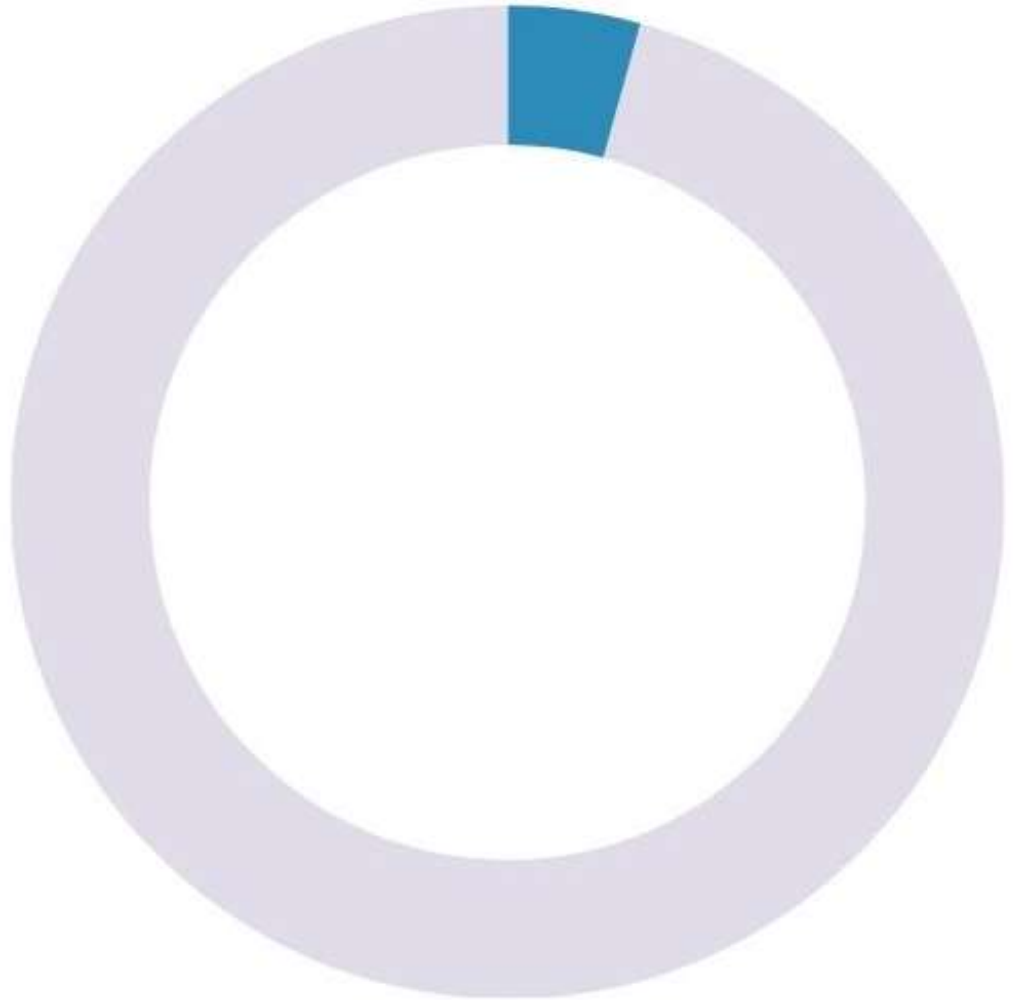
Premises



Our premises are now run by BCP Council.

Office Expenses

£14,696



Office Expenses

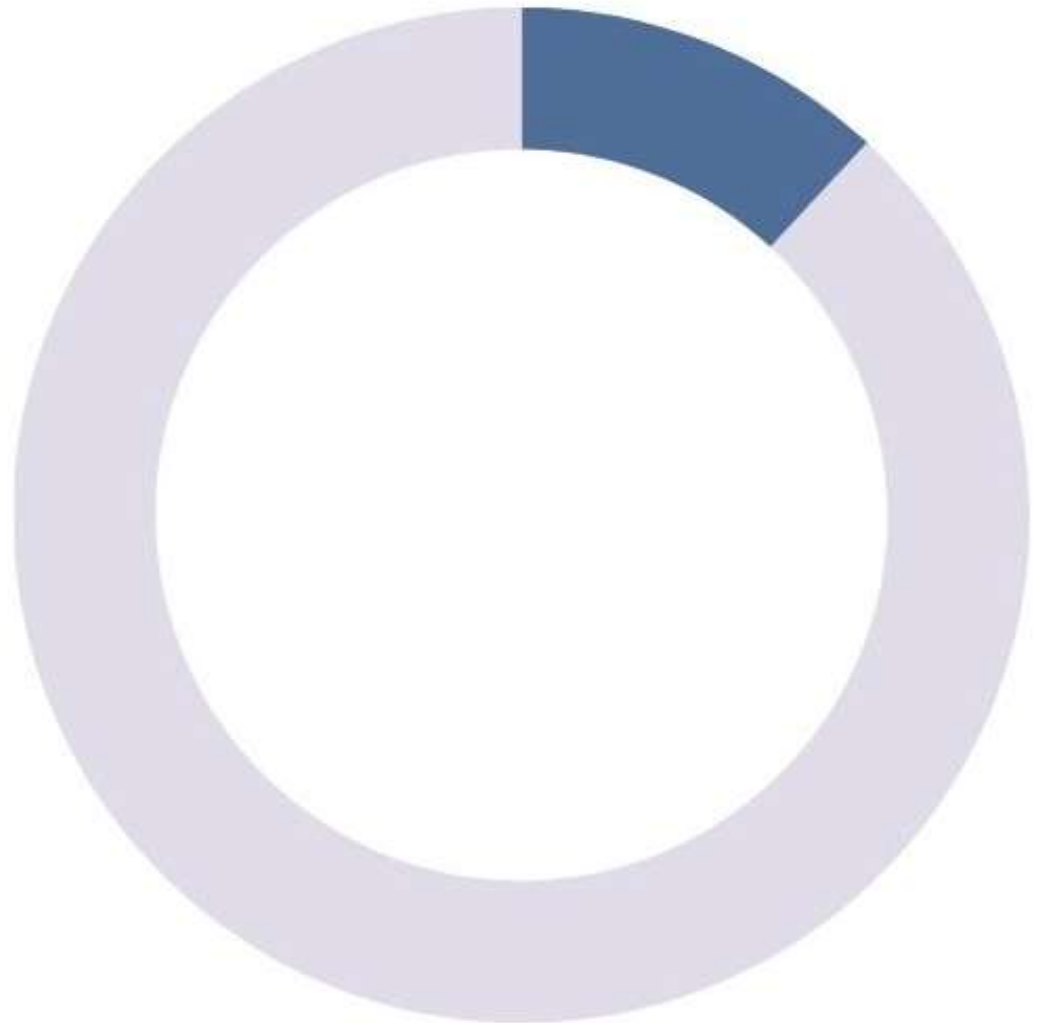


We spent this on:

- Stationery
- Printing costs
- IT and computers

Marketing and Publicity

£9,261



Marketing and Publicity



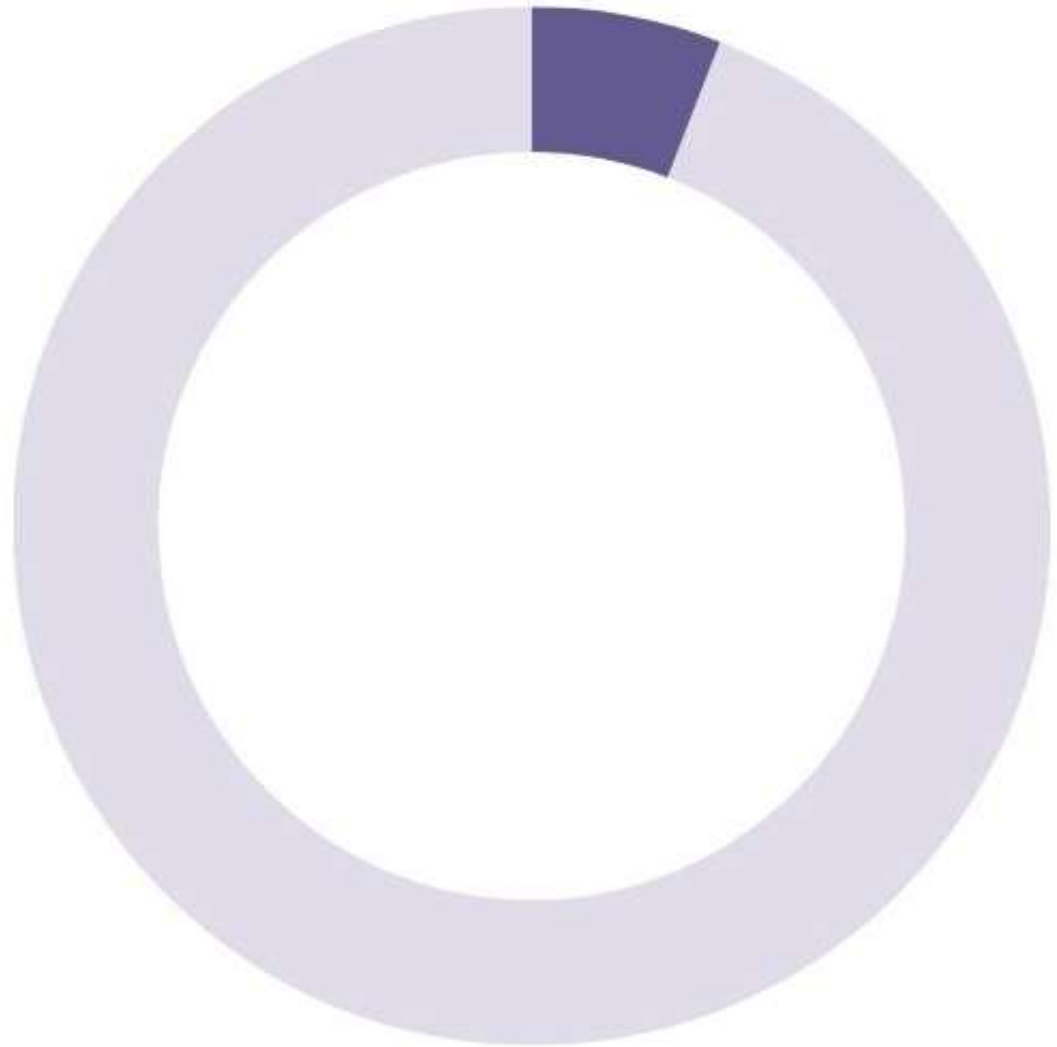
We spent this on printing things like:

- Posters
- Newsletters



Insurance, communication and payroll fees

£7,657



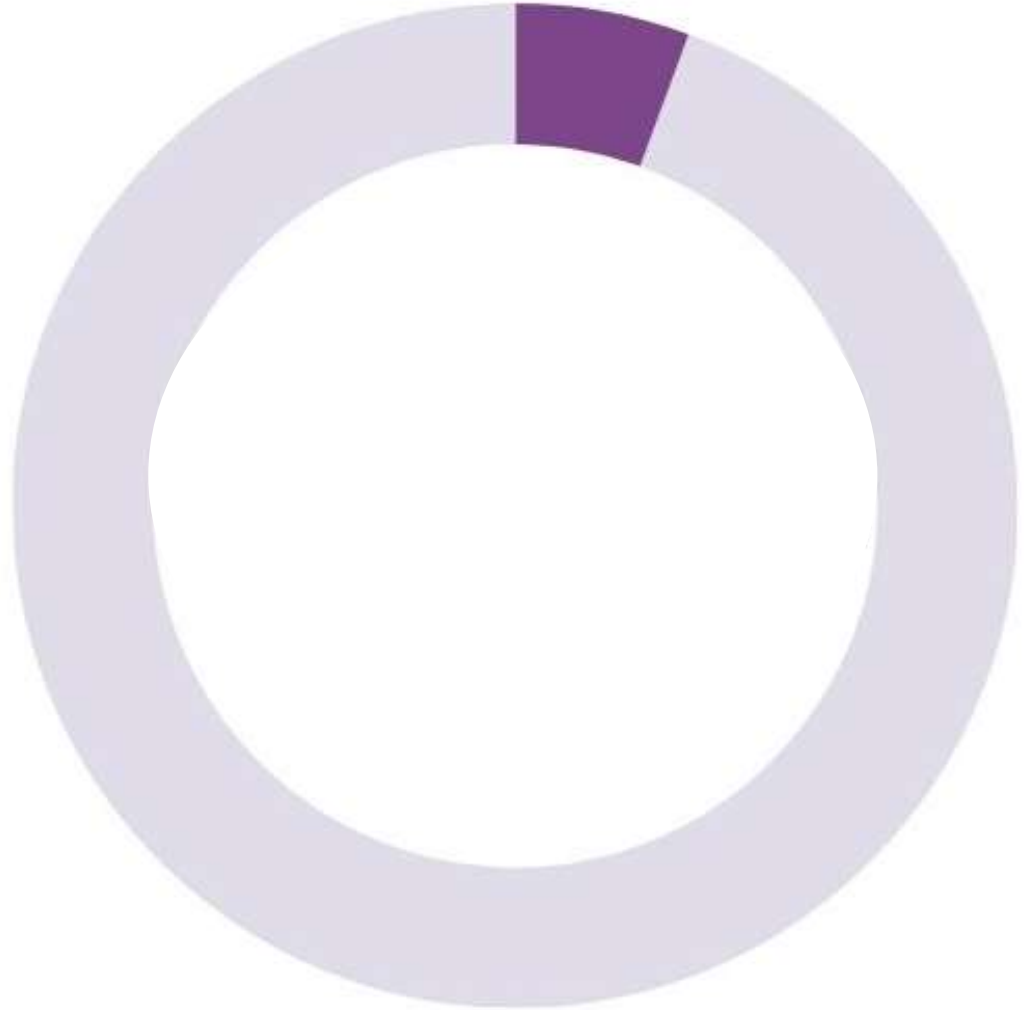
Insurance, communication and payroll fees



We spent this on having insurance (including van insurance), paying payroll fees and things like our work mobile phones.

Travel and training

£19,138



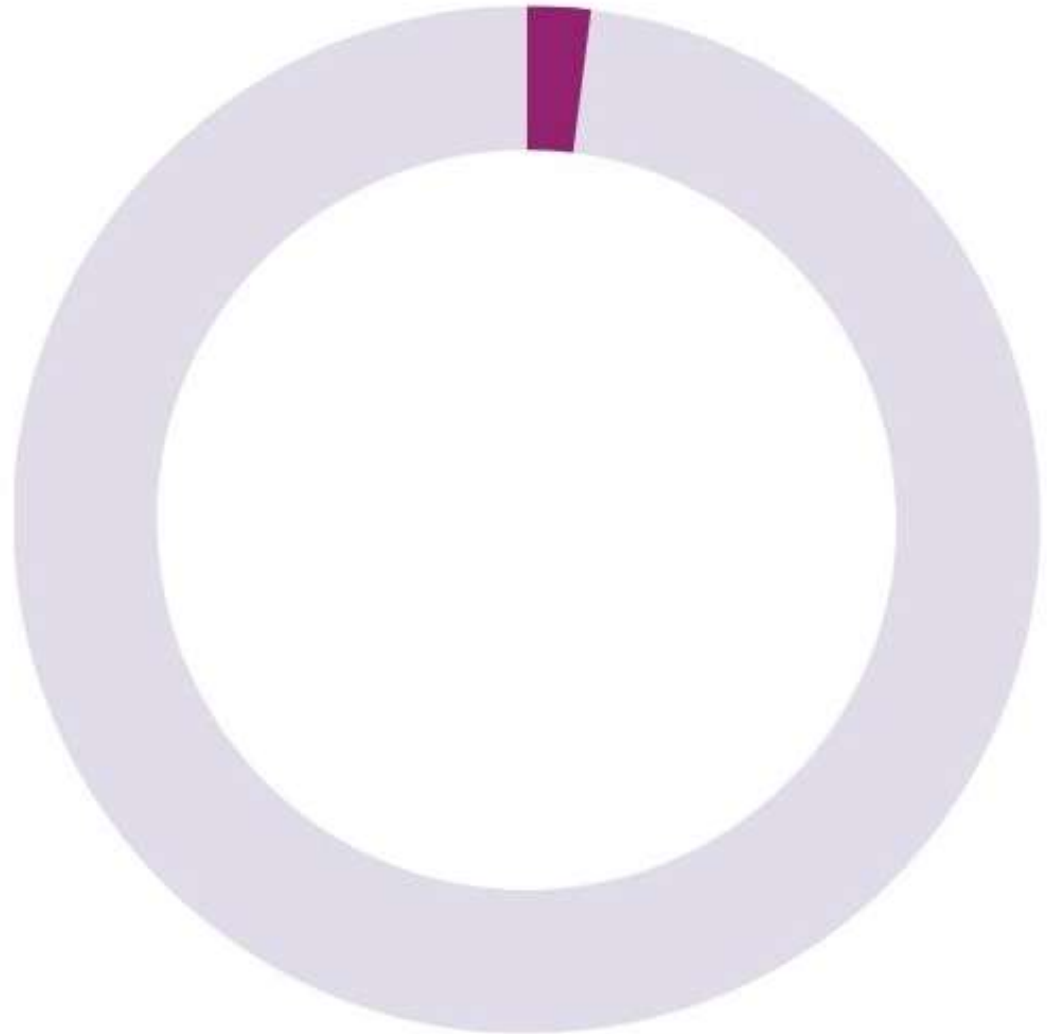
Travel and training



Big increase from last year to include Oliver McGowan training expenses and 'On The Move' vehicle expenses. Staff and volunteers travel to different places sometimes and need training to help them do their jobs well.

Van and computer 'depreciation'

£7,020



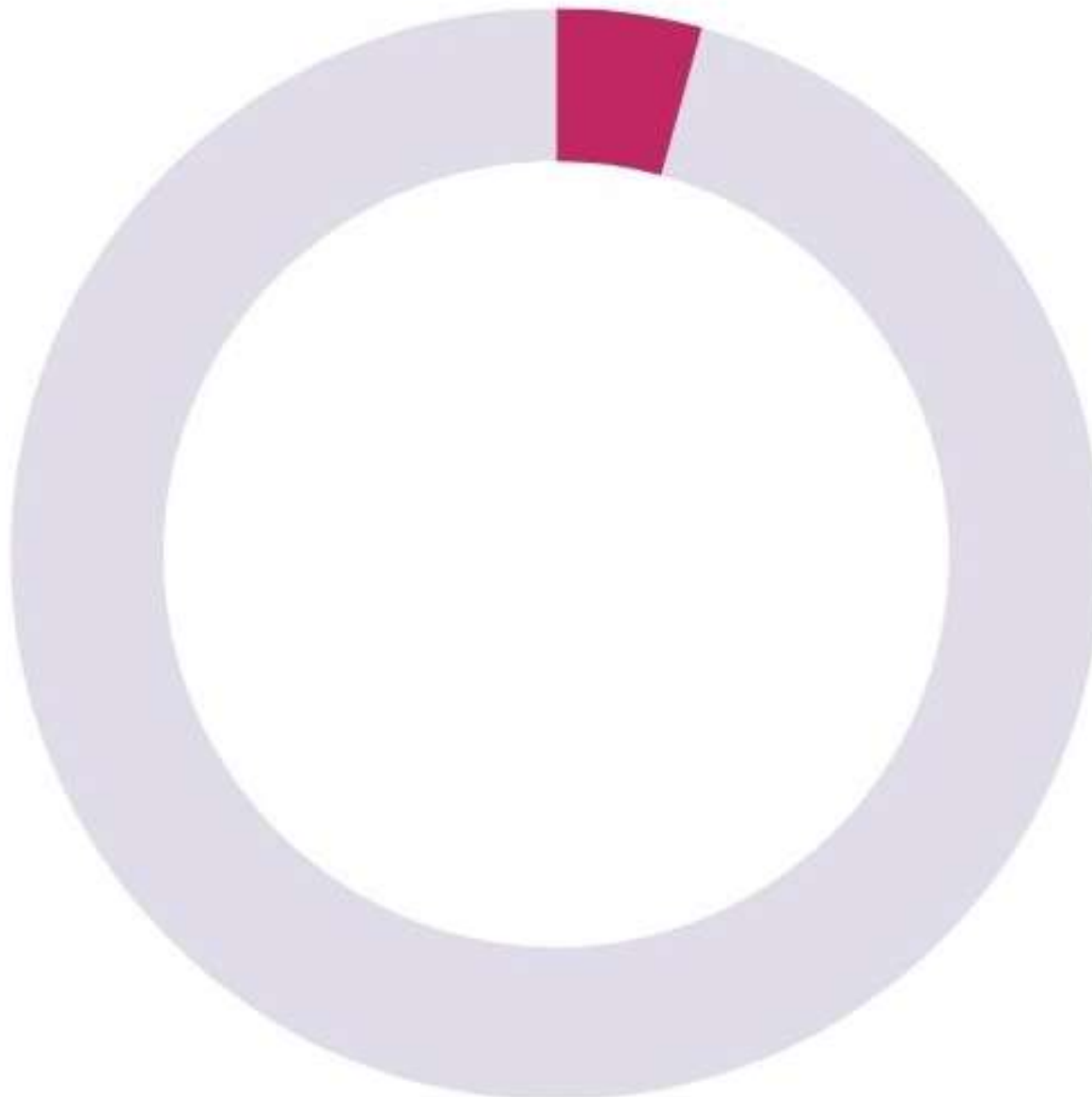
Van



Any vehicle goes down in value over time. That is called 'depreciation'. We have lost £7,020 on depreciation of the van and computers.

Other

£14,753



Other

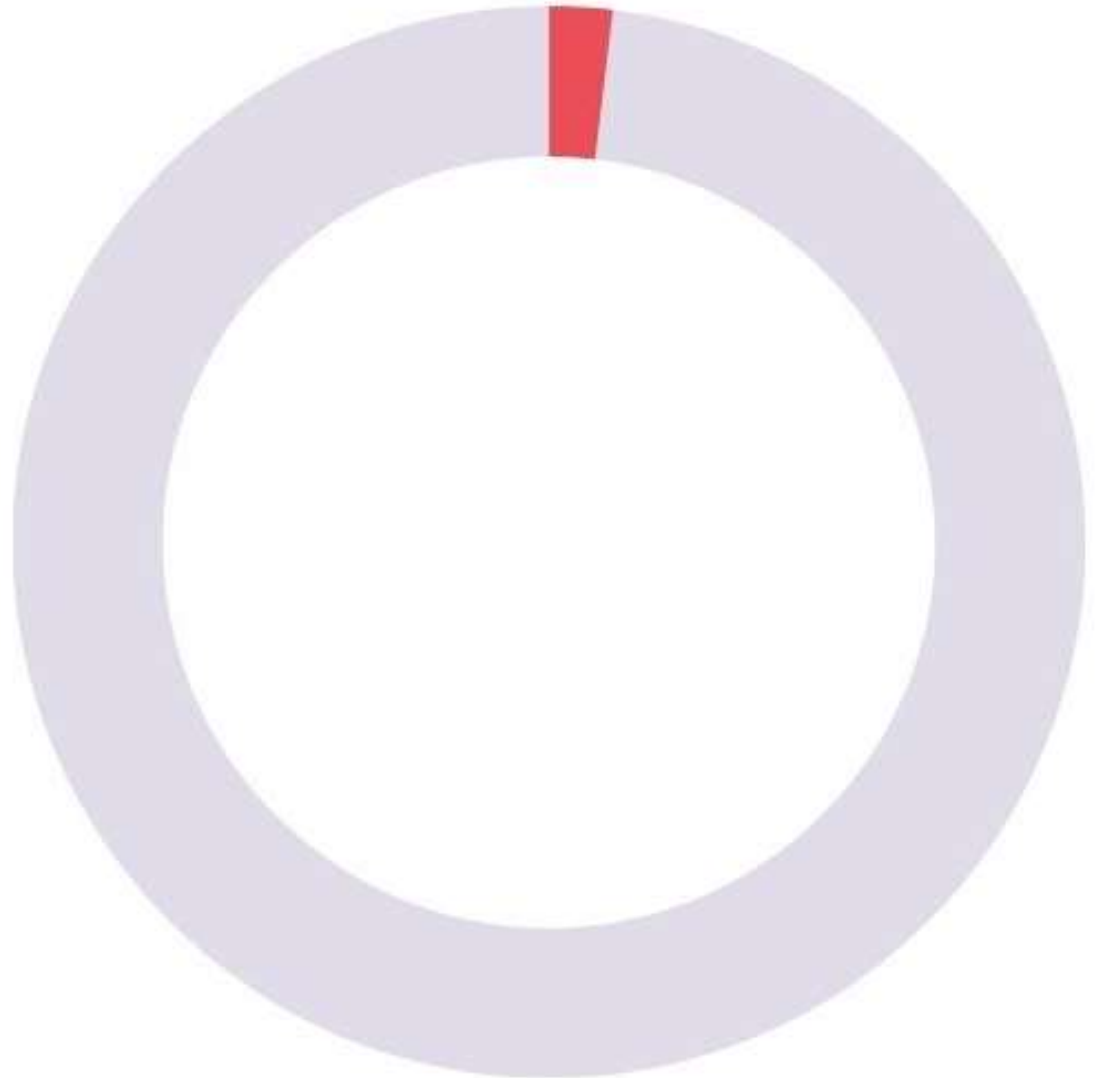


We spent this on other things including:

- Bank Charges
- Gift/donations
- Group and volunteer expenses
- Events
- Hospitality

Governance

£6,496



Governance



We spent this on things we have to do, to keep to the law, for example:

- Independent examiners
- Professional Fees
- Legal fees
- Subscriptions
- Annual General Meeting



The total money that we spent was **£344,803**.

This is £95,534 more than the year before.

Money we were given (income) and money we spent (expenditure)



The total money that we got was **£420,593.**



The total money that we spent was **£344,803.**



This leaves £75,790, added to what was left over in the previous year gives us **£244,368.**

Money left



People First Forum has
£244,368 left over.

£7,250 of this is restricted for
'On The Move' project.

£60,000 has been agreed to
be kept for emergencies. This
is called reserves which is like
a savings account.



Trustees and voting

Our Trustees



We had 13 Trustees.



In 2024 Lisa and Ian stepped down from being Trustees and Charlie sadly passed away.

Last year we said we needed more Trustees with learning disabilities.

We are pleased to say we have 2 new Trustees...



Jenny



John

In the last year, the Trustees have:



- Helped with fundraising
- Checked on our projects
- Voted for new Trustees
- Joined in at our Team Building day

