

People First Forum's

Annual report and accounts for

April 2025 – March 2026



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 9 non-disabled staff.

Our volunteers and members



People (including a lot of our members) have **volunteered 2,963 hours** over the year.

We have 807 members.

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
- Shaun Hayward
- Todd Brooks
- Natalie Wilson
- Russell Knipe
- Dan Short



Members



386 are from Bournemouth

280 are from Poole

21 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 877 people with information, advice and advocacy in the year.



Our top 4 enquiries were about:

1. Emotional wellbeing
2. Our groups and events
3. Victims/Witnesses of crime
4. Health and social care

Safe Places



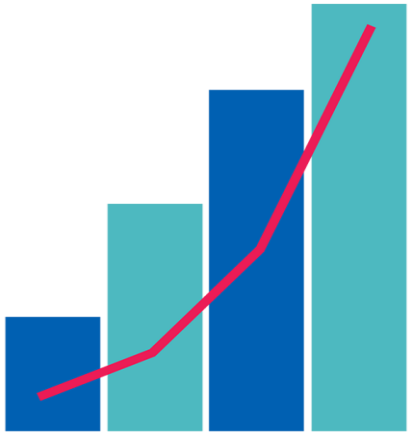
We have 165 Safe Places.

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.





Numbers

April 2025 - March 2026

The service has worked with
49 people with
91 referrals/charges over
the year.





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

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



Out of the 91 referrals/charges (supporting 49 people)

51 referrals/charges were completed resulting in:

- 20 - "Guilty" verdicts/pleas
- 5 - "not guilty" verdicts
- 16 - were dropped or dismissed
- 2 - resulted in a "Community Resolution"
- 3 were for Keeping Safe work
- 5 - other outcomes



After the trial they made sure I was referred for counselling.



I could not have gone through it without Cathy's support





Paul made me feel very calm and by the time the trial came I knew him really well and so I wasn't as nervous.

Big Lottery fund



We are now 3 and a half years into the project.

Big Lottery Funded project called **On The Move.**

As part of the project, we had…











Social groups







Speaking up groups


people first foru
giving a voice to people with learning disab
01202 051

Van visits


Lewis-Manning
Hospice Care
lewis-manning.org.uk
01202 818088
people
first
forum
Rights
Speaking Up

Health Event



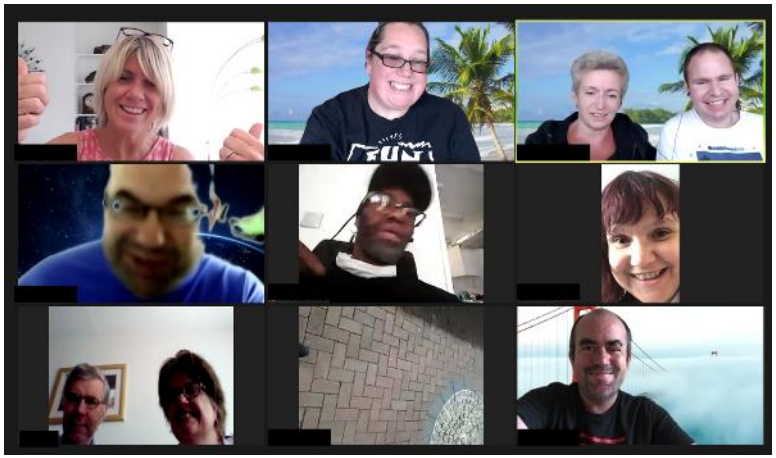
We had a really successful health event for our members on 17th July 2025.

Over 60 members came and took part in the day.



There were information stalls and exercise classes to try.

Friends Forum



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

- A first aid session
- STARS on safe relationships



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

It was lovely to see everyone.

Camp Bestival

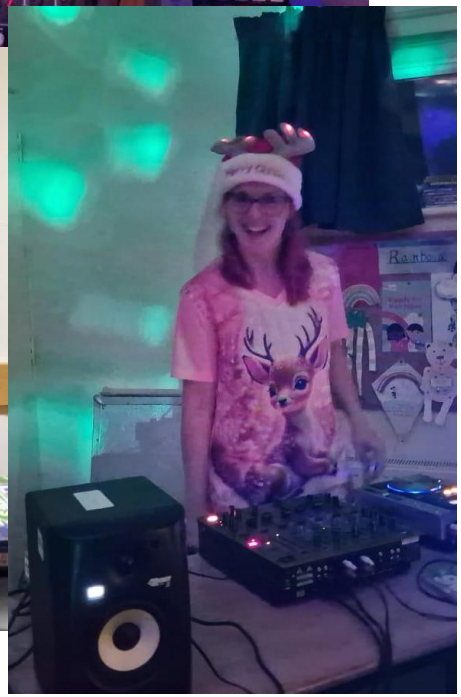




We were invited back to perform at Camp Bestival in August 2025.







DJ Retro (Shaun), DJ Dave and DJ Star (Kelly) have also performed at local parties this year.



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
- family 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

Keeping Safe





We worked with the Keeping Safe Action Group to run another Keeping Safe event in February 2026.

We had different workshops from STARS, Escapeline and Dorset Police.

Health



The Health Action Group brings everyone together to make health services better for people with learning disabilities and their family carers.

We worked with Active Dorset to help make GP Health Action Plans better.



[Changes to LD Health Action Plans on Ardens (Aug 2026)]

Where We Live





The Where We Live Action Group brings everyone together to make housing better for people with learning disabilities.

We are making sure your voices are heard in the BCP Council new Supported and Specialist Housing plan.

Easy Read Information



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

- Access Wellbeing
- Prama Care

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.

BCP Council groups



We are part of the BCP Council Day Opportunities Service Review Working Group.

We are part of the Co-production Development Group.

We help make sure your voice is heard and listened to!

Dorset Healthcare

NHS
Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

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.

Benchmarking

Learning Disability England



We worked with Learning Disability England and the NHS Benchmarking Team.

We asked people our members about their experience of being in hospital during 2025–2026.

This is to help make hospitals better.



What did we do to help our charity?

Film

LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION
England & Wales



Lloyds Bank Foundation helped us learn some more film making skills.

We put together a video to help people understand what we do and help raise some money to keep us going.

Business Plan

LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION
England & Wales



Lloyds Bank Foundation also helped us to start writing a business plan for the next 5 years.

We decided our priorities, which are the things we need to do next.

We will talk about these later, when we talk about the future.

Sponsor September







We had Sponsor September which helped raise £1,835. Thank you to everyone who took part!

We always need help with fundraising, as we are only a small charity and do not have a fundraising team.



Our money for last year



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

April 2025 – March 2026

BCP Council and NHS Dorset



£100,940



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

£71,895





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

We are now 3 and a half years into the project.

COMMUNITY FUND

Witness Support, Preparation and Profiling Service

£49,949





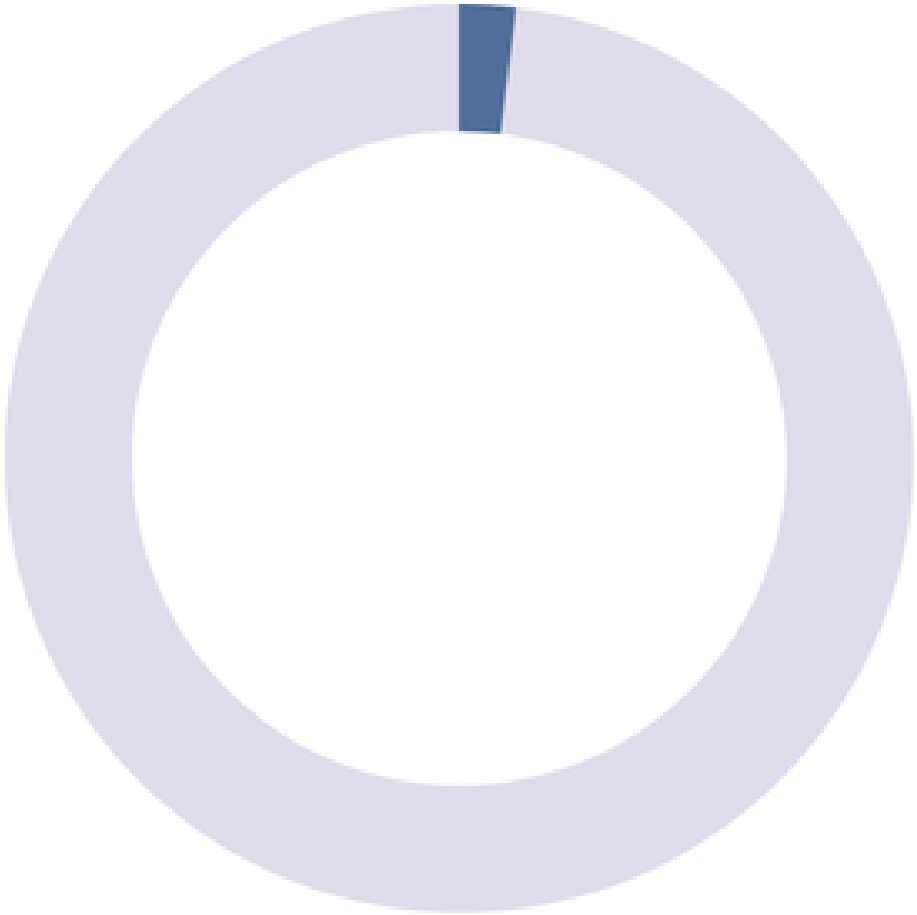
£21,949 was given to us to by Dorset Police Crime Commissioner and £28,000 from BCP Council to pay for this service.

Access to Work

£8,740

GOV.UK

ACCESS TO WORK





GOV.UK

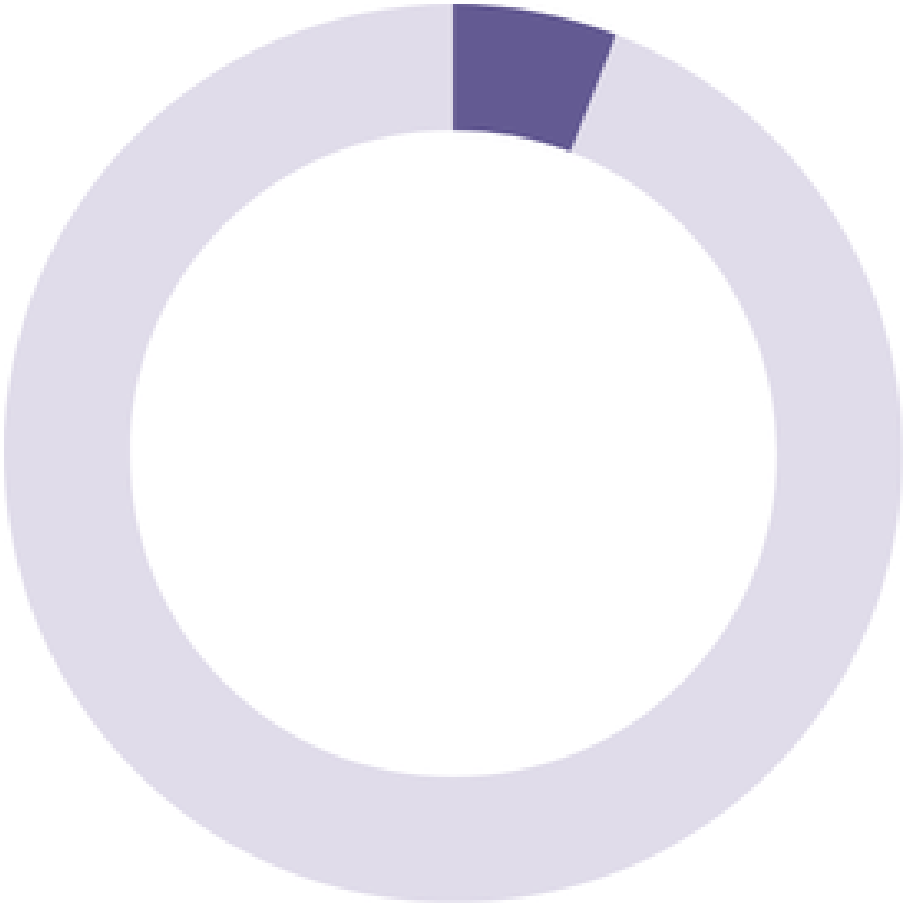
ACCESS TO WORK

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

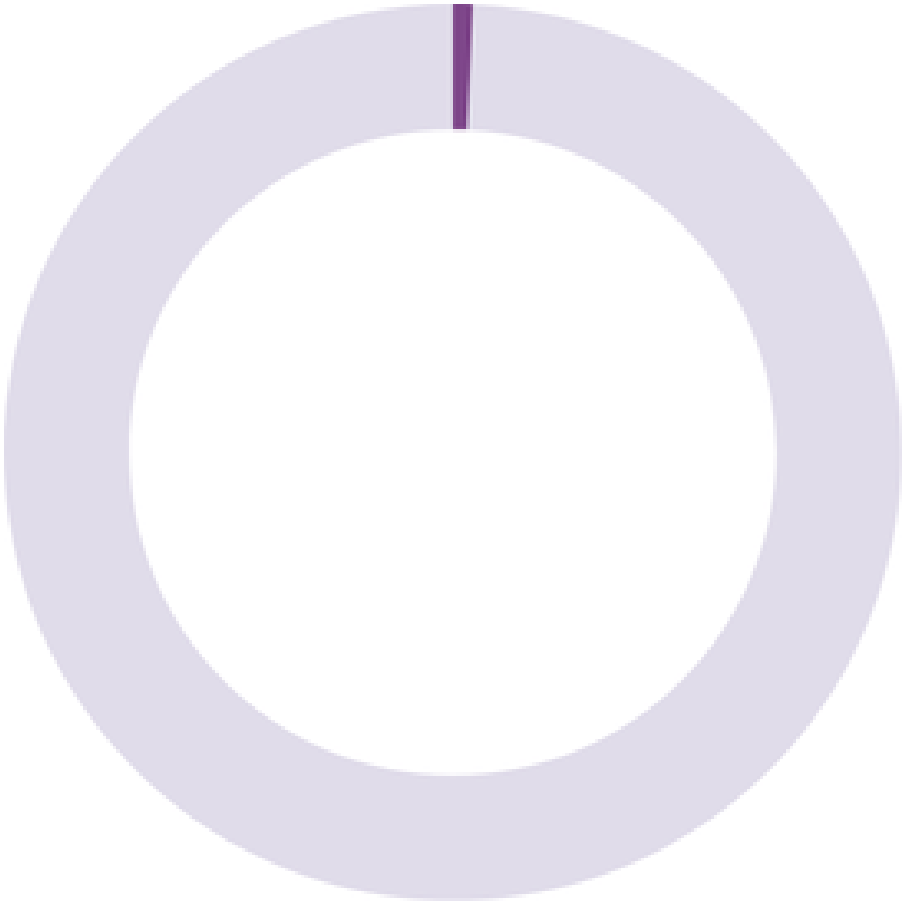


The Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales gave us £25,000.

This pays for us to keep up our good work. They also provide 'in kind' support for a business plan and lots of other things.

Talbot Village Trust

£3,087



Talbot Village Trust



The Talbot Village Trust gave us £3,087 to help with the “On The Move” van upgrade.

Talbot Village Trust

Easy Read Information

£525

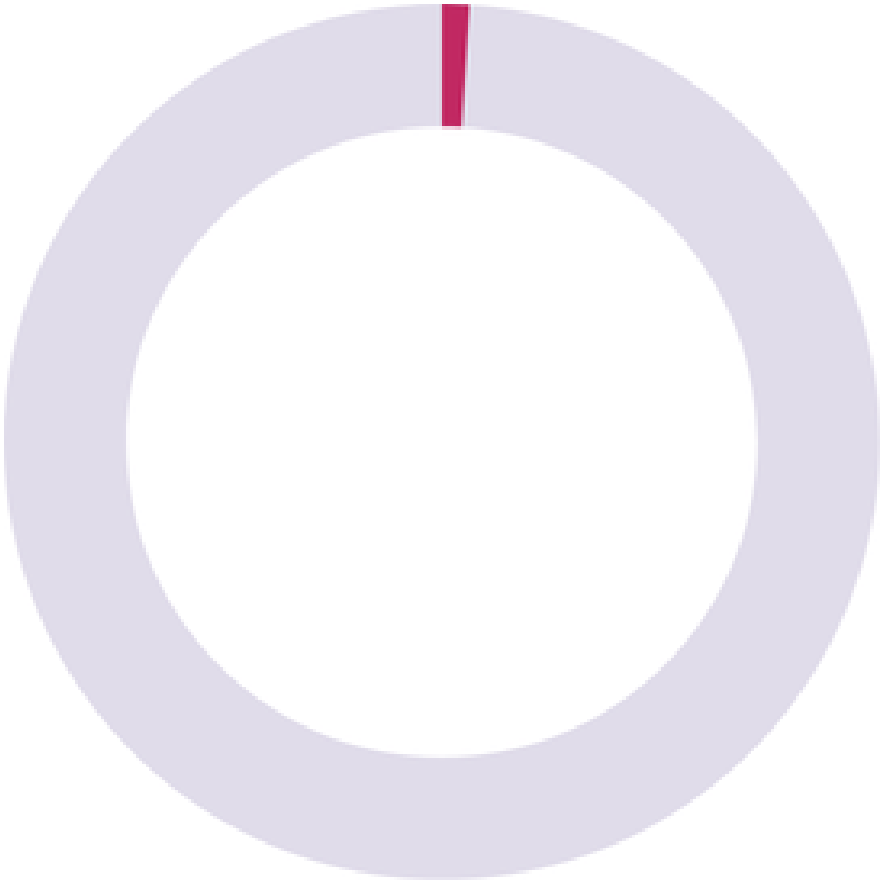




We made £525 making easy read information. This is lower than last year as we have been busy doing other work.

Big Night Out With Suttles

£1,056



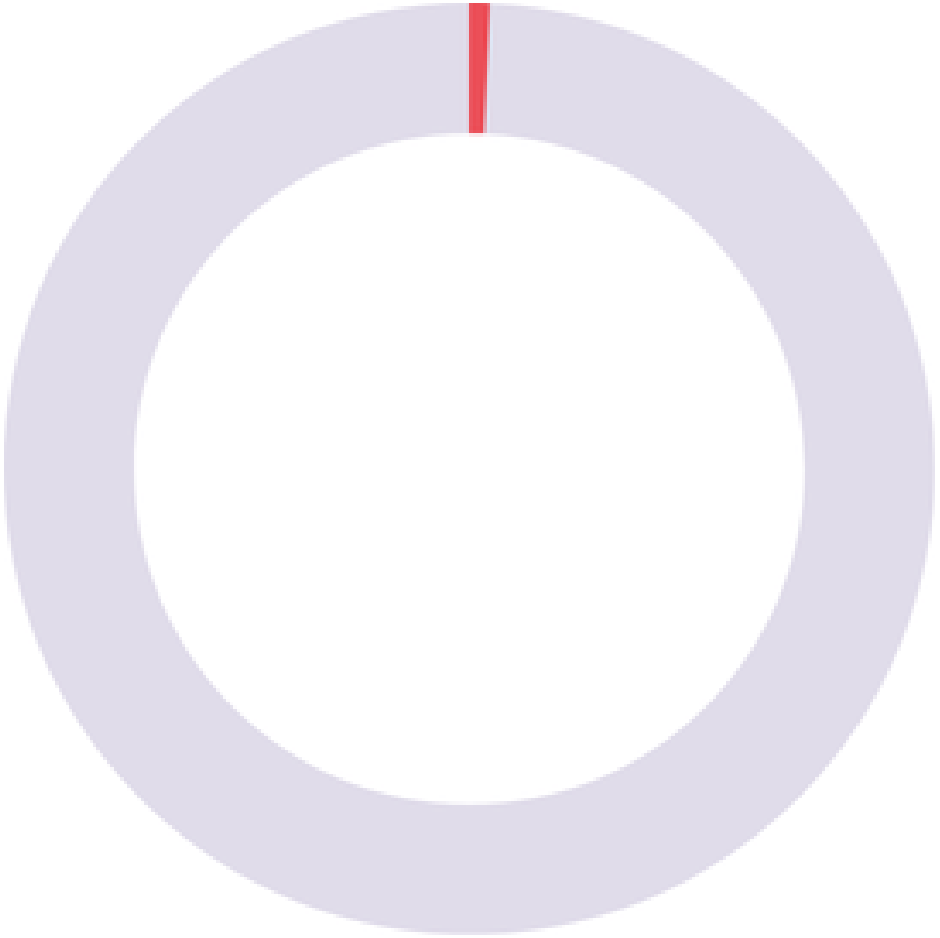


We got some money from Suttles which helped pay for the Big Night's Out With Suttles.

Training

£10,977







We got money delivering learning disability and autism awareness training.

We also deliver other training to organisations like Sailability.

Oliver McGowan Training

£131,016



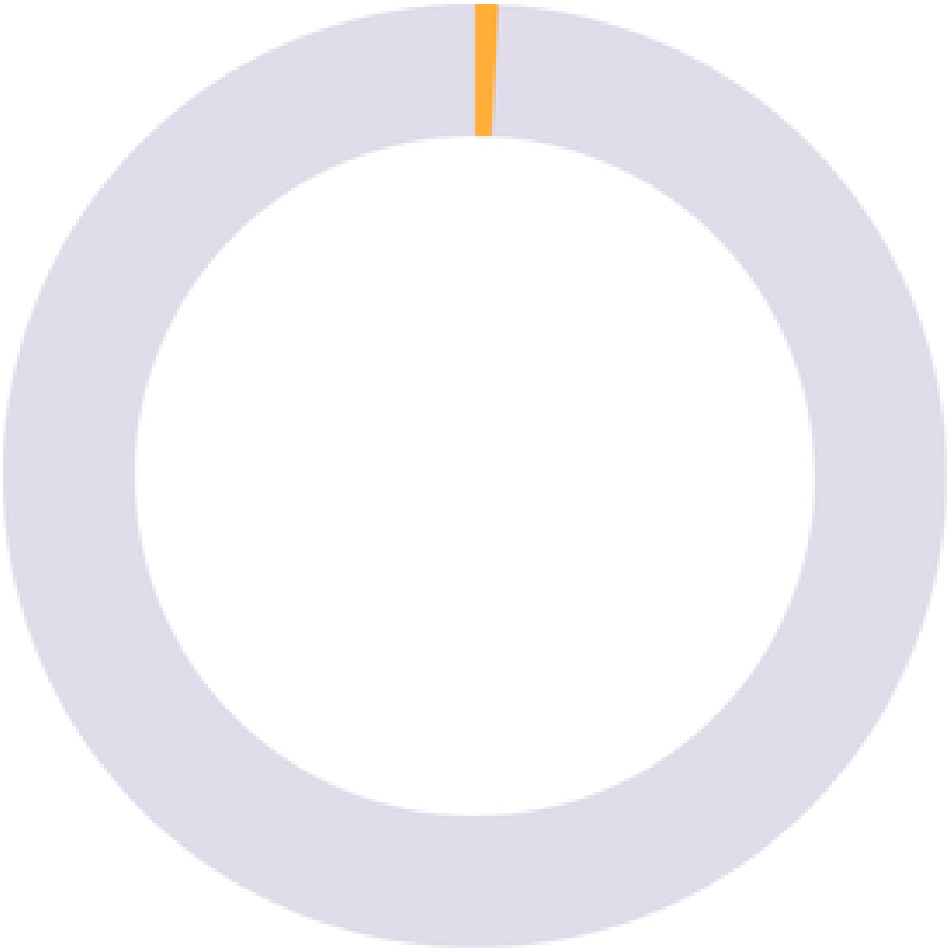




We got money delivering the Oliver McGowan training.

Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust

£3,268



NHS
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

£10,000



BCP Council

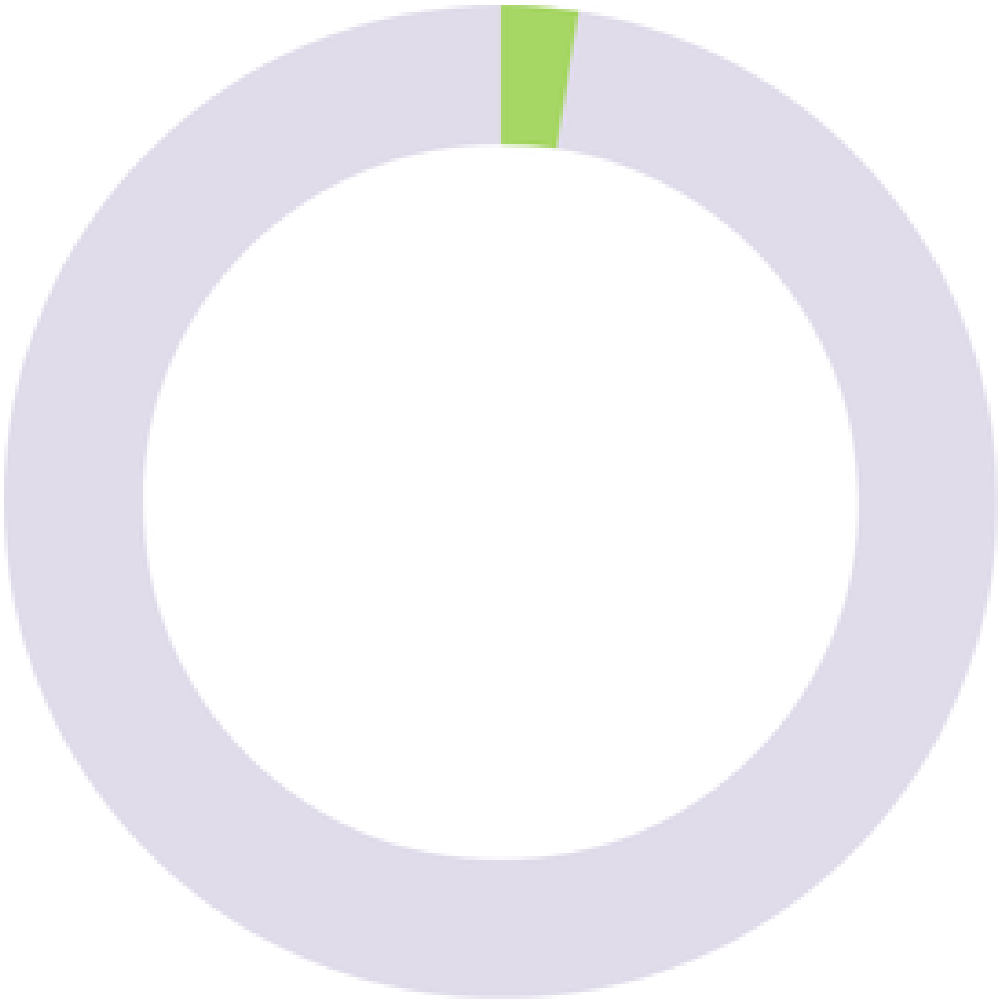
We are working with BCP Council Community Safety Team to expand Safe Places.

This will make it available to everyone who needs it.

Other

£10,582







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

Half of this (£5,195) was interest we got from the bank.



The total money that we got was **£427,035**.

That is £6,442 more than last year.



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

Staff

£297,471







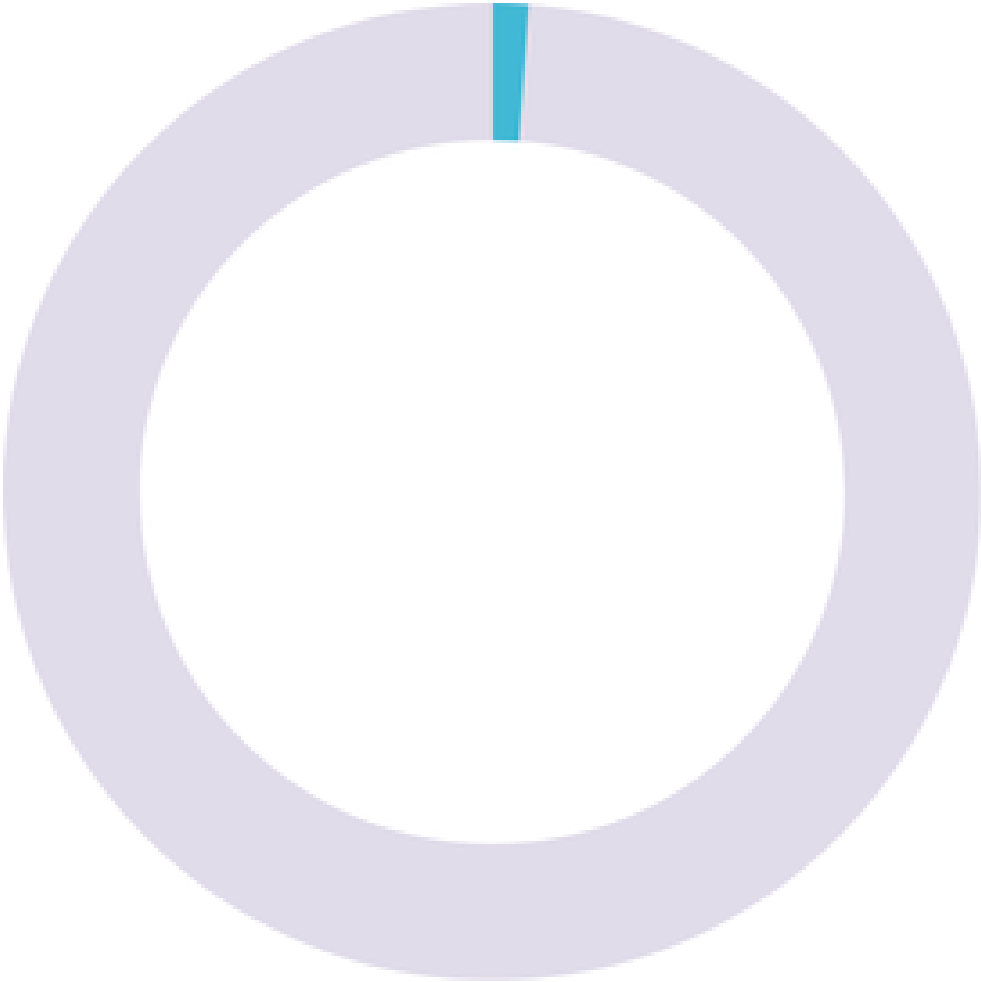
Our biggest cost is the staff. We employ 25 staff.

This includes staff wages, National Insurance contributions and pensions.

Premises

£4,642





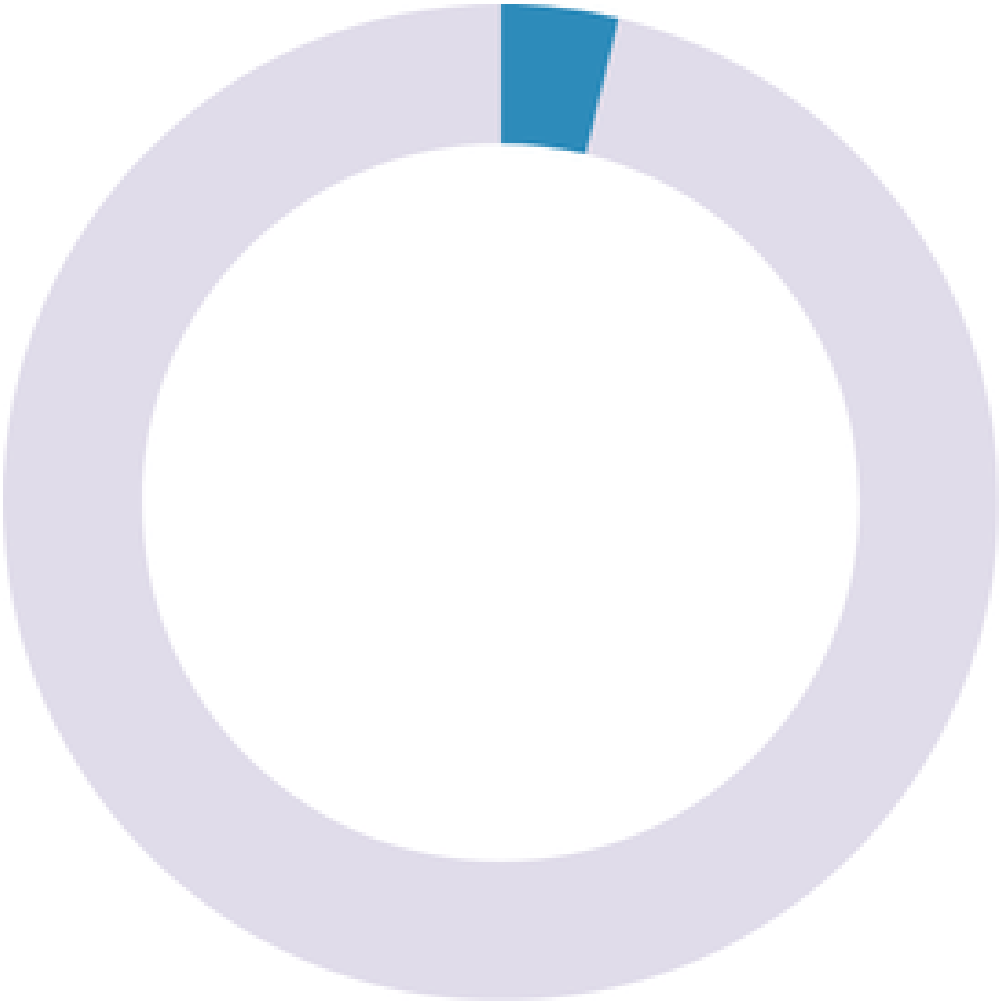


Our premises are run by BCP Council. There is a small rent increase each year.

Office Expenses

£14,991







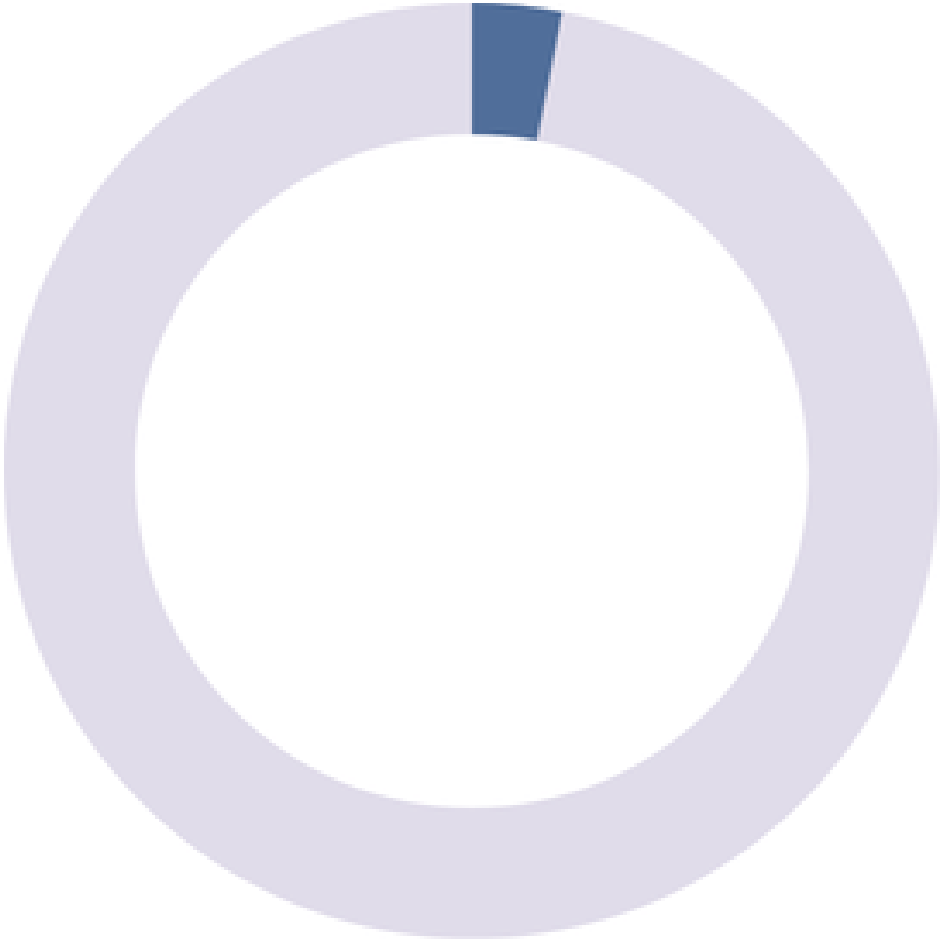
We spent this on:

- Stationery
- Printing costs
- IT and computers

Marketing and Publicity

£12,241





people first forum

giving a voice
to people with learning disabilities



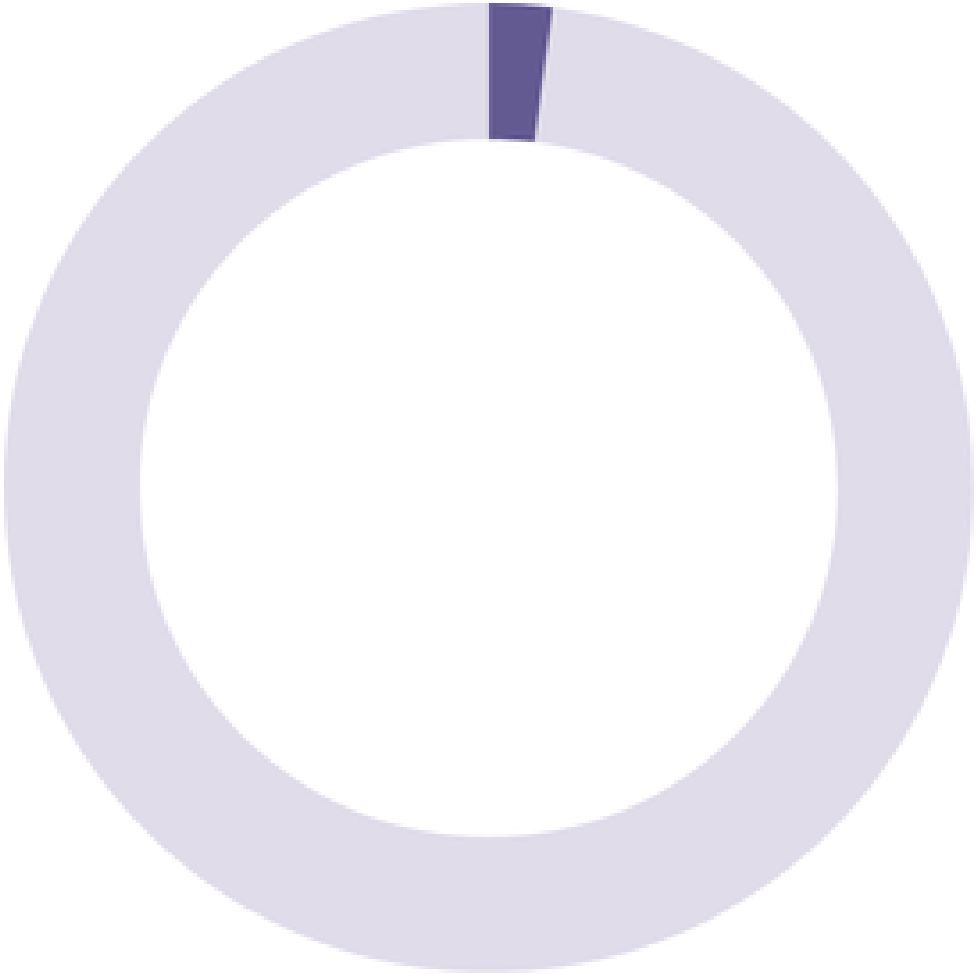
We spent this on printing things like:

- Posters
- Newsletters

Insurance, communication and payroll fees

£8,348







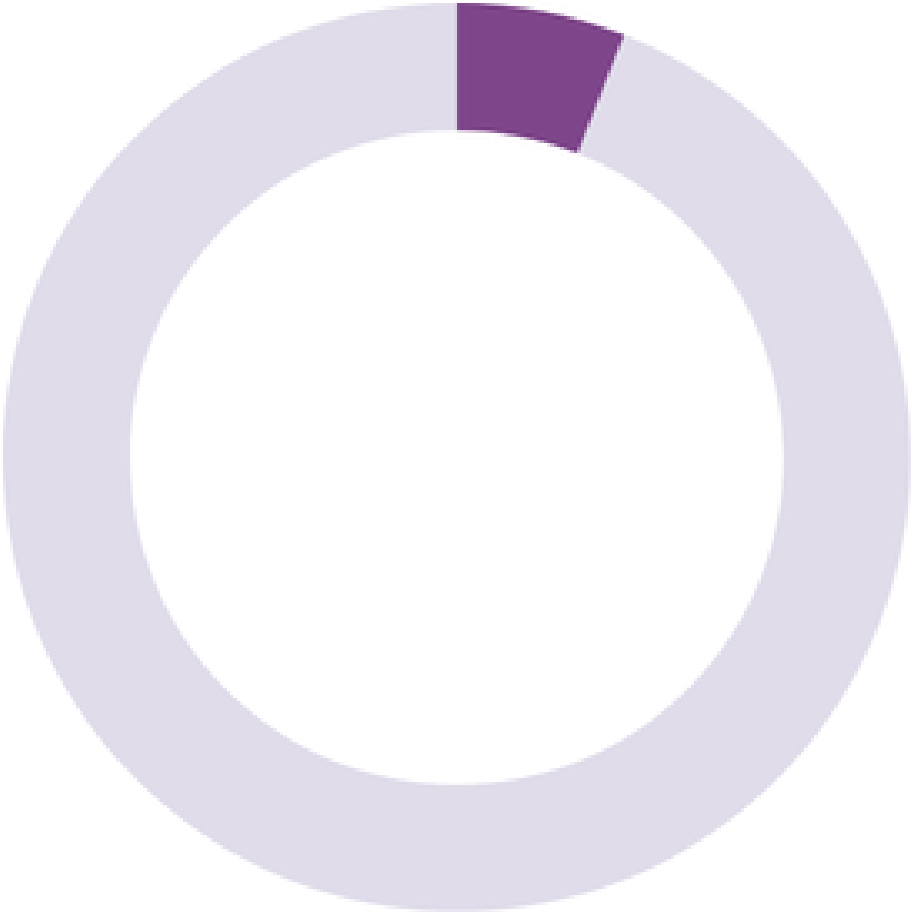


We spent this on having insurance (including van insurance), paying payroll fees and things like our work mobile phones.

Travel and training

£23,539







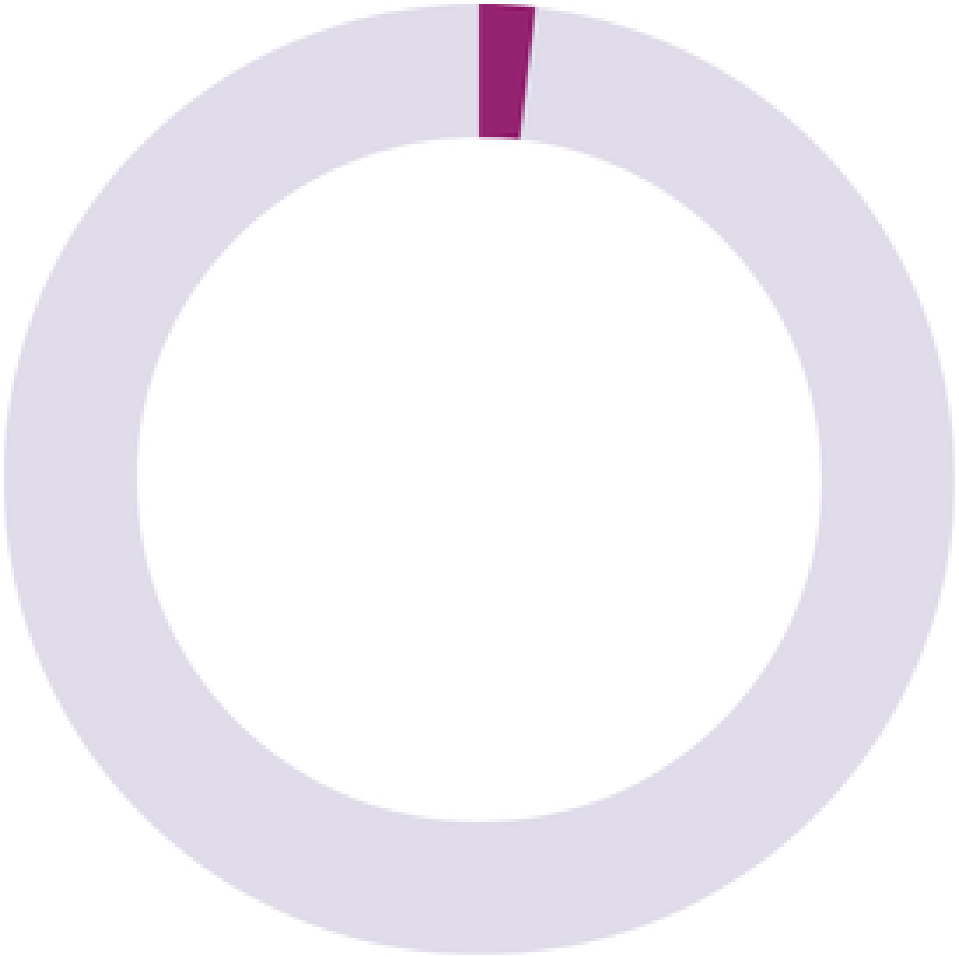
There is a big increase from last year, this is because it includes Oliver McGowan training expenses and ‘On The Move’ vehicle expenses.

Staff and volunteers travel to different places and need training to help them do their jobs well.

Van and computer ‘depreciation’

£7,557







Any vehicle and equipment goes down in value over time.

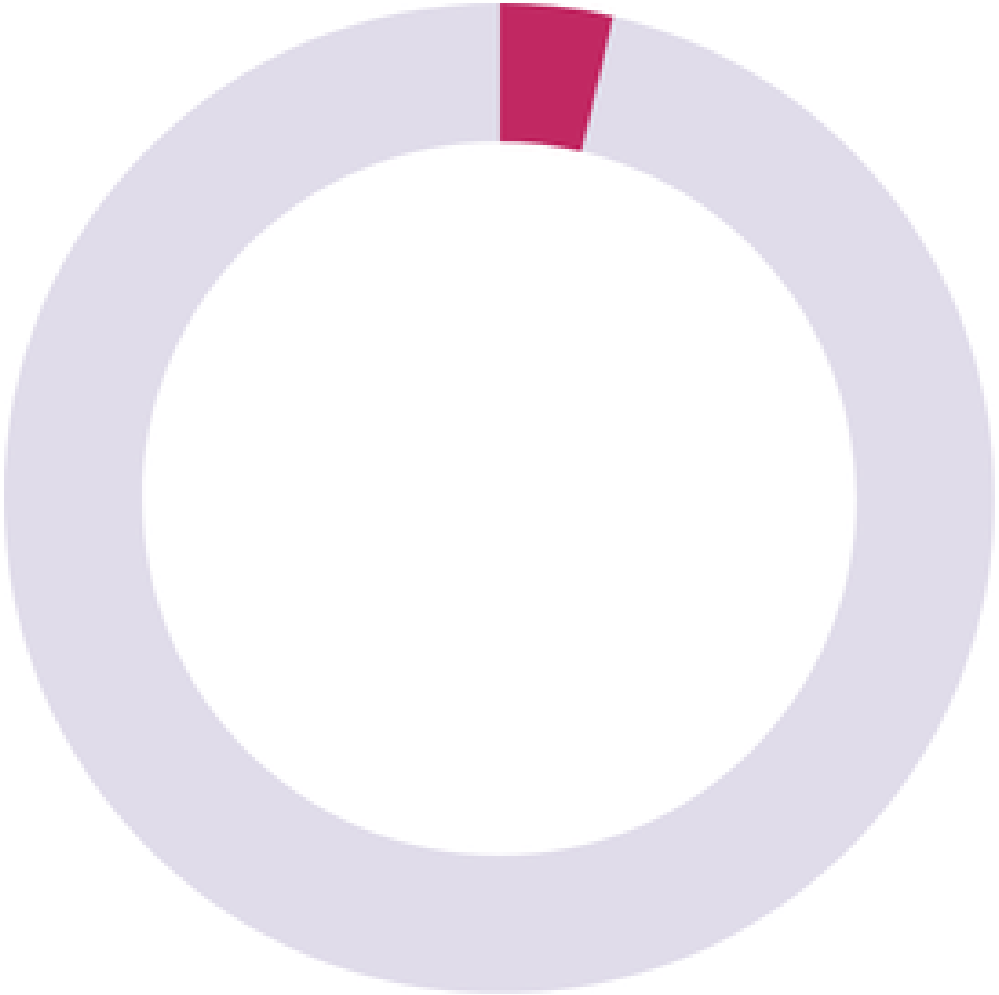
That is called ‘depreciation’.

We have lost £7,557 on depreciation of the van and computers.

Other

£14,435







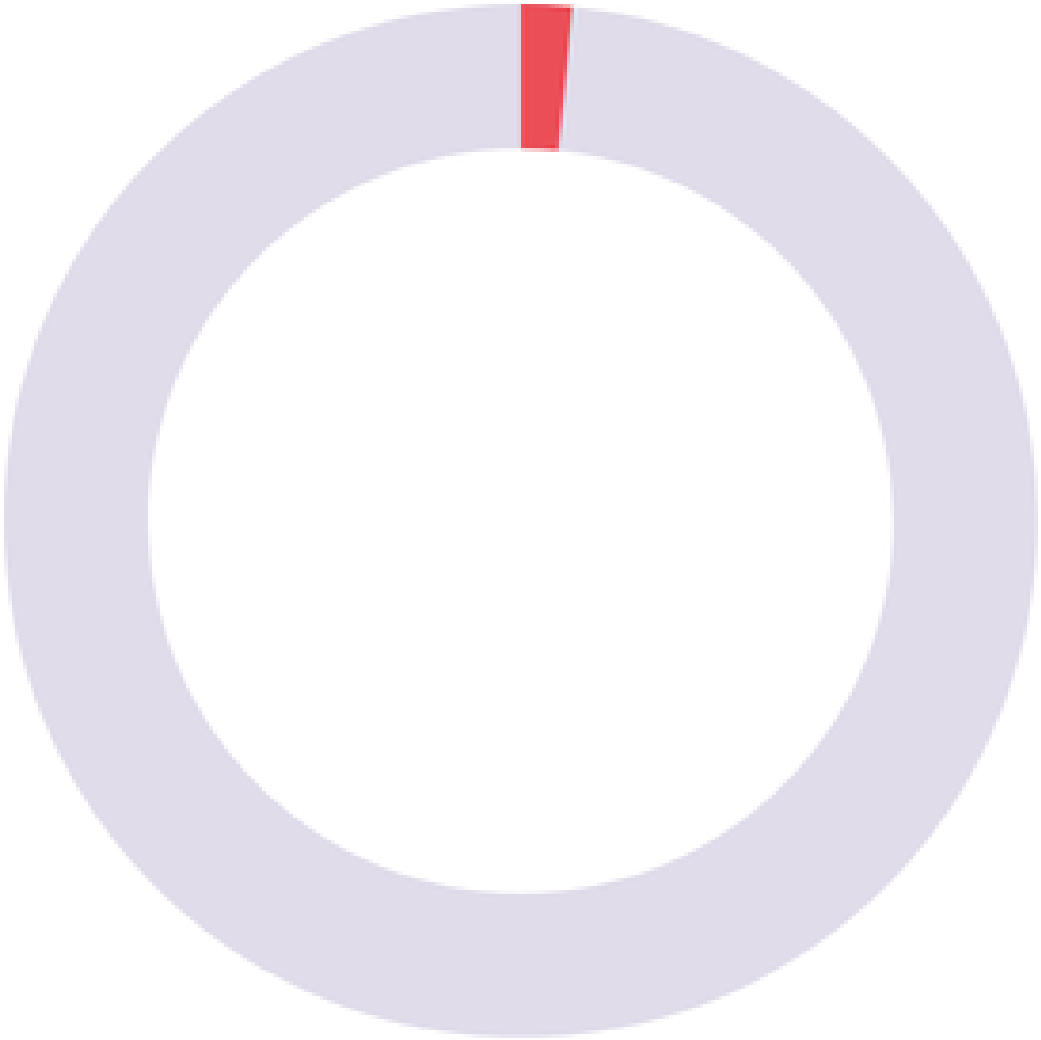
We spent this on other things including:

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

Governance

£6,365







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 **£389,589**.

This is £44,786 more than the year before.

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



The total money that we got was **£427,035**.



The total money that we spent was **£389,589**.



This leaves £37,446. If we add this to what was left over from the previous year, it gives us **£281,814**.

Money left



From the **£281,814** left over, we have:

£10,428 for 'On The Move' (restricted money).



£1,222 left over from the Oliver McGowan training.

£100,000 has been agreed to be kept for emergencies. This is called reserves which is like a savings account.







The Future

Our priorities from our business plan help us to know what we need to work on first.



We want to make sure we have enough money to make sure our ‘keeping safe’ work can keep going.



We need to apply for more money to help our ‘On The Move’ project to keep going and get stronger.

COMMUNITY FUND



We want to get funding to help our DJs stay strong and give them more chances to perform.

We applied to Awards for All for money but did not get it. We will try again from somewhere else.



We need to be better as raising money for the charity. We know it is getting harder to find funding.



We hope our training will be like a business and bring in money.



We know we ask a lot of our staff and volunteers.

We need to make sure we are also taking care of them. They need to have enough support and training.



We want to get more members!

We think more people should know about People First Forum and the good work we do.





We want to make sure we are reaching lots of different groups of people, for example people from:

- the LGBT+ community,
- minority ethnic groups,
- people from different religious backgrounds
- Younger people

We also have lots of exciting meet ups planned!



Coffee and catch up
Thursday 7th January

Pier to Pier walk
Tuesday 19th January



Canvas drip painting
Wednesday 27th January

Ask us for more details!