

Company registration number: 02524320
Charity registration number: 1004114

**CUMBRIA LAW CENTRE
STRATEGIC REPORT, TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Cumbria Law Centre Contents

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**Cumbria Law Centre
Reference and Administrative Details
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

Trustees	Mrs Laura Rutherford Mr John Nicol Dr John Masson Mrs Vivienne Lewis Mr John Hunston Ms Michelle Wright
Charity Number	1004114
Company Number	02524320
Principal Address	8 Spencer Street Carlisle Cumbria CA1 1BG
Registered Office	8 Spencer Street Carlisle Cumbria CA1 1BG
Independent Examiner	Jonathan Miller FCA DChA Seavor (South Cumbria) Limited Chartered Accountants 12 The Office, Mardale Road Penrith Cumbria CA11 9EH
Bankers	Virgin Money 82 English Street Carlisle Cumbria CA3 8HP

Cumbria Law Centre
Company No. 02524320
Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

The Law Centre is established for the following purposes:

(i) to afford those without or lacking access to advice, information or education the ability and opportunity to protect and defend their legal rights and entitlements and to obtain redress for wrongs they have suffered.

(ii) the advancement of education amongst persons resident or working in the benefit area.

(iii) the advancement of such other charitable purposes as are beneficial to the persons resident or working in the benefit area.

Our purpose is to provide free, easily accessible legal services to local people. Our emphasis is on combating poverty, oppression and social exclusion.

We hope, through the use of legal means, to achieve social change for the better.

Strategies for achieving objectives

Cumbria Law Centre endeavours to service those who work or live in Cumbria, though funding across the country varies. As a Law Centre, our emphasis is on tackling difficulties of poverty and oppression, and we make a priority of addressing the needs of those who cannot access legal help from private solicitors, and those who find it difficult for other reasons of exclusion to access services.

We deliver our core initial legal advice in three ways:

- Telephone advice line (01228 515129) open to any resident of Carlisle, Allerdale, Copeland and Eden for advice on any weekday morning. We receive up to 30 new queries every day.

- Working in partnership with organisations such as Eden Housing Association including appointments at their premises and home visits. Home visits have grown as a key way of accessing vulnerable clients.

- We conduct in-depth casework to a specialist level in the following areas of law: housing, employment, welfare benefits, debt. Our casework activity is funded chiefly through our contract with the Legal Aid Agency.

Achievements and Performance

Review of activities

As ever, running Cumbria Law Centre remains a major challenge but recent years have been made a little bit easier due to the support and understanding of some significant funders. Cumberland Council remains a staunch supporter and funder and, along with Indigo Trust and Access to Justice Foundation, we have been able to finish two consecutive years with a small operating surplus and therefore restore to some extent the deficits of previous years. We have also been able to seek funds specifically to help with some essential improvements of the building and most of those were well underway or even finished by the time the financial year ended. They largely amounted to 'first aid' helping us to improve our working environment for staff and clients and also fixing some key problems like failing windows and floor joists. We have also managed some upgrade of IT systems, and this has helped us to prepare for more modern, 'paperless' ways of working which will make us more efficient and more data secure.

Our core work has been plentiful, and we have been at capacity in most areas of law throughout most of the year. But this has been a good year of development in terms of the staff team, our premises and the general funding picture.

Our performance against objectives:

Key aim - To sustain front line advice and casework services in housing, employment, welfare benefits, debt and any other areas for which funding is available.

Main objectives for the year were:

Service Delivery

1) Succeed in performing new Legal Aid housing contract covering general housing, early help and court duty – Fully achieved - both secured and all LAA audits passed.

2) Develop our funded housing work in complex cases including certificated work – Fully achieved - we have continued to develop complex and casework requiring specialist legal defences.

3) Develop delivery of employment law and potential for charging for services - charging review to be carried out by September 2024 – partly achieved – we have successfully developed some work in the area of settlement agreements.

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**Cumbria Law Centre
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

Review of activities - continued

4) Retain our cooperation with Eden Housing Association concentrating on the most specialist advice – not achieved – this excellent project finally came to an end but has helped thousands of clients to the tune of over £7million in vital financial gains in its lifetime.

5) Secure funding and being work on upgrades and redecoration of our building – fully achieved - work began on building improvements toward the end of the financial year.

6) Continue to improve legal services in housing as well as developing supervisory and management options – fully achieved.

7) Deliver housing law in a more county-wide way, including connecting people with specialist services in the south of the county – partly achieved – we continue to offer services at Barrow court but there is always more to be done in supporting people in that area.

8) Ensure compliance with Lexcel Standards - Fully achieved - an excellent report with no significant non-compliances and many areas of good practice was attained.

Finance/Funding

1) Set and achieve a budget that represents a surplus across the years 2024-2027 – Fully achieved so far.

2) Secure Lottery funding for building work and enhanced services or equivalent funding – not achieved but this was because other funding became available and was more suitable for this project.

3) Secure continued funding from Cumberland and attempt to regain funding in Westmorland and Furness areas - partly achieved – our support from Cumberland Council continues but we have yet to make progress with Westmorland and Furness.

4) Cash position at end of 2025 to be at least £200k including 3 months' operating costs in free reserves – Fully achieved.

5) Bid for 'Improving Outcomes' grant - Fully achieved and our bid was successful.

6) Achieve full cost recovery in all possible funding bids – Fully achieved - evidenced by both our recent recruitment and simultaneous growth of reserves.

Governance

1) Support ManCo's development, governance work and recruitment – co-opt two new members to Manco before AGM in Nov 2024 – Fully achieved.

2) Manco strategic review – Partly achieved during this period but further work is set to take place in November 2025.

Outreach

1) Further develop links and referral activity with local private practice – partly achieved – our interaction with private practice continues to help clients address multiple and complex issues but a dearth of affordable family and immigration law in the county represent real challenges.

2) Develop initiative to promote the centre to the public and develop membership as a result – Not achieved - other objectives took priority and since we have been at capacity in all areas of law, promotion to the public was not seen as urgently required.

3) Continue volunteer programs with students and individuals and explore further links with University of Cumbria – Fully achieved – the volunteer programme goes from strength to strength with Cumbria and several other universities regularly bringing students to experience law Centre life.

In conclusion

The Centre continues to do all it can to excel in its core areas of housing, debt, welfare benefits and employment but also looks outward at how we might be able to better support clients in other developing issues. Meanwhile, we continue to develop our staff with our two newest recruits Gareth and Dan heading towards qualification as a solicitor and becoming a 3-year-qualified solicitor and legal aid supervisor respectively. Dan has also been on the future leadership development course funded through the Improving Outcomes Through Legal Advice fund (ILTA). This has been an excellent project so far and represents not only a great success in our fundraising but is also a wide-ranging project helping grantees to develop and strengthen their Centres as well as helping hundreds of new clients.

It has also been pleasing that we have managed to raise sufficient funds to begin a programme of improvements on our building and our IT infrastructure making the Centre a more pleasant place to be as well as improving our efficiency and readiness for the future.

We are also bringing in new and energetic people to our Management Committee, and this should stand us in good stead for the year to follow.

Our casework services remain free to the client but of extremely high quality, passing Lexcel audits with flying colours as well as the various audits and reviews of the Legal Aid Agency. These represent no small achievement for an organisation of our size and funding.

Finally, as ever, we would like to thank those who have contributed to us financially during 2024/25, namely:

Cumberland Council
Access to Justice Foundation
The Legal Aid Agency
Indigo Trust

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**Cumbria Law Centre
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

Review of activities - continued

We sincerely appreciate your help and understanding of our work and our needs, and we could not serve our community without your support.

As we do every year, we have also produced a small volume of case studies that go some way to describing the difficulties faced by our clients, our work in response and the help provided to us by our volunteers.

We really encourage you to read that in conjunction with this report and attached accounts to understand the human and legal aspects of our work better. It will be available electronically via our website and Facebook page from the date of our AGM or you can email petemoran@cumbria-law.org.uk to have a copy sent to you. The stories told in there are important and often very moving.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

In order to enable the uninterrupted service of the charity, free reserves equivalent to three months of the total unrestricted expenditure should be maintained. If the level of free reserves falls below this level, the trustees and management committee will be informed at the first available meeting and action shall be decided upon to obviate any risk to service.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Principal Funding Sources

The Law Centre's chief sources of income are the Legal Aid Agency, Eden Housing Association and the local authorities, Carlisle City Council and Copeland Borough Council. The Management Committee are grateful to all three local authorities for their continuing support for the Law Centre's vital work. In this financial year the Law Centre has also benefited from funds received from Indigo Trust and The Big Lottery as well as Cumbria Community Foundation. In order to sustain all of the Law Centre's activities, additional funding is required, and the current business plan contemplates successful bids for new funding over the next few years. We continue to work hard to find alternative sources to help us continue as much of our provision as possible.

Principal Risk and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Material Investments Policy

Cumbria Law Centre operates in accordance with the powers detailed within its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Cumbria Law Centre is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on the 20 July 1990. The Memorandum and Articles of Association comprise the governing document, as updated in November 2022.

Trustee Selection Methods

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Memorandum of Association. Under the Law Centre's Articles of Association the Trustees are known as the management committee. The committee is re-elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Law Centre seeks to ensure that its management committee is representative of the communities that it serves.

**Cumbria Law Centre
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

Induction and Training of Trustees

The Law Centre recognises the need for its management committee members to be familiar with the work of the organisation. The Law Centre runs an annual Staff and Trustee training day and arranges other in-house training to meet identified needs. Trustees are also encouraged to attend external training to develop their skills and to keep their knowledge current. An annual budget is set aside for Trustees' training.

Organisational Structure

There shall be no fewer than five, nor more than thirteen members of the Trustees (management committee). Following the amendments to the Constitution made in 2014, Trustees are no longer drawn from particular organisations but are chosen from the community on their own merits following open recruitment.

Related Parties

There are none to declare.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

The major risk to which the charity is exposed is the financial risk of lack of committed long term core funding. While the charity is funded by the Legal Aid Agency (formerly the Legal Services Commission), or by service level agreements with local authorities, the provision of services is always dependent upon the goodwill and continued support of these bodies. The trustees have been active in ensuring that the requirements of the ongoing Legal Aid Agency contracts have been met by staff. This has been a key piece of work during this period.

In order to mitigate the risk, the management committee through the Head of Centre seeks to meet all contract and agreement targets, and to negotiate continued realistic funding, which will allow service provision and the Law Centre to meet its constitutional objectives.

Trustees' indemnities

The charity has insurance that provides an indemnity for a trustee against any liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by them in relation to the charity.

Members' liability

The Members of the Charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the Charity in the event of winding up.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Cumbria Law Centre for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statement 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 the financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at anytime the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Cumbria Law Centre
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

J R Nicol

Mr John Nicol

Trustee

11 November 2025

Cumbria Law Centre
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Cumbria Law Centre
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Jonathan Miller FCA DChA
11 November 2025
SeavorChartered
Chartered Accountants
12 The Office, Mardale Road
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 9EH

Cumbria Law Centre
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	610	-	610	189
Charitable activities:	4				
Legal Services		23,589	-	23,589	34,179
Grants		344,299	161,994	506,293	480,357
Investments	5	3,371	-	3,371	688
Other	6	4,625	-	4,625	1,799
		<u>376,494</u>	<u>161,994</u>	<u>538,488</u>	<u>517,212</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:	8				
Legal Services		(258,925)	(161,824)	(420,749)	(334,995)
NET INCOME		<u>117,569</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>117,739</u>	<u>182,217</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>117,569</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>117,739</u>	<u>182,217</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>161,104</u>	<u>105,042</u>	<u>266,146</u>	<u>83,929</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	18	<u><u>278,673</u></u>	<u><u>105,212</u></u>	<u><u>383,885</u></u>	<u><u>266,146</u></u>

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Cumbria Law Centre
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure
Account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	3	189	-	189
Charitable activities:	4			
Legal Services		34,179	-	34,179
Grants		297,664	182,693	480,357
Investments	5	688	-	688
Other	6	1,799	-	1,799
		<u>334,519</u>	<u>182,693</u>	<u>517,212</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities:	8			
Legal Services		(240,158)	(94,837)	(334,995)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>94,361</u>	<u>87,856</u>	<u>182,217</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>94,361</u>	<u>87,856</u>	<u>182,217</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		<u>66,743</u>	<u>17,186</u>	<u>83,929</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	18	<u><u>161,104</u></u>	<u><u>105,042</u></u>	<u><u>266,146</u></u>

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**Cumbria Law Centre
Statement of Financial Position
As At 31 March 2025**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	14	8,579	-	8,579	9,768
		8,579	-	8,579	9,768
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	15	12,302	-	12,302	9,672
Cash at bank and in hand		278,912	105,212	384,124	267,116
		291,214	105,212	396,426	276,788
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	16	(21,120)	-	(21,120)	(20,410)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		270,094	105,212	375,306	256,378
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		278,673	105,212	383,885	266,146
NET ASSETS		278,673	105,212	383,885	266,146
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				105,212	105,042
Unrestricted Funds				278,673	161,104
TOTAL FUNDS	18			383,885	266,146

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

On behalf of the board

J R Nicol

Mr John Nicol

Trustee

11 November 2025

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**Cumbria Law Centre
Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash generated from operations	1	113,637	175,838
Net cash generated from operating activities		<u>113,637</u>	<u>175,838</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		-	(2,314)
Interest received		3,371	688
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities		<u>3,371</u>	<u>(1,626)</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>117,008</u>	<u>174,212</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2	<u>267,116</u>	<u>92,904</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	2	<u><u>384,124</u></u>	<u><u>267,116</u></u>

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. Reconciliation of income to cash generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income	117,739	182,217
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Interest income	(3,371)	(688)
Depreciation of tangible assets	1,189	2,012
<i>Movements in working capital:</i>		
Increase in trade and other debtors	(2,630)	(6,415)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other creditors	710	(1,288)
Net cash generated from operations	113,637	175,838

2. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, as stated in the Statement of Cash Flows, relates to the following items in the Balance Sheet:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	384,124	267,116

3. Analysis of changes in net funds

	As at 1 April 2024	Cash flows	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	267,116	117,008	384,124

Cumbria Law Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. General Information

Cumbria Law Centre is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 02524320 and registered charity number 1004114. The registered office is 8 Spencer Street, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1BG.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2.3. Incoming Resources

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4. Resources Expended

Expenditure is 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. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £NIL or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold	10% reducing balance
Property improvements	17% reducing balance
Fixtures & Fittings	20% reducing balance
Computer Equipment	20% straight line

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

2.6. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

2.7. Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2.8. Provisions and Contingencies

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.9. Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.10. Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Donations and gifts	610	189

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

4. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025
	£	£	Total funds
			£
Legal Services	23,589	-	23,589
Grants	344,299	161,994	506,293
	<u>367,888</u>	<u>161,994</u>	<u>529,882</u>
			2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Legal Services	34,179	-	34,179
Grants	297,664	182,693	480,357
	<u>331,843</u>	<u>182,693</u>	<u>514,536</u>

Grants, included above, are as follows:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025
	£	£	Total funds
			£
Cumberland Council	125,200	-	125,200
Eden Housing Association	-	-	-
The Indigo Trust	160,100	-	160,100
Access to Justice Foundation	53,999	161,994	215,993
Other grants	5,000	-	5,000
	<u>344,299</u>	<u>161,994</u>	<u>506,293</u>
			2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Cumberland Council	90,100	-	90,100
Eden Housing Association	-	25,000	25,000
The Indigo Trust	155,000	-	155,000
Access to Justice Foundation	52,564	157,693	210,257
Other grants	-	-	-
	<u>297,664</u>	<u>182,693</u>	<u>480,357</u>

5. Investment Income

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	<u>3,371</u>	<u>688</u>

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

6. Other Income

2025	2024
Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
£	£
4,625	1,799

Other income

7. Net Income/(Expenditure)

The net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

2025	2024
£	£
1,188	2,013

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned

8. Analysis of Expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly (see note 9)	Support costs (see note 10)	2025
	£	£	Total
			£
Legal Services	355,105	65,644	420,749

	Activities undertaken directly (see note 9)	Support costs (see note 10)	2024
	£	£	Total
			£
Legal Services	294,822	40,173	334,995

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

9. Direct Costs

	2025 Legal Services £
Employee costs:	
Wages and salaries	291,416
Employers NI	22,662
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	14,571
Travel and subsistence expenses	2,426
Premises expenses:	
Premises costs	4,993
General administration:	
Equipment leasing	4,506
Legal and professional costs	10,422
Training expenses	2,921
Depreciation:	
Depreciation	1,188
	355,105
	355,105

	2024 Legal Services £
Employee costs:	
Wages and salaries	244,009
Employers NI	17,710
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	12,208
Travel and subsistence expenses	2,440
Premises expenses:	
Premises costs	1,839
General administration:	
Equipment leasing	4,675
Legal and professional costs	7,329
Training expenses	2,599
Depreciation:	
Depreciation	2,013
	294,822
	294,822

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

10. Support Costs

	2025 Legal Services £
Premises expenses:	
Light and heat	7,424
Repairs and maintenance	18,075
General administration:	
Computer software costs	4,941
Insurance	5,610
Printing, postage and stationery	7,891
Telephone	6,189
Accountancy fees	1,875
Legal fees	9,237
Bank charges	59
Sundry expenses	4,343
	65,644
	65,644
	2024 Legal Services £
Premises expenses:	
Light and heat	5,622
Repairs and maintenance	5,549
General administration:	
Computer software costs	5,793
Insurance	1,871
Printing, postage and stationery	5,248
Telephone	4,530
Accountancy fees	2,108
Legal fees	7,260
Bank charges	28
Sundry expenses	2,164
	40,173
	40,173

11. Independent Examiner's Remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £1,625 (2024 - £1,550).

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

12. Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	291,416	244,009
Social security costs	22,662	17,710
Other pension costs	14,571	12,208
	<u>328,649</u>	<u>273,927</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

13. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Charitable staff	3	2
Support staff	7	7
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

14. Tangible Assets

	Land & Property				
	Freehold	Property improvements	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
As at 1 April 2024	81,310	21,020	44,557	18,909	165,796
As at 31 March 2025	<u>81,310</u>	<u>21,020</u>	<u>44,557</u>	<u>18,909</u>	<u>165,796</u>
Depreciation					
As at 1 April 2024	75,702	20,651	43,254	16,421	156,028
Provided during the period	561	63	261	304	1,189
As at 31 March 2025	<u>76,263</u>	<u>20,714</u>	<u>43,515</u>	<u>16,725</u>	<u>157,217</u>
Net Book Value					
As at 31 March 2025	<u>5,047</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>1,042</u>	<u>2,184</u>	<u>8,579</u>
As at 1 April 2024	<u>5,608</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>1,303</u>	<u>2,488</u>	<u>9,768</u>

15. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Prepayments and accrued income	4,032	3,678
Other debtors	8,270	5,994
	<u>12,302</u>	<u>9,672</u>

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

16. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	9,260	8,676
Other creditors	3,688	3,688
Taxation and social security	6,297	6,496
Accruals and deferred income	1,875	1,550
	21,120	20,410

17. Pension Commitments

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

During the year the charge to the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £14,571 (2024: £12,208).

At the statement of financial position date contributions of £NIL were due to the fund.

18. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	161,104	376,494	(258,925)	278,673
Restricted funds				
Restricted	105,042	161,994	(161,824)	105,212
Total funds	266,146	538,488	(420,749)	383,885
	As at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	66,743	334,519	(240,158)	161,104
Restricted funds				
Restricted	17,186	182,693	(94,837)	105,042
Total funds	83,929	517,212	(334,995)	266,146

19. Transactions with Trustees

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity during the current or previous year.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

20. Related Party Disclosures

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

Cumbria Law Centre
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

21. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.