



Next Chapter Scotland SCIO Trustees' Annual Report

1st November 2024 to 30th October 2025

Charity contact information

Next Chapter Scotland SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC052899

Website: www.nextchapterscotland.org.uk

Telephone number: 07591 339 618

Email address: info@nextchapterscotland.org.uk

Objectives and activities

Next Chapter Scotland exists to help anyone in Scotland who has been involved with the criminal justice system to navigate the stigma and discrimination that they can face throughout their lives.

We established in 2022 and became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2023.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a future society in which everyone is treated equally for who they are in the present and no one's future is defined by their past.

Our Mission

Our mission is to help people in Scotland who have been involved with the criminal justice system to navigate the stigma and discrimination they can face.

Who we support

We support:

- People who have a criminal record
- People under investigation for a crime
- Family members of the above groups

Our Key Messages

- We help people to navigate the personal, financial, emotional and social consequences for them or their family members of having a criminal record or of being under investigation for a crime.
- We commit to giving honest, non-judgemental help to anyone facing any kind of criminal investigation or after any kind of conviction. This includes their family members.
- We put people's lived experiences at the heart of everything we do.

- We gather knowledge about what impact these consequences have on people, families and communities by listening to people with lived and direct experience.
- We know that people who have a criminal record or are being investigated for a crime face stigma. We share insights about how that causes exclusion and discrimination of people in our society.
- We advocate for effective, balanced and informed change in our criminal justice system in order to create a better and safer society.
- We do not seek to rewrite the past but use our understanding of the present to create a better future for everyone.

Culture

As an organisation, we pride ourselves on our human-focused culture. As a team we value:

- Integrity
- Courage
- Individual difference
- Person-centredness
- Diversity
- Humour and lightness
- Being open and honest
- Our non-judgemental approach
- Collaboration

We care about helping people – both on an individual level and by tackling systemic injustice.

In communicating with external stakeholders, we strive to be:

Brave *and* Balanced
 Honest *and* Hopeful
 Informed *and* Inquisitive
 Professional *and* Passionate
 Accepting *and* Agitating

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution

Trustee recruitment and appointment

We are run by a Board of Trustees made up of at least 50% people with a criminal record or a close family member of someone with a criminal record. We made this commitment because we believe that people who have lived through the experience should be at the heart of any changes that will improve their lives and the lives of their peers.

Achievements and performance

Headlines for 2024-25

Share clear and accessible information to help people to navigate the stigma and discrimination they can face

Our helpline service, that originated as an information, advice and signposting service, has now expanded to include much needed advocacy for those people facing the most complex of circumstances. Our new advocacy service launched on the 1st September and the demand is already outstretching our capacity.

- In the last 12 months we have supported 290 people via our helpline (324 since it launched).
- Over 16,000 website visitors (over 24,000 since we launched) and 29,000 page views.
- In the last 12 months we have provided support across 45 outreach venues, connecting with over 2,500 people.
- Our Listening Ear service combats isolation by matching people with a volunteer who can give them a safe space to talk, once a week. We currently have 8 matches underway.

Our Advocacy Project will begin accepting referrals in early 2026. There is a vacuum in Scotland: once your criminal law solicitor has supported you through to sentencing, there is no-one to then support you through any rights violations you might face whilst undertaking your sentence. We want to go some way towards filling that gap.

Bring people together to foster hope and amplify voices

Through our Amplifying Voices project we have heard the experiences of **over 300 people**, from 29 of the 32 local authority areas in Scotland. 12 themes were identified from the data:

Mental health and trauma
Physical health
Finances and employment

Stigma
Racism
Impacts on families

**Navigating the justice system
Effective representation and
advocacy
Accountability**

**Person-Centredness
Moving On
Speaking Up and Lived Experience**

Our final report, entitled 'What is the Point?: The Human Impact of Scotland's Justice System' not only fills key knowledge gaps around the true effects of the criminal justice system, but serves as a call to action by making a series of recommendations which would make real changes to people's lives.

Over the course of the year we have helped people to be heard by the Scottish Government in relation to Scotland's Anti-Racism Observatory, National Justice Social Work Standards and Outcomes, Sentencing and Penal Policy Commission and the National Care Service Charter of Rights. We have also shared data with Police Scotland on why people feel unable to make formal complaints. Additionally, we have facilitated lived experience input into a number of pieces of academic research.

In the last year, we have established a Research Ethics Committee (REC) with four academics from academic institutions across the UK. The role of the REC is to ensure that all of our research activities place the safety and wellbeing of participants at their core. At present we are undertaking research into the Moorov Doctrine and human rights breaches in the community.

Support people to challenge discrimination

We have developed and launched two training courses:

- **Defend Your Rights!** - This skills-based course takes a human rights-based approach to supporting people to support themselves. The course helps participants to: understand their rights; know how to defend their rights when they are at risk of being violated; and develop their assertiveness and self-advocacy skills. (In person and online)
- **Surviving the Storm** - The UK's first and only course designed specifically for people with a conviction for a sexual offence, written by people who've been there. A rights-based manual to surviving life after conviction for a sexual offence. (Online)

Help to breathe life into the ideas that people have of how to improve 'the system'

Over the past year, we have done the groundwork for a number of projects that have come directly from people who have been involved with the criminal justice system:

- A podcast
- Support for people to become self-employed
- An employability trading arm

We hope to bring these projects to fruition over the coming year.

Operational development

We currently have seven Trustees (including our CEO), five of whom have lived experience of the criminal justice system.

Our team has expanded to include 6 part-time, paid team members, amounting to approximately 1.8 FTE.

We have supported student placements from the University of the West of Scotland, the University of Strathclyde, the University of Stirling, the University of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian University. We value the contribution student's make to our team as they both increase our capacity significantly and also bring with the fresh views and insights that never fail to contribute to our overall development as an organisation.

Our volunteers support almost every aspect of our work:

- Listening Ear project
- Legal support
- Social media
- Advocacy
- Media liaison
- Speaking Up and Speaking Out
- Trustees

We are so very grateful for their time and dedication. We intend to expand our volunteer offering even further in 2026, introducing volunteer roles within our helpline team.

During the year we worked with a communications consultant to develop a Communications Plan and developed a new strategic plan for 2026 – 2029. Our new Strategic Plan includes the following priorities:

1. Providing clear and accessible information, signposting and advocacy to support people to navigate stigma and discrimination and defend their rights.
2. Promoting wellbeing by fostering hope and tackling isolation.
3. Bringing people together to amplify their voices.
4. Undertaking research that places the human experience at its centre.
5. Challenging stigma through influencing and advocacy.
6. Developing the charity into a sustainable, resilient organisation.

Financial review

Funders

We are incredibly grateful to our funders for their financial support. The breakdown of the funds received can be viewed later in the Accounts.

Donors

We are also unendingly thankful to those individuals and organisations who have chosen to make donations to the charity. We are so grateful, not only for the financial support but also for their solidarity with our aims.

Reserves

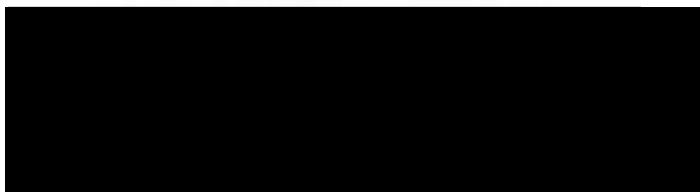
At present our reserves policy covers our essential costs (including insurance, webhosting, bank fees and independent examination of accounts). This figure currently amounts to £1,100.

We currently have these reserves protected.

Over the coming 12 months we intend to increase this figure to cover both the match funding requirements of The National Lottery Community Fund – Fairer Life Chances grant and also developing redundancy liability now that our staff are approaching 2 full years of employment.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name



Designation


Chair

Date

02/11/2025

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2					
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name	Next Chapter Scotland Scio					
	Registered charity number	SC052899					
	On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date	
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	11	2024	to	31	10	2025
Set out on pages							(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</p>						
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.</p>						
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations <p>have not been met, or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 						
Signed:					Date:	14 November 2025	
Name:	Dr Elisabeth Loose						
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Former treasurer of a charity						
Address:	2/1						
	38 Dudley drive						
	Glasgow, G12 9SA						

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose**

Next Chapter Scotland SCIO

SC052899



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	11	2024		31	10	25

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	2,907				2,907	2,195
Legacies					-	6,374
Grants	8,500	70,495			78,995	63,526
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading receipts					-	-
Gift Aid	314				314	22
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	5,254				5,254	-
Other (refunds etc)	28				28	50
A1 Sub total	17,003	70,495	-	-	87,498	72,167
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	17,003	70,495	-	-	87,498	72,167
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	35				35	16
Gross trading payments					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	15,436	74,324			89,760	16,949
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	120				120	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
A3 Sub total	15,591	74,324	-	-	89,915	16,965
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,591	74,324	-	-	89,915	16,965
Net receipts / (payments)	1,412	(3,829)	-	-	(2,417)	55,202
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds	1,684	(1,684)			-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	3,096	(5,513)	-	-	(2,417)	55,202

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	7,183	48,019			55,202	
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	3,096	(5,513)			(2,417)	55,202
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	10,279	42,506	-	-	52,785	55,202
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	Independent Examination of Accounts	Unrestricted	120	120
		Total	120	120

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-


Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name

Date of
approval

	02/11/2025

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	
--	--

Authority under which paid

£

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Chief Executive paid as per Clause 42A of the constitution	8,240

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	
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C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£
Travel and subsistence	1	598

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
		0	0

C6 Other information

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Next Chapter Scotland SCIO

SC052899

Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Total	-	-	-	-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Wages - employees	6,843	31,961			38,804	5,134
HMRC	-	1,576			1,576	243
Pension	-	1,289			1,289	171
Staff costs - contractors	3,207	17,274			20,481	350
Lived Experience compensation	283	1,936			2,219	120
Fundraising	-				-	249
Travel and subsistence	64	2,449			2,513	110
Room hire	857	75			932	1,069
Advertising	504	4,595			5,099	194
Telephone / Software	337	766			1,103	3,346
Website	264	4,600			4,864	1,146
Equipment	511	340			851	144
Stationery	100	48			148	3,272
Accessibility	-	964			964	67
External event costs (venue hire, catering)	307	39			346	9
Design / Print / Postage	80	1,455			1,535	-
Internal Transfer	-				-	139
Training	927	1,365			2,292	-
Payroll costs	-	300			300	-
Professional fees	-				-	-
Engagement partners / hosts	-	900			900	571
Insurance	670				670	480
Recruitment	-				-	45
Bank fees	72				72	-
Board costs	-				-	30
Other	92	1,570			1,662	-
Independent Examination	-				-	60
Memberships	50	316			366	-
Volunteer Expenses	-				-	-
Training Delivery Expenses	176				176	-
Trustee Travel Expenses	92	506			598	-
Total	15,436	74,324	-	-	89,760	16,949

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted	Foundation Scotland	Noel Buxton Trust	Robertson Trust Wee - Grants 1	Robertson Trust - Wee Grants 2	The Inverclyde Trust	Stafford Trust	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts									
Donations	2,907							2,907	2,195
Legacies								-	64
Grants		500	3,000			2,000	3,000	8,500	6,500
Receipts from fundraising activities								-	-
Gross trading receipts								-	-
Gift Aid	314							314	22
Rents from land & buildings								-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	5,254							5,254	50
Other	28							28	
Sub total	8,503	500	3,000	-	-	2,000	3,000	17,003	8,831
Receipts from asset & investment sales									
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets								-	
Proceeds from sale of investments								-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,503	500	3,000	-	-	2,000	3,000	17,003	8,831
Payments									
Expenses for fundraising activities	35							35	17
Gross trading payments								-	
Investment management costs								-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	4,651	500	4,500	500	1,017	1,692	2,576	15,436	3,483
Grants and donations								-	
Governance costs:								-	
Audit / independent examination	120							120	
Preparation of annual accounts								-	
Legal costs								-	
								-	
Sub total	4,806	500	4,500	500	1,017	1,692	2,576	15,591	3,500
Payments relating to asset and investment movements									
Purchases of fixed assets								-	
Purchase of investments								-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,806	500	4,500	500	1,017	1,692	2,576	15,591	3,500
Net receipts / (payments)	3,697	-	(1,500)	(500)	(1,017)	308	424	1,412	5,331
Transfers to / (from) funds	1,684							1,684	1,852
Surplus / (deficit) for year	5,381	-	(1,500)	(500)	(1,017)	308	424	3,096	7,183

Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds have primarily been used to support helpline and outreach activities and raise awareness of the charity.

Next Chapter Scotland SCIO

SC052899

Additional analysis (3)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	The National Lottery Community Fund - Fairer Life Chances	The National Lottery Community Fund - Strengthening Organisations	Allen Lane Foundation	The Clothworkers Foundation	The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All	The National Lottery Community Fund - Improving Lives	The Hidden Charitable Fund	The Weavers' Company Benevolent Fund	The Volant Charitable Trust Small Grants Programme	Scottish Government - Anti-Racism Community Engagement Fund 2024	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts												
Donations											-	
Legacies											-	6,310
Grants	26,793	15,245	5,362	4,600	9,995	-	6,000	2,500	-	-	70,495	57,026
Receipts from fundraising activities											-	-
Gross trading receipts											-	-
Income from investments other than land and buildings											-	-
Rents from land & buildings											-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities											-	-
Sub total	26,793	15,245	5,362	4,600	9,995	-	6,000	2,500	-	-	70,495	63,336
Receipts from asset & investment sales												
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets											-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments											-	-
Sub total												
Total receipts	26,793	15,245	5,362	4,600	9,995	-	6,000	2,500	-	-	70,495	63,336
Payments												
Expenses for fundraising activities											-	-
Gross trading payments											-	-
Investment management costs											-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	4,308	10,340	1,001	4,600	8,231	29,528	5,089	4,147	3,330	3,750	74,324	13,465
Grants and donations											-	-
Governance costs:											-	-
Audit / independent examination											-	-
Preparation of annual accounts											-	-
Legal costs											-	-
Sub total	4,308	10,340	1,001	4,600	8,231	29,528	5,089	4,147	3,330	3,750	74,324	13,465
Payments relating to asset and investment movements												
Purchases of fixed assets											-	-
Purchase of investments											-	-
Sub total												
Total payments	4,308	10,340	1,001	4,600	8,231	29,528	5,089	4,147	3,330	3,750	74,324	13,465
Net receipts / (payments)	22,485	4,905	4,361	-	1,764	(29,528)	911	(1,647)	(3,330)	(3,750)	(3,829)	49,871
Transfers to / (from) funds						(434)				(1,250)	(1,684)	(1,852)
Surplus / (deficit) for year	22,485	4,905	4,361	-	1,764	(29,962)	911	(1,647)	(3,330)	(5,000)	(5,513)	48,019
Nature and purpose of funds												
The National Lottery Community Fund - Fairer Life Chances: Individual and Collective Advocacy												
The National Lottery Community Fund - Strengthening Organisations: Development of materials to strengthen the organisation												
The Allen Lane Foundation: Women's advocacy												
The Clothworkers Foundation: Development of an e-learning platform												
The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All: Helpline Co-Ordinator												
The National Lottery Community Fund - Improving Lives: Support the delivery of a 12 month pilot of our Amplifying Voices project												
The Hidden Charitable Fund: Support the delivery of our support helpline												
The Weavers' Company Benevolent Fund: Support the delivery of our sexual offences support helpline												
The Volant Charitable Trust Small Grants Programme: Support the delivery of our women's support helpline												
Scottish Government - Anti-Racism Community Engagement Fund 2024: Support engagement activities with people who have experienced racism												