social care
institute for excellence

Collaborating and innovating in social care to improve lives

Annual report and financial statements 2025/26

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About SCIE

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is an independent social care charity, collaborating and innovating with a wide range of partners and people with lived experience, to improve people's lives. Working across social care, health and related services such as housing, for adults, children and families, we contribute to the development and implementation of better care, support and safeguarding at local and national level.

As we are not-for-profit, our income goes towards improving social care, delivered through our four offers: innovative **consultancy**, expert **training**, extensive **resources** and information, and evidence-based **insights**. Co-production with people with lived experience underpins and informs what we do, and with over twenty years' experience we bring a wealth of trusted, evidence-based expertise to work together to help transform care.

> "... [SCIE's] approach to sit down with partners and engage through dialogue really sets the gold standard."

The Right Honourable Stephen Kinnock MP
Minister of State for Care

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Chief Executive's report

This year has reinforced for me the extraordinary commitment, innovation and impact that exists across social care, often in organisations working closest to their communities.

Our first-ever Social Care Impact Awards were created to identify, recognise and reward small organisations doing exceptional work, while giving something back to a sector that gives so much. Through free consultancy, training and support, we have been able not only to celebrate excellence but also to help organisations build on their impact and share their learning more widely. The winners and finalists demonstrated what is possible when innovation, lived experience and care come together. This work speaks directly to our charitable purpose: improving the lives of people who draw on care and support by helping turn evidence, learning and good practice into better outcomes.

We have also continued to demonstrate how SCIE's evidence, expertise and relationships with the sector can influence national policy. Our work in the Autumn of last year highlighted that reform of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) cannot be allowed to stall while pressures on the system continue to grow. This formed the basis of an evidence-led campaign, which highlighted that the failure to act on long-delayed reforms to the MCA is contributing to preventable deaths, unlawful detentions and growing human rights concerns. The consultation on Liberty Protection Safeguards was announced shortly after by the Government.

That same influence can be seen elsewhere: SCIE's co-production guidance and housing toolkits have been referenced in the Government's statutory guidance for councils preparing Local Supported Housing Strategies. We continue to work with councils both through providing guidance and resources for all and targeted direct support helping improve and transform adult and children's social care. Last year, as part of our DHSC-funded continuous improvement contract, highlights included developing insights and understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with digital transformation and AI adoption and support to create housing strategies. We worked with councils receiving a Requires Improvement CQC rating in key areas such as co-production, safeguarding and strengths-based practice. I'm proud of the breadth of our consultancy support – from major digital transformation programmes and commissioning strategies to co-production support and designing and implementing new practice models and service pathways, we have helped improve outcomes and promoted independence while also driving efficiencies and building capacity across services.

Through our work with Think Local Act Personal (TLAP), we are also supporting improvement locally - working with ADASS to embed co-production regionally and helping local authorities use the 'Making It Real' framework to demonstrate good outcomes and experiences of care as part of CQC assurance. These are important examples of the role SCIE can play: using evidence, partnership, co-production and our connection to frontline practice, to help shape national policy and turn it into meaningful improvement.

It is clear that we cannot wait for wholesale reform before acting on the challenges people experience today. Social care remains too complex and uneven, with access, quality and outcomes varying significantly depending on where people live.

Our work on national standards of care has sought to move the debate from abstract reform towards practical application: establishing a consistent baseline of care while protecting the flexibility needed to respond to people and communities locally. More than 100 people from across the sector joined the Westminster launch of our 'Towards a National Care Service: raising national standards of care' report, and we are building on that momentum through engagement with parliamentarians, sector leaders and the Casey Commission.

Alongside this, our new Care Equity Evidence Hub brings together research, data and practice evidence, so that policymakers, commissioners and practitioners can better understand and address persistent inequities in social care. The Hub's contents bring to light how the care system has affected people with different life circumstances and multiple disadvantages. Tackling these inequities will require policies that focus on more than geographic disparities.

There may be no single or immediate route to reform, but there is much we can do now: convene the sector, build the evidence, test ideas in practice and ensure that people with lived experience are at the heart of designing what comes next. That is the contribution SCIE will continue to make – helping create a social care system that is more consistent, more equitable and more confident in its potential.

Best wishes



Gerard Crofton-Martin
SCIE Interim Chief Executive

Chair's report

This has been a year of transition for SCIE

We have said farewell to Kathryn Marsden as our CEO and Paul Burstow as our Chair and begun the process of leadership change. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Kathryn and Paul for their commitment, energy and contribution to SCIE over recent years.

I am pleased to say a few words about taking up the role of SCIE Chair in July 2026. I am very grateful for the generosity of time and experience Paul has shared with me for the last period, as well as the support and patience of the Trustees and senior staff. I was involved in the debates around the founding of SCIE in 2003 in the House of Lords, so it feels like coming in full circle to be Chair of this great, respected charity.

We have not only a new Chair, but also an Interim CEO Gerard Crofton-Martin – the appointment process for the permanent CEO started in September 2026 – and we have welcomed three new Trustees. I want to thank Gerard for all his support as I settle into my new role. We work closely together and I value Gerard's wealth of experience from overseeing innovation and improvement for our charity. I am delighted to join him in playing a central role to champion our mission, ensuring that people who draw upon care and support remain at the heart of everything we do. As referred to by Gerard, a key contribution over the last year has been our work with The Access Group, to convene sector-wide thinking on national standards of care, which will underpin the Government's National Care Service. Our 'Towards a National Care Service: raising national standards of care' report, is the culmination of a co-produced four-part roundtable series exploring how practical, credible national standards could improve people's day-to-day experiences of care. As recent events have shown, the timing of this report could not have been more appropriate.

It was particularly encouraging to hear the then Minister for Care, Stephen Kinnock MP, recognise the importance of this work at our launch event. At a time when large-scale reform across health, housing and care is fast-moving, this work is a reminder that progress will also depend on the infrastructure of improvement: shared expectations, lived experience, evidence, leadership and a collective commitment to better outcomes for people. For more than 20 years, SCIE has worked with local authorities, care providers, people with lived experience and government to improve practice, spread innovation and support the implementation of national priorities; we stand ready to work constructively to help shape policies that are practical, deliverable and focused on improving people's lives.

The best Annual Reports not only look back over the last year but also forward to the coming year or even years. I take on this role with a strong sense of optimism about SCIE's future and the prospects ahead of us – our period of transition coincides with that of the environment in which we operate: the Casey Commission, NHS reform and the 10-Year Plan, Local Government Reorganisation and the changing nature of local government more broadly. These offer challenges but also important opportunities for SCIE to help the sector innovate and learn to improve the lives of adults and children.

Throughout my career, I have seen the importance of bringing people together around a shared purpose.

Whether in government, Parliament or organisations focused on social innovation and community impact, I have learned that lasting improvement is achieved through collaboration, evidence and a genuine commitment to understanding people's lived experiences.

These principles are at the heart of SCIE's work. SCIE has deep experience of bringing a wide range of partners together throughout social care to collaborate, innovate and improve, developing practical solutions, sharing learning and strengthening practice. Our partners include TLAP, whose role in advancing co-production, personalisation and the voice of people with lived experience remains central to SCIE's work.

We are in a strong position: financially robust, strategically focused, widely respected and a trusted part of the social care system's infrastructure. SCIE remains focused on continuing a steady path to maintain momentum on the work that matters most, safeguarding our financial position, supporting morale and continuing to deliver the highest-quality work for partners, funders and most importantly people who draw on care and support.

Together, we can continue to strengthen the evidence base, enhance partnerships and ensure that social care enables people to live fulfilling and independent lives.



Baroness Glenys Thornton
SCIE Chair of the Board

Who we are and what we do

We are an independent social care charity working with a wide range of partners and people with lived experience, to improve people's lives.

Our purpose

We collaborate and innovate in social care to improve lives.

Our vision

A society which enables people who draw on social care to live fulfilling lives.

Our mission

To support best practice, shape policy and raise awareness of the importance of social care, working together.

Our strategic objectives

- Embed co-production and the voice of people with lived experience in the design and delivery of care and support services, policy and research
- Drive innovation and improvement in social care
- Influence and support implementation and delivery of better policy
- Improve safeguarding skills, knowledge and practice

From over 20 years' experience, we bring a wealth of trusted, evidence-based expertise to work collaboratively to help transform care. Our staff – former practitioners in social care, researchers, experts in training – bring immense depth of expertise and passion for the cause, based on frontline work, using the best available knowledge and evidence about what works in practice.

We translate this into expert advice, guidance and resources, that we share through support, partnerships and collaboration across social care, health and housing. As we are not-for-profit, our income goes towards improving social care.

Our four main offers are:

scie consultancy

Your not-for-profit partner, working with you to identify and implement improvements.

scie insights

Research, evidence and policy insights to drive improvements and innovation, and influence national policy and practice.

scie training

Bespoke online or face-to-face learning and development including safeguarding, co-production, and strengths-based approaches.

scie resources

Guidance and tools to support best practice, co-production and innovation.

Our impact

We measure our impact across our consultancy, insights, training and resources offers in a number of ways. Here is a snapshot of our impact:

93%

of respondents said that using SCIE services had given them a clearer understanding of best practice

89%

of respondents said that using SCIE services had improved their confidence and skills on relevant topic/s

84%

of respondents said that using SCIE services had helped them improve their services or practice

Sector reach

Through our consultancy, insights, training, and resources we support all those who work in social care, from local authorities to care providers, government departments and NHS bodies to a wide range of social care practitioners.



3.4m

website visits



117k

subscribers to our newsletter SCIELine



3.5k

training delegates across all courses



310

Press and media mentions



2.9k

e-learning course delegates



354,500

sector contacts

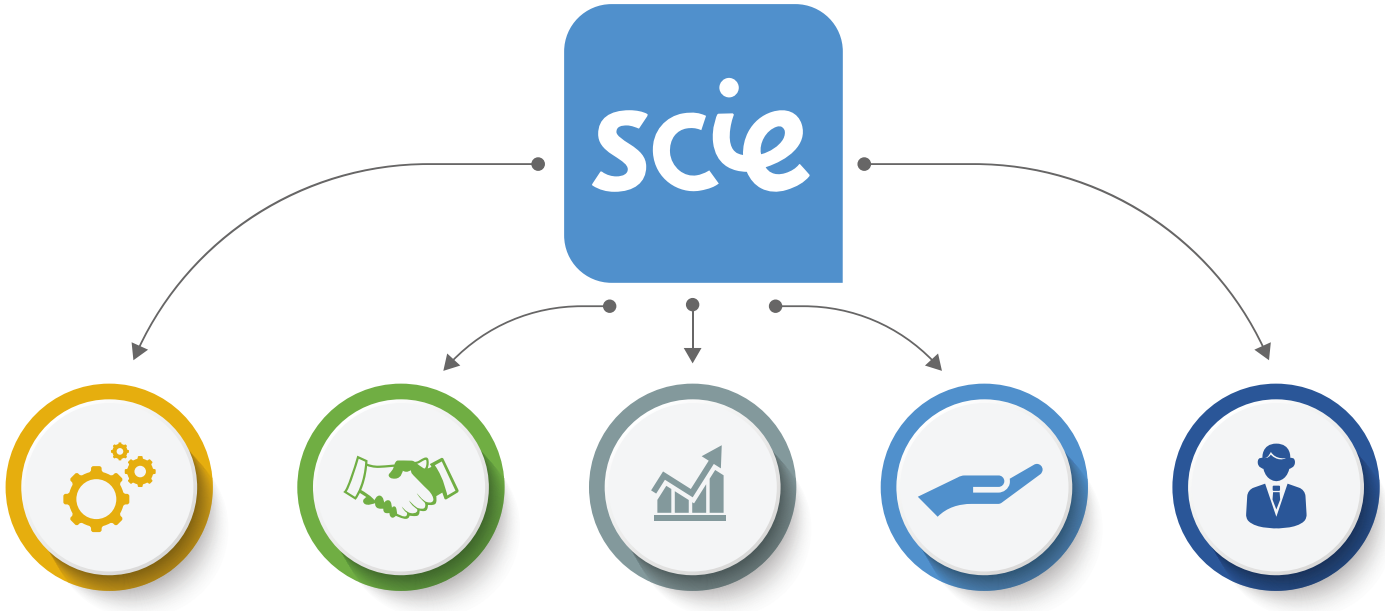


67k

social media followers

Our values

Living our values is critical to driving the culture we need to successfully deliver our strategic ambitions.



Progressive
Always learning and developing

Inclusive
Working together for equality, diversity and fairness

Credible
Evidence-based, robust and reliable

Transparent
Open and honest

Committed
Focused on making a difference to people's lives

Our people

Our people are our biggest asset – they bring immense depth of expertise and passion for the cause, based on frontline work and years of broad experience. We cannot deliver our purpose without them, and we recognise the importance of every single person's contribution. Together we are stronger.

We regularly seek the views of our team recognising that those closest to an activity are often the people with the best ideas. We have a variety of ways for staff to share their views and make suggestions on things that we can do better. This includes our **Employee Forum**.

Our annual engagement survey, showed that in 2024/25 **93% of survey respondents reported that SCIE was a good place to work**. The data and insight gained from the result help to drive continuous improvement.

Importantly we work closely with our recognised union, **Unite**.

This year we have made great progress with our **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** delivery plan. We have co-produced an EDI vision with an accompanying set of principles that are aligned to our organisational values. Alongside this there has been other activity such as updating our EDI related policies. **96% of annual survey respondents reported that they trusted their line manager to treat all employees equally regardless of their age, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender**.

Reflections on our achievements

Across the year SCIE has been providing innovative consultancy, expert training, extensive resources and information and evidence-based insights for the continual improvement of social care.

Reflecting on the past 12 months gives us the opportunity to review what we have learnt and what has worked best and most effectively.

Digital innovation

The publication of SCIE's independent 'Embracing change: scaling innovation in social care in practice' report highlighted key learnings and best practice so far from the over 120 innovative projects funded by the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF), for which we provided hands-on support.

With lessons that can hasten sector-wide advancement and help integrate innovation as a fundamental component of business-as-usual, the report showcases projects offering a diverse and exciting evolution of innovation in adult social care, with particular potential to support unpaid carers, who are so urgently in need. It includes recommendations for policymakers and social care leaders, from local to national.

Longer term, we will continue to consider what a good innovation system should look like, working with other interested parties to map out innovation journeys, share learnings and develop support to help make innovation part of business as usual.

To find out more about SCIE's ongoing scaling innovations work please read 'The Accelerating Reform Fund: what's next?' an article by SCIE's Lauren Westerman, Practice Development Consultant.

Co-production

Innovation is essential to the reform and sustainability of social care, but it only works when built in partnership with those who draw on, provide and support care. SCIE's report 'Shaping change together: co-producing innovation in social care' shows that co-production (working in equal partnership with people who draw on care and support, carers and frontline staff) is vital to making new ideas work in practice. The report shares findings from SCIE's 2025 Co-producing Innovation in Social Care Survey, which explored how co-production supports innovation, how collaboration works best in practice and what helps, what barriers persist and how, done well, it can deliver genuine improvement for people's lives.

Insight Improvement Survey

In December 2025 we ran our Insight Improvement Survey to gather valuable insights from across social care to shape our services, ensuring we help you improve social care and people's lives as effectively as possible. We are very grateful to have had over 1,800 responses, providing important learning for our future work.



Policy roundtables and national standards of care report

Social care in England is characterised by marked variation in access, experience and quality. Despite a strong statutory framework, people's access to support, the quality of care they experience and the outcomes they achieve continue to vary significantly depending on where they live and how local systems operate. For many people who draw on care and support, this results in inconsistency, insecurity and unmet need, while unpaid carers often shoulder the financial, emotional, social and physical costs.



As such, the Government's commitment to reform adult social care through the creation of a National Care Service underpinned by national standards of care comes at a critical moment. While there is widespread recognition of the need for greater consistency, fairness and quality, there remains a lack of shared, operational expectations that consistently translate established values and statutory principles into people's day-to-day experiences of care and support.

In response, and following the launch of the Casey Commission, SCIE, with support from The Access Group, convened a series of policy roundtables to explore how national standards of care could form the basis for system reform. Bringing together over 80 policymakers, commissioners, providers, people who draw on care and support, unpaid carers and researchers, the roundtables examined what national standards can realistically achieve, the problems they are best placed to address and the conditions under which they are most likely to support meaningful improvement.

Drawing on these discussions and wider evidence, we published our report 'Towards a National Care Service: raising national standards of care' in January 2026, which was launched in Parliament, where we were joined by key parliamentarians, including the Minister for Care, Stephen Kinnock MP, decision-makers and sector stakeholders.

The report sets out a phased approach to developing national standards of care, with an initial focus on priority challenges in social care and areas of interface with health, where variation in access, experience and outcomes is most acute. It proposes starting with a small number of high-impact touchpoints, while supporting a shift towards prevention and early intervention and strengthening data and system intelligence.

With the Government clear that national standards will underpin the ambition for a National Care Service, the next phase of SCIE's work will focus on what is needed to turn standards into sustained improvement.

> "I welcome SCIE's contribution to the debate."
>
> **The Right Honourable Stephen Kinnock MP,**
> Minister of State for Care

SCIE's first Social Care Impact Awards

You care, we care

The social care sector is a collective of all shapes and sizes but one thing that is common to us all is that we care. Consequently, as a charity SCIE was privileged to be able to launch its very first Social Care Impact Awards in 2025. Targeted at small and micro social care charities and not-for-profits, this was an opportunity for SCIE to proudly promote a part of the care sector that is often under-recognised for the amazing work it does in our communities.

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry, we ae delighted to have had so much interest in these awards, and we're proud to be supporting the sector by offering our expert consultancy and training free to the winning organisations.

We are also very grateful for the support of the Rayne Foundation who sponsored one of the two first prizes on offer for the small organisations.

Over the last few months, we have been working with each winner. This experience has been a real window into the challenges and needs that small and micro-organisations face and we have had to pivot and adapt to the circumstances of each winner, learning a great deal in the process. As we approach the end of the delivery phase of our support to the winners we are embarking on an evaluation that will enable us to take this learning and adapt and improve for the next set of these awards. We hope to make further announcements on this later in 2026.



The 2025 winners of SCIE's Social Care Impact Awards

> "Winning the SCIE Social Impact Award for small organisations is an incredible honour for the **Pro-Active Community**. As a small user-led charity, it means so much for our work to be recognised nationally. This award shines a light on the power of lived experience to drive real change."

Spotlight on impact

Your not-for-profit partner, working with you to identify and implement improvements

During 2025/26 SCIE worked with over 35 clients across our local improvement, safeguarding and DHSC-funded work, and in partnership with stakeholders from Partners in Care and Health (PCH), as well as launching a new partnership with leading technology solutions provider Lilli, alongside our ongoing work with TLAP.

> “Using SCIE consultancy on our co-production improvement journey has ensured the principles are embedded in our approach to service re-design.”
>
> **Head of Adult Services, local authority**

Spotlighted project:

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council – CQC improvement support

This forms part of SCIE’s work programme partnering with PCH, funded by DHSC. In July 2025 CQC rated adult social care at Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council as ‘requires improvement’ highlighting underdeveloped co-production.

Aims

- Carry out a baseline review to understand their current state of co-production and provide recommendations for improvement.
- Deliver a rapid programme of support, in particular addressing co-production needs.
- Ensure compliance with CQC requirements as set out in their report.
- Engage the local community in a more proactive, effective way.

Activities

- SCIE provided strategies, plans, data, stakeholder feedback, and communications plan, culminating in a baseline report.
- Working with the Council, SCIE identified and mapped relevant stakeholders.
- We developed a new bespoke co-production knowledge base which provides practical tools and templates to help the council co-produce a clear strategy and plan for improvement.
- Co-production was embedded into policies to sustain progress.

> “It has been very informative hearing from a range of professional and people with lived experience, sharing ideas of best practice to make co-production a core value and not an afterthought.”



Impact and outcomes

SCIE's work has ensured:

- compliance with CQC requirements
- strengthened confidence and shared understanding of what co-production looks like in practice
- more consistent engagement with local residents
- identification of individuals to act as future co-production champions, forming the beginning of a local network.

> "Working in partnership with SCIE has helped us strengthen co-production in Redcar & Cleveland. Together we created strong foundations to fully embed our co-production culture. SCIE's expertise supported us to develop a co-created vision, guiding principles and formalise a co-production steering group. We are proud to work in equal partnership with people with lived experience to make decisions together and create services that work for everyone."
>
> **Key project stakeholder**

Spotlight on impact

Research, evidence and policy insights to drive improvements and innovation, and influence national policy and practice.

We set a priority to speak with an authoritative voice on how we improve people's experiences and outcomes of social care, providing sector leadership and a strong policy perspective.

SCIE stands ready to work with the government and the Casey Commission and other political parties to help establish a long term and sustainable future that will be to the benefit of all citizens and the economy.

> "They [SCIE] bring us expertise of a wide range of partners including people with lived experience. When I was talking to them it was like I was speaking to all the people they had spoken to."
>
> **Policymaker**

Spotlighted project:
The Care Equity Evidence Hub

The issues people with lived experience continually share about their widely varying experiences of getting social care support are well-known. Additionally, there is no easy way for decision-makers to access high quality, synthesised evidence on equity in social care, or to see where evidence gaps remain. Existing resources are fragmented, inconsistent in quality and not tailored for practical decision-making.

To address this clear gap. SCIE therefore gained DHSC funding to produce and create the Care Equity Evidence Hub as a central resource for evidence and analysis on equity in social care. The hub brings together research, data and case studies showing where inequities exist and what can be done to reduce them. It also highlights what works in practice, such as targeted outreach, accessible service design and inclusive commissioning, while making visible where people continue to be left behind.

Throughout this work, we have found areas of insufficient evidence. Designing and evaluating effective, scaleable interventions to address inequity will require further research and sustained policy focus.

> "...having a central place to access up-to-date research is invaluable. The more evidence, successes, challenges, and everything in between is shared openly rather than hidden away, the better it will inform our work."
>
> **Unpaid carer**

Aims

- Provide a centralised, trusted evidence base on equity in social care
- Drive change towards a social care system that treats all individuals equitably, by sharing reliable, synthesised evidence
- Gather research, case studies and data from a range of sources to show how different groups experience and access social care and when barriers exist, for use by social care professionals and decision-makers

Activities

- A shared definition of 'equity' in social care was co-produced with people with lived experience.
- An advisory group comprised of thought leaders, academics and people with lived experience was formed to help steer the project.
- A systematic review of the literature was conducted on equity issues in social care.
- Three topic areas were reviewed in the initial phase: underserved populations, geographical inequities, financial inequities with three additional topics added in the second phase: neighbourhood health, use of technology in care and workforce.
- Evidence was appraised against recognised quality frameworks and content was developed. A platform was launched with stakeholder review and engagement in its early stages www.careequity.org.uk.
- Stakeholder engagement involved 75 individuals across 40 organisations including DHSC, Centre for Care, TSA, LGA, CQC, unpaid carers and people with lived experience.

Impact and outcomes

The Care Equity Evidence Hub enables social care professionals and decision-makers to develop policies and practices that promote fairness and reduce inequity. At pilot stage, stakeholder engagement has already shown the value of this resource in supporting their roles.

> "We started using the Care Equity Evidence Hub last year when [SCIE] first reached out, and have since used evidence to support policy development, brief senior leaders and members...we've found it really useful."
>
> **Local authority**

> "[M]any family carers rely on the right information, but we need to ask ourselves what would we do without SCIE?"
>
> **Unpaid carer**

In the long term, the Care Equity Evidence Hub has exciting potential to move equity conversations and development from principle to practice, helping to build a social care system that genuinely works for all.

Spotlight on impact

Bespoke online or face-to-face learning and development including safeguarding, co-production, strengths-based approaches

During 2025/26 SCIE trained over 3,500 people across our comprehensive portfolio of adults and children's safeguarding, co-production and strengths-based approaches training offers.

> "Thank you so much for the training... I am so pleased with the content that was covered today and the team have been really complimentary about the impact of it on them and how they will use it in their working day."

> "We were very pleased with the training and the positive result we anticipate in terms of service improvements. [SCIE]'s wide knowledge base, approachability, and understanding of the candidates' learning styles were exceptional. We all know that many areas of the MCA can test the patience and focus of candidates mandated to attend; however, it was clear that on several occasions, [SCIE] remained versatile and employed great tactile approaches to keep all participants engaged. Many candidates have expressed that it was a great learning experience."
>
> **Operations Director, Care Provider**

> "I also wanted to share how genuinely impactful the course has been for me. The training has added such richness to my practice, not just in terms of tools and models, but in shifting how I think, analyse, and approach safeguarding reviews. It has been a privilege to be part of a cohort where reflection, curiosity, and honest professional dialogue have been encouraged. I feel this first stage has not only strengthened my technical capability as a reviewer but has genuinely shaped my professional identity in this space. Thank you for the support, teaching and care that has gone into delivering such a thoughtful programme. I'm very much looking forward to the next stage."
>
> **Kristy Atkinson, Founder & Director, KA Safeguarding Solutions**

Spotlighted project:

Introduction to the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) for professionals working with children and young people

We introduced this new online course for those working with children and young people, based on our successful adults open course.

Aims

- Improve professionals' knowledge and understanding of the MCA and DoL process for those aged 10 – 25
- Share learning and best practice and offer the opportunity to network with peers, other organisations and sectors, ensuring the content has relevance and practical application
- Equip a wide range of professionals with essential knowledge and skills to understand and apply the principles of the MCA and Human Rights in daily practice

Activities

- While the MCA and DoLs are well established for adults, they aren't for children and their use has grown significantly in recent years. Taking into account the considerable diversity of needs, we created a new course and ran our first three sessions in 2025.
- Participants were from across the UK and from a wide range of sectors, including children's social workers, police officers, residential support workers, care workers and mental health professionals.
- We collected feedback from our first cohort, now being used to enhance and improve the course materials for next year.
- We held a well-attended workshop session at NCASC 2025 to raise awareness and gather wider views and input to inform this area of our work.

Impact and outcomes

Our evaluation of these interactive sessions found that many felt the process was brought to life beyond the initial learning goals, enabling them to feel confident to take what they learnt back to their organisations and use it in real practice.

- 88% of attendees said the training met their expectations
- 88.2% would recommend this training to another colleague/other organisation
- 82.4% said that the training had the potential to make a positive contribution to their work

> "Understanding why decisions have been made but also being able to professionally challenge situations if needed."

Spotlight on impact

Guidance and tools to support best practice, co-production and innovation

Our recent Insight Improvement Survey of over 1,800 people from our database, found that our resources are a highly-rated service used consistently across our key audiences. We have launched a wide range of resources over the last year such as 'Tackling inequalities in care for people with learning disabilities and autistic people' resources including films and guidance, housing toolkits and a DoLs support tool.

Spotlighted project:

Get me to hospital - when and how to use the Mental Capacity Act to convey a person to hospital for physical health treatment

Decisions about taking people with cognitive impairments to hospital can be complex. They involve thinking about the person's own ability to make decisions.

We based our resources on evidence demonstrating that practitioners struggle to make these decisions. We focused on issues around supporting people under the Mental Capacity Act (MCA), not the Mental Health Act, who are assessed as unable to make their own decision to be conveyed to hospital for physical treatment, and so require a decision to be made for them, in their best interests.

Aims

- Support groups and organisations to assess and report on the impacts of co-production.
- Help address a gap in co-production impact assessment.
- Be relevant and align with local authorities' needs.
- Ensure accessibility for the range of audiences.

Activities

- We created guidance in collaboration with the Stop People Dying Too Young (the LeDeR programme) – Inclusion North, a group of people with lived experience and unpaid carers, as it is important that people affected shape best practice.
- We also held wide-ranging discussions with social workers, paramedics, care providers, nurses, advocates and family members to identify the key areas addressed in this guide.
- We produced an easy read version and are developing an e-learning resource for professionals.

As part of our remit to share learnings across the country, we organised three events (Leeds, London and Birmingham) to explore our guidance and resources and how they relate to everyday practice.

Impact and outcomes

- Launch of the guidance in May 2025 resulted in over 1,700 downloads and over 6,500 page views.
- Nearly 100 people attended the in-person events.

> “...really helpful forum to understand the concerns of the various agencies and ways that they can support each other to make appropriate decisions.”

- 93.6% of attendees said that they will use the guidance to help prepare for situations in the future and 96.8% will share the guidance with others.

> “....(key takeaway)... to take this back to our local MCA task and action group and LeDeR (learning from lives and deaths) group to see how we can share the learning with local challenges.”

> “I thought that you might be pleased to hear that I was doing AMHP training last week, and one of the more senior people there who also does BIA work told me when I was ranting about making sure that people with MH conditions/LD are not left to die that they had used Get me to Hospital twice in the recent past and in both cases had been able to secure admission for a person frightened of going to hospital. You are making a real difference.”
>
> **Alex Ruck Keene KC (Hon), Barrister, 39 Essex Chambers**



Spotlight on impact

Think Local Act Personal (TLAP)

TLAP is a national partnership hosted by SCIE which spans central and local government, social care providers, the NHS, and the voluntary and community sector as well as people with lived experience, through the National Co-production Advisory Group (NCAG) and allies. Together we work to turn the principles of personalisation and co-production into practical change.

‘Making it Real’: from framework to action

Aims

- ‘Making it Real’ is TLAP’s co-produced framework for what good, personalised care and support should look like from the perspective of people who draw on it and people who work within it.
- During 2025/26, TLAP focused on helping councils use ‘Making it Real’ as a practical tool for improvement and assurance. The aim was to bring people who draw on care and support together with council staff and leaders to understand local experience, agree priorities and co-produce improvements.

Activities

TLAP has been focusing on a new model of strategic co-production through the creation of Local Authority Making it Real Boards. These boards use the ‘Making it Real’ “I” statements to help people who draw on care and support, council staff and leaders review services together and co-design improvements.

Following engagement with early adopters, TLAP recruited an initial cohort of councils interested in establishing their own Making it Real Boards. A national Making it Real Boards Community of Practice was subsequently launched, creating a space for councils to exchange learning, share challenges and support one another in embedding co-production within local improvement activity.

TLAP also worked directly with Bromley Council to revitalise its approach to co-production. Through a series of facilitated workshops, residents and council staff co-designed a Making it Real Evaluation Tool to help assess the quality and impact of local co-production activity.

In Nottinghamshire, TLAP supported a large-scale programme of engagement to inform the review of the council’s adult social care strategy. More than 400 residents participated through a combination of local events, focus groups and targeted engagement with marginalised communities. The work also included training local facilitators, helping to build sustainable capacity for future co-production.

Alongside this local improvement work, TLAP has continued to partner with the Care Quality Commission, people with lived experience and sector partners to embed ‘Making it Real’ within the national assessment frameworks. This year we co-produced new “Well-Led” leadership principles. These principles focus on shared purpose, curiosity and learning, trust and shared power, to help shape approaches to local authority assurance.

Impact and outcomes

The work is helping establish 'Making it Real' as a practical foundation for co-produced improvement across adult social care.

By the end of the year:

- new councils were actively establishing Making it Real Boards, with further areas seeking support
- a national Community of Practice had been established to support learning and spread innovation
- Bromley Council had developed and begun testing a co-produced Making it Real Evaluation Tool
- more than 400 people contributed to Nottinghamshire's strategy review, many participating in social care engagement activity for the first time
- local authorities reported increased confidence in using co-production to shape services, improved relationships with citizens and were able to identify priorities for change.

Why this matters

'Making it Real' provides a shared language for understanding quality through the experiences of people who draw on care and support. During 2025/26, TLAP helped move the framework beyond aspiration and future thinking into practical use today, supporting councils to work with lived experience as a driver of improvement rather than a consultation exercise.

By bringing together citizens, practitioners and leaders to identify what matters most and co-design solutions, TLAP's 'Making it Real' is strengthening trust, improving relationships and helping ensure that adult social care reform remains grounded in people's lives and experiences.

> "Direct payments can appear complicated, this information simplifies the process."

> "Completing the modules has definitely provided me a better understanding – and I feel more confident about sharing this information with people."

> "Very user friendly and easy to understand."

Future priorities

Thank you to all of our partners, collaborators, stakeholders and charitable supporters over the last year, it has been a privilege to work with you all.

In 2026/27 we look forward to continuing to work in partnership and collaboration with you. Do please get in touch if you would like to know more about the projects and activities we are planning.

Priority	We will…
Embed co-production Embed co-production and the contribution of people with lived experience in our work; the design and delivery of care and support services; in policy and in research to better meet people's needs	• Expand our capacity to support our clients and sector partners with co-production and within SCIE through a new team and enhanced offers • Ensure the voices of people with lived experience are influencing the policy work of the Casey Commission and government • Co-produce an innovation project to support Technology Enabled Care (TEC) companies to embed co-production into the design and development of technology enabled care solutions • Use our research, convening activity and Co-production Week, to position equity as a central theme in adult social care reform, ensuring that forthcoming policy, not least the recommendations of the Casey Commission, explicitly addresses structural inequalities

Priority	We will…
Drive innovation Drive innovation and improvement in social care to deliver better outcomes for children and adults who need care and support	• Continue to deepen our partnership with Partners in Care and Health (PCH) to provide an ever more joined up and user-centred service providing the greatest impact to Councils • Develop plans to bring new products to market in the following areas of need: commissioning, local government reorganisation, digital transformation, care equity and leadership training

Priority	We will...
Better policy Influence and support implementation and delivery of better policy to improve the lives of people accessing care and support	• Showcase approaches to increase system capacity, leading discussion groups to contribute and gather insights on sector challenges, innovations, relationships and good practice • Support national policy development and implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) • Maintain our Care Equity Evidence Hub to ensure content remains current, accessible and aligned to policy and practice needs • Monitor and report on the influencing activities of people with lived experience, including at government round tables, NCASC and the national commissioners conference

Priority	We will...
Safeguarding Improve safeguarding skills, knowledge and practice to keep children and adults safe and support their social wellbeing	• Deliver a new safeguarding adults reviewers (SARs) accreditation training product. • Deliver a key new DHSC project supporting transitions from children's services to adults' services through the provision of targeted new guidance, resources and support

Priority	We will...
Organisational development Organisational development and infrastructure ('enablers')	• Support smooth governance transition between the outgoing and incoming leadership positions, and new Trustees • Embed our new operational approach, monitoring and capturing the benefits of the change

social care
institute for excellence

Governance report
2026



Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of SCIE for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Each of the Trustees confirms that:

- so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- The Trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s.418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of 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.

SCIE's Board of Trustees

Up to 15 people are able to sit on SCIE's Board of Trustees. At the time of this report, the Board has 10 members, including its Chair. In the event of the Charity being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

New Trustees are elected by existing Trustees and serve for a term of three years before retiring from office. Retiring Trustees can be nominated to serve a second consecutive term provided that no Trustee serves more than two consecutive terms of office, except with the unanimous support of all the other Trustees.

Constant regard is paid to the skills mix of the Trustees to ensure that they have all the necessary skills required to contribute fully to the Charity's development.

On agreeing to become a Trustee of the Charity, the Trustees are thoroughly briefed by their co-Trustees on the history of the Charity, the day-to-day management, the responsibilities of the Trustees, the current objectives, and future plans. The Trustees are also encouraged to attend any courses which they feel are relevant to the development of their role, and to keep up-to-date on any changes in legislation.

The Board of Trustees is supported by an Audit and Risk Committee, a Nominations and People Committee and a Policy and Research Committee, which meet throughout the year.

The Audit and Risk Committee is established by the Board to make recommendations, provide oversight and assurance in respect of the Charity's financial integrity, transparency and effective risk management. The Committee oversees the accuracy and reliability of the Charity's financial reporting as well as evaluating the adequacy of internal controls. The Committee plays a pivotal role in maintaining accountability, good governance and the long-term sustainability of the Charity.

The Nominations and People Committee is established by the Board to make recommendations, provide oversight and assurance in respect to the Charity's arrangements for appointing and assessing the contribution of Trustees, including the Chair and Hon Treasurer. The Committee also provides the Board with assurance in respect of the Charity's people strategy and processes.

The Policy and Research Committee is established by the Board to make recommendations and provide oversight and assurance in respect to the Charity's strategic objectives regarding innovation and improvement in social care. The Committee also provides assurance to the Board on the Charity's influencing and research objectives.

The following Trustees were in office at the time this report was approved and served throughout the year, except where shown:

Trustee	Appointed Resigned	Audit & Risk Committee	Nominations & People Committee	Policy & Research Committee
Rt Hon Paul Burstow (Chair)	Resigned 17 July 2026			Member
Baroness Glenys Thornton (Chair Elect)	Appointed 23 March 2026, serving as Chair from 1 July 2026			Member
Rachel Armitage		Member	Member	
Sudha Bharadia	Appointed 1 August 2026	Member		Member
Georgia Chimbani	Resigned 30 June 2026			
Zoe Gould	Resigned 26 January 2026			Member
John Grosvenor (Treasurer)	Resigned 10 August 2026	Chair		
Zoe Hallam		Member		
Sean Holland	Resigned 2 September 2025		Member	
Margaret Lally (Vice Chair)				Chair
Adele Leighton	Appointed 1 August 2026	Member	Member	
Dean Okereke	Appointed 1 August 2026			Member
Isaac Samuels	Resigned 24 September 2026			
Brett Terry			Chair	

Company Secretary	Gerard Crofton-Martin
Interim Chief Executive	Gerard Crofton-Martin
Registered and principal office	Social Care Institute for Excellence Isosceles Head Office One High Street Egham TW20 9HJ E: info@scie.org.uk W: www.scie.org.uk
Company Registration Number	04289790 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration Number	1092778
Auditor	HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street London EC4R 1AG
Banker	Barclays Bank plc Public Sector Team Level 27 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP

This annual Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Charities Act 2011 and constitutes a directors' report as required by the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements for the year to 31 March 2026 have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 42 to 45 of the financial statements and comply with the Charity's memorandum and articles of association, applicable laws and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Structure

The Chief Executive and Strategic Leadership Team staff attend and provide reports to regular meetings of the Board of Trustees. This enables the business of the Board, including strategy, development and governance, to be undertaken collaboratively and in accordance with good practice. The Chief Executive manages the day-to-day activity with assistance from senior executives.

Through involvement of staff representatives, circulation of papers and staff meetings, there is wide communication of board discussions and decisions to staff members.

Key management personnel

The key management personnel are the Trustees together with the Chief Executive and the Strategic Leadership Team. Payments made to Trustees are set out above with all such payments being approved by the Board, those receiving such payments absenting themselves from such approval.

The pay grade for every role at SCIE is externally evaluated by an independent reward consultant to ensure pay equity.

Charitable objectives

As set out in our memorandum and articles of association, SCIE's objective is the 'relief of need arising from youth, illness, disability, old age or poverty, by the review, provision and dissemination of knowledge of, and guidelines for, good practice, and other information, to persons who use, work in or are otherwise involved in social care'.

Income generation

SCIE raises income from statutory, earned and voluntary fundraising sources.

SCIE complies with the best practice advised by the Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator and utilises a donation acceptance policy to support its ethical collaboration statement.

No external professional fundraisers work on behalf of SCIE. During the year, the Charity received no complaints about its fundraising activity.

All areas of income generation are supported by an Ethics Committee to ensure adherence to the Charity's values.

Environmental social and governance

SCIE continues to take a more strategic approach to the implementation of social value and its policies and reporting within the Charity.

We have in place a social value policy, a modern slavery and human trafficking statement and a carbon reduction plan.

We will continue to challenge our ways of working and be conscious to minimise our environmental impact while pursuing our goals: https://www.scie.org.uk/about/carbon-reduction-plan/.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Our vision

We will create a culture of continuous learning relating to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) that generates trust, meaningful activities and dialogue-creating approaches that nudge us towards a fair, transparent and inclusive organisation.

Our principles – guided by our SCIE values

- **Progressive** – we are on an EDI journey and seek to learn and continuously improve
- **Inclusive** – we aim to model inclusion and ensure accessibility through our policies, processes and work
- **Credible** – we will monitor our progress annually and acknowledge where we are and plan our next steps for the year ahead
- **Transparent** – we will include EDI in our internal communications promoting good work and recognising what needs doing
- **Committed** – we will deliver our EDI action plan and engage with our employees to ensure its relevance.

Co-production Network

The Co-production Network and Co-Production Steering Group involves people who draw on care and support and family carers in shaping and influencing SCIE's work. Meeting regularly through the year to focus on its work programme, priorities, and performance from diverse lived experience, the SCIE Co-Production Steering Group advises on co-production and inclusion, including how to embed co-production within SCIE. The approach taken to co-production and inclusion is based on the social model of disability and adopts a rights-based approach. Members from the Co-Production Network are involved in SCIE projects, events and activities to ensure that SCIE's work is informed by lived experience.

Key risks

The Audit and Risk Committee regularly review the strategic risk register and have identified key risks and their mitigation. These include:

- Monitoring financial sustainability to ensure that our expenditure does not exceed our income. This risk is mitigated by careful budget management, planning, forecasting and credit control management.

- Monitoring internal controls and procedures to ensure they are effective. This risk is mitigated by regularly reviewing and testing internal controls and by closely liaising with staff to obtain their feedback (within the financial year, SCIE recorded successful internal audits covering procurement and value-for-money and income recognition and banking).

- Having a robust and effective cyber security strategy in place to protect our infrastructure, assets, staff and clients. This risk is mitigated by the appointment of a virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) who works closely with the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and Head of IT, Systems and Data Governance.

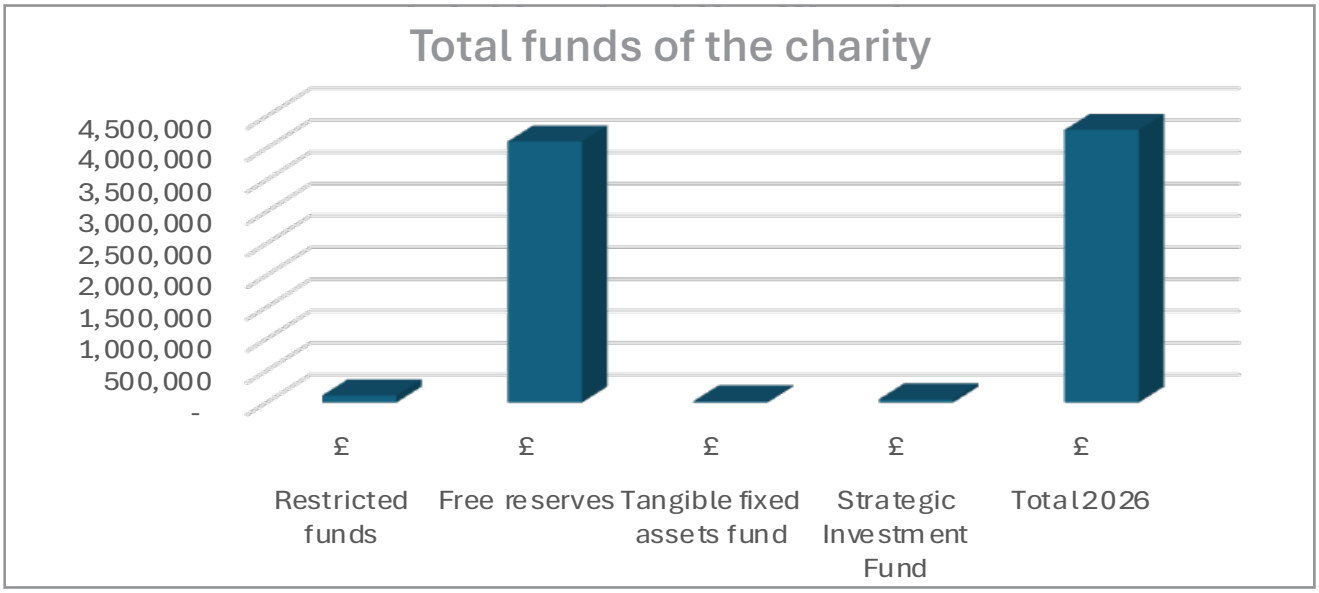
- Ensuring full compliance with our legal, financial and data protection responsibilities. This risk is mitigated by undertaking regular reviews, for example at the Audit and Risk Committee and Board meetings. SCIE has also appointed an external data protection advisor, who undertakes an annual audit to review SCIE's ongoing compliance with data protection legislation.

Financial overview

2025/26 has been a year of continued delivery and strategic investment for SCIE, building on a period of financial recovery and operational surpluses achieved in recent years.

For the year ended 31 March 2026, SCIE reports a net deficit of £782,546, reflecting a transition in the organisation's income profile alongside continued delivery and planned investment. Total income for the year was £4.55 million, compared to £6.20 million in 2024/25. This reduction reflects the completion and scaling down of major externally-funded programmes, particularly DHSC's ARF work that drove higher income levels in the prior year.

Total expenditure for the year was £5.34 million (2024/25: £5.55 million), broadly consistent with prior year levels as SCIE maintained delivery across its core activities and continued to invest in organisational priorities. The deficit in the year therefore reflects a transition in SCIE's income profile, with a reduction in major programme funding compared to 2024/25, alongside continued delivery across core activities and planned strategic investment. SCIE has chosen to utilise its reserves to support this transition, maintaining capacity, capability and impact while positioning the organisation for future income opportunities. This represents a controlled and strategic deployment of resources.



The balance sheet shows total funds to be in credit by £4,288,174 at 31 March 2026 (2025 credit of £5,070,720). At this date, restricted funds amounted to a surplus of £111,011 (2025 surplus of £196,232).

These monies have either been restricted for use on specific projects or they comprise donations subject to donor-imposed conditions. Full details of these restricted funds can be found in note 12 to the financial statements together with an analysis of movements in the year. £19,838 (2025 – £33,508) of the total funds is represented by tangible fixed assets held in unrestricted funds.

SCIE's remaining general funds (being unrestricted funds excluding tangible fixed assets are 'free reserves' and total £4,157,325 at 31 March 2026 (2025 – £4,840,980).

SCIE received its income from two principal sources – grants and fees and commissioning income. It spent its money on charitable activities delivering projects and meeting contracts and agreements.

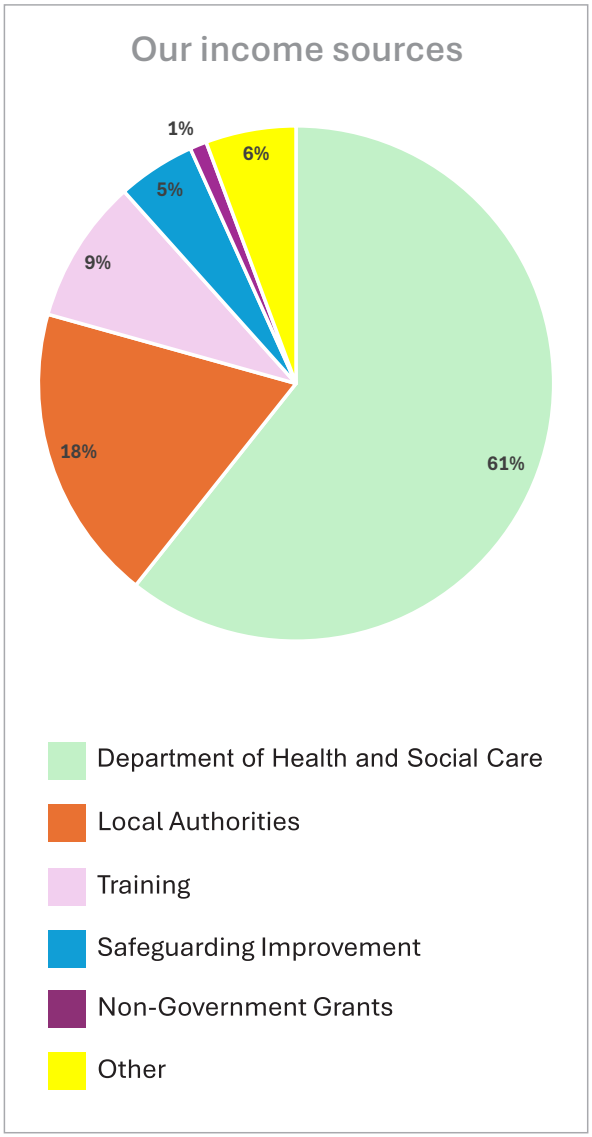
Policies

Reserves policy

SCIE carries out a diverse range of activities, some of which comprise short-term and externally-funded projects, while others are long-term projects requiring ongoing financial commitment and investment.

The Trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves, that is, those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The Trustees have assessed the risks arising from a more uncertain future.

In the current climate, SCIE is determined to keep a level of reserves commensurate with balancing the need to release funds for new streams of income generation with the need to retain sufficient funds for liabilities and strategic investments; and, in addition, having funds to support three to six months of operating costs in the unlikely event of a closure. This would require reserves of £1 million to £2 million. The Trustees believe the minimum level of free reserves at this time, should be £2 million.



The level of free reserves was £4,157,325 at 31 March 2026. The Trustees believe that this level of free reserves is adequate but not excessive and that it is consistent with the reserves policy above. The current free reserves provide a solid foundation to support SCIE's transformation by enabling investment in the development of its commercial offer, diversification of sources of income, and in meeting its future liabilities.

Strategic Investment Fund

During the year, SCIE continued to invest in its Strategic Investment Fund (SIF), with expenditure of £159,950 supporting key initiatives aligned to long-term organisational priorities, including development of new offers, innovation activity and infrastructure improvements.

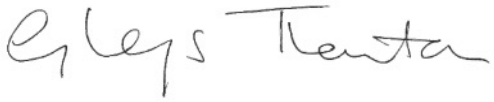
These investments are funded from previously generated reserves and form part of a planned approach to strengthening SCIE's sustainability, reach and impact over the medium term. SIFs are approved and reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee, with expenditure reported on a quarterly basis (see note 14).

Investment policy

SCIE does not have long-term investments. Funds that are surplus to requirements in the short term are kept on treasury deposit.

The Charity's assets

Acquisitions of fixed assets during the year are recorded in the notes to the financial statements (see note 8). Trustees' report (including the strategic report) approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee: Baroness Glenys Thornton

Approved by the Trustees on: **24 September 2026**

Independent auditor's report to the members of Social Care Institute for Excellence

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Social Care Institute for Excellence for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Chief Executive's Report, the Chair's Report and the Trustees' Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements, and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement as set out on page 25 the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, income tax, payroll tax and sales tax legislation.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

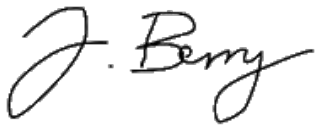
- discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud
- evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities
- identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions, and
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Jackson Berry (Senior Statutory Auditor)
10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG

For and on behalf of HaysMac LLP, Statutory Auditor

Date: 04/11/2026

Statement of financial activities: year to 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 Unrestricted funds £	2026 Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		**13,377**	**-**	**13,377**	-	-	-
Short-term bank deposits:							
interest receivable		**110,387**	**-**	**110,387**	152,553	-	152,553
Charitable activities:							
contracts, grants, service level agreements and fees receivable		**3,364,001**	**1,065,689**	**4,429,690**	3,289,920	2,755,446	6,045,366
Total income	1	**3,487,765**	**1,065,689**	**4,553,454**	3,442,473	2,755,446	6,197,919
Expenditure on:							
charitable activities							
provision and dissemination of knowledge and good practice in social care	2	**4,025,140**	**1,150,910**	**5,176,050**	2,716,228	2,761,491	5,477,719
Total operational expenditure		**4,025,140**	**1,150,910**	**5,176,050**	2,716,228	2,761,491	5,477,719
Expenditure from Strategic Investment Fund	14	**159,950**	**-**	**159,950**	71,523	-	71,523
Total expenditure		**4,185,090**	**1,150,910**	**5,336,000**	2,787,751	2,761,491	5,549,242
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before gains and losses		**(697,325)**	**(85,221)**	**(782,546)**	654,722	(6,045)	648,677
Net movement in funds		**(697,325)**	**(85,221)**	**(782,546)**	654,722	(6,045)	648,677
Reconciliation of funds:							
fund balances brought forward at 1 April		**4,874,488**	**196,232**	**5,070,720**	4,219,766	202,277	4,422,043
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March	13	**4,177,163**	**111,011**	**4,288,174**	4,874,488	196,232	5,070,720

All of the Charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods. There are no other recognised gains and losses. The accounting policies and notes to the accounts also form part of the financial statements.

Balance sheet: as at 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		**19,838**		33,508
Current assets					
Debtors	9	**1,032,343**		731,518	
Cash at bank and in hand		**3,852,470**		5,124,490	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	**(616,477)**		(818,796)	
Net current assets			**4,268,336**		5,037,212
Total net assets			**4,288,174**		5,070,720
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted funds	12		**111,011**		196,232
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	13		**4,106,246**		4,759,075
Strategic Investment Fund	14		**51,079**		81,905
Tangible fixed assets fund	13		**19,838**		33,508
Total funds			**4,288,174**		5,070,720

Financial statements and notes to the accounts approved by the Trustees of Social Care Institute for Excellence and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee: Glenys Thornton
Approved on: **24 September 2026**

Company Registration No.04289790 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration No.1092778

Statement of cash flows: year to 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
net cash (used)/provided by operating activities	A	**(1,377,976)**	537,108
Cash flows from investing activities:			
interest received		**110,387**	152,553
purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(4,431)**	(34,831)
Net cash provided by investing activities		**105,956**	117,722
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(1,272,020)**	654,830
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		**5,124,490**	4,469,660
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	B	**3,852,470**	5,124,490

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2026

A Reconciliation of net expenditure for the year to net cash provided by operating activities

	2026 £	2025 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	**(782,546)**	648,677
Adjustments for:		
depreciation charge	**18,101**	17,197
interest receivable	**(110,387)**	(152,553)
(increase) in debtors	**(300,825)**	(208,658)
(decrease)/increase in creditors	**(202,319)**	232,445
net cash (used)/provided by operating activities	**(1,377,976)**	537,108

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**3,852,470**	5,124,490

SCIE does not have any borrowings or lease obligations. Net debt consists therefore of the cash at bank and in hand.

Principal accounting policies: Year to 31 March 2026

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2026 with comparative information provided in respect to the year to 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) second edition, issued on 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the Trustees to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purposes of calculating the depreciation charge
- estimating the amount of income to be accrued in respect of contractual work completed; and
- estimating the amount to defer in relation to contractual and grant income received during the year.

Assessment of going concern

The Trustees have assessed the Charity's financial position and its ability to continue operating as a going concern. Based on this assessment, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The Charity maintains strong financial reserves, currently standing at circa £4 million, which provides a buffer against potential risks and uncertainties. In addition, the Charity has a strong income pipeline, with a diversified range of income-generating activities.

While there will be challenges ahead, the Trustees believe that there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. As a result, the Trustees believe it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis, which are free from material uncertainties.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the year in which the Charity is entitled to receipt, it is probable the Charity will receive the income and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the Charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it, or where the donor or funder has specified that the income is to be expended in a future accounting period.

Income comprises interest receivable on short-term deposits with the Charity's bankers, grants and funding from government and other agencies and income from commercial sources. 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 bank.

Grants and funding from government and other agencies have been included as income from charitable activities as these comprise either contracts for services or they relate to specific services.

Income of a contractual nature and income generated from commercial sources is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Charity and the revenue can be reliably measured. It is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs.

All expenditure is incurred on the Charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report. It includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the Charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include direct and support costs including governance costs.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the Charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment and a suitable working environment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the Charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs and governance costs are allocated as described in note 3 to these financial statements.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- computer and IT equipment (including software) – 33.3% per annum based on cost
- office furniture and fittings – 25% to 33.3% per annum based on cost
- leasehold improvements – over the remaining period of the lease.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed-asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions 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. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or which have their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

The general fund represents those monies which are available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the Charity's objects. It is represented by free reserves.

The tangible fixed-assets fund represents the net book value of the Charity's tangible fixed assets held under unrestricted funds. This fund has been separated from other unrestricted funds to emphasise that the assets are of fundamental importance to the Charity being able to achieve its charitable objectives and, as such, their value should not be regarded as realisable.

Notes to the financial statements:
Year to 31 March 2026

01. Donations and legacies, contracts, grants, service level agreements and fees receivable

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Department of Health and Social Care project grants	-	999,595	999,595	-	2,693,092	2,693,092
Department of Health, Northern Ireland	-	19,570	19,570	41,346	-	41,346
Fees and commissioning	3,364,001	-	3,364,001	2,981,902	-	2,981,902
Donations and legacies	13,377	-	13,377	-	-	-
Other funders	110,387	46,524	156,911	419,225	62,354	481,579
	3,487,765	1,065,689	4,553,454	3,442,473	2,755,446	6,197,919

The above donations and legacies, contracts, grants, service level agreements and fees receivable relate to the sole charitable activity of Business, Development & Delivery (BDD).

02. Provision and dissemination of knowledge and good practice in social care

Business, Development & Delivery (BDD)	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Staff costs	1,890,606	556,403	2,447,009	1,833,629	-	1,833,629
Commissioning costs	265,565	379,659	645,224	790,164	506,279	1,296,443
Support costs (note 3)	1,868,969	214,848	2,083,817	92,435	2,255,212	2,347,647
	4,025,140	1,150,910	5,176,050	2,716,228	2,761,491	5,477,719

03. Support costs

	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
Staff costs	**1,417,461**	1,490,013
Governance costs (Excluding staff costs)	**35,095**	28,797
Other costs	**631,261**	900,361
	2,083,817	2,419,171

04. Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
Staff costs (note 5)	**4,393,998**	4,588,191
Auditor's remuneration		
. Statutory audit services		
.. Current year	**28,350**	
.. Previous year		24,286
Depreciation	**18,101**	17,197

05. Employees and staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	3,082,624	2,914,369
Social security costs	371,347	312,222
Other pension costs	313,595	287,740
	3,767,566	3,514,331
Payments to agency staff and consultants	462,243	897,218
Other staff related costs	164,189	176,642
	4,393,998	4,588,191

Included within wages and salaries are fees paid by SCIE to consultants who are treated as employees for tax purposes but are not SCIE employees as defined by employment law and thus are not included within the average number of employees in the table below.

Payments to agency staff during the period reflect the need to have personnel in post in order to progress the work of SCIE. Other staff-related costs include expenditure in respect to staff training, staff meetings and reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses.

The average number of employees during the period, analysed by function, was as follows:

	2026 No.	2025 No.
Charitable activities		
Business, Development & Delivery (BDD)	58	59
Governance	2	2
	60	61

The number of employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits but excluding employer pension contributions) during the year was as follows:

	2026 No.	2025 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	5	5
£70,001 - £80,000	4	1
£80,001 - £90,000	4	5
£90,001 - £100,000	2	1
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-
£150,001 - £160,000	-	1
	16	13

Contributions were made to a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of employees.

The key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis comprised the Chief Executive and the Strategic Leadership Team. The total remuneration (including taxable benefits and employers pension contributions) of the key management personnel for the year was £802,867 (2025 - £778,767).

06. Payments in relation to Trustees

In accordance with the Charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Chair of the Trustees was paid £31,287 (2025: £29,525) during the year for services undertaken in the administration of the Charity. The payment for such services has been authorised by the Charity Commission and is in line with the 2016 Charities Act.

Out-of-pocket travelling and subsistence expenses relating to Trustee duties of £545 were incurred during the year (2025: £511).

The Charity involves people with lived experience of drawing on social care in the delivery of its projects and activities. Individuals participating in this work receive payments for their time and are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. Where required to enable participation, personal assistants also receive payments for their time and reimbursement of expenses.

During the year, an individual participating in the Charity's lived experience activities became a Trustee. In accordance with the Charity's established arrangements for involving people with lived experience in its work, the Trustee received payments of £33,515 for contributing their lived experience perspective to the Charity's projects and activities. The Trustee was also reimbursed expenses of £876. At 31 March 2026, £3,048 was payable to the Trustee in respect of lived experience contributions.

The Trustee's life partner, who is a related party by virtue of their relationship with the Trustee, provided personal assistant support and received payments of £19,246 together with reimbursement of expenses of £3,498 during the year. Included within these expenses was £418 relating to support provided to another participant involved in the Charity's lived experience activities. At 31 March 2026, £1,005 remained payable.

These payments were made in accordance with the Charity's policies and arrangements for involving people with lived experience in its work and were considered by the Trustees to be in the best interests of the Charity. The Trustee took no part in any discussion or decision relating to the approval of these payments.

No comparable related party transactions were disclosed in the prior year as neither the Trustee nor their life partner were related parties of the Charity during that period.

The Charity has purchased insurance to protect it from any loss arising from the neglect or defaults of its Trustees, employees and agents and to indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The insurance premium paid by the Charity during the year totaled £17,357 (2025: £16,787) and provides cover of up to a maximum of £5 million (2025: £5 million).

Except as noted above, the Charity did not enter into any other transactions with related parties in the current or prior years.

07. Taxation

The company is a Charity under the Finance Act 2010 (schedule 6, paragraph 1) definition. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains within categories covered by the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (part 11, chapter 3) or the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 (section 256), to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. No tax charge arose in the period (2025 – none).

SCIE is registered for VAT but is partially exempt and so only able to recover a proportion of its input tax.

08. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer and IT equipment	Software	**Total**
	£	£	**£**
Cost			
At 1 April 2025	60,285	87,292	**147,577**
Additions	4,431	-	**4,431**
Disposals	-	-	**-**
At 31 March 2026	64,716	87,292	**152,008**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2025	26,777	87,292	**114,069**
Charge for year	18,101	-	**18,101**
Disposals	-	-	**-**
At 31 March 2026	44,878	87,292	**132,170**
Net book values			
At 31 March 2026	19,838		**19,838**
At 31 March 2025	33,508	-	**33,508**

09. Debtors

	2026 **£**	2025 £
Fees and other income receivable	**880,321**	516,218
Allowance for impairment of debtors	**(2,570)**	(6,760)
Prepayments and accrued income	**154,592**	222,059
	1,032,343	731,518

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 **£**	2025 £
Expense creditors	**99,924**	288,518
Accruals	**97,403**	92,953
Deferred income (note 11)	**43,455**	37,951
Taxation and social security	**327,775**	372,828
Other	**47,920**	26,546
	616,477	818,796

11. Deferred income

	2026 £	2025 £
Balance at 1 April 2025	**37,951**	83,956
Income received in advance	**43,455**	37,951
Released to statement of financial activities	**(37,951)**	(83,956)
Balance at 31 March 2026 (note 10)	**43,455**	37,951

Deferred income comprises funding received in advance from government and other agencies.

12. Restricted Funds

The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of grants and funding held to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 01 Apr 2025 £	Income £	Direct costs £	Expenditure support costs £	Fund transfers £	At 31 Mar 2026 £
70, Dunhill	**70,097**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**70,097**
Oak Foundation	**3,001**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,001**
LRS programme	**4,226**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,226**
Innovation Network	**12,322**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12,322**
Nesta National Fundraising	**(41,950)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(41,950)**
VocTech	**4,214**	**(12,352)**	**(36,185)**	**23,323**	**-**	**(21,000)**
Think Local Act Personal (TLAP)	**144,322**	**999,595**	**(873,424)**	**(185,000)**	**-**	**85,493**
The Rayne Foundation	**-**	**16,000**	**-**	**(16,000)**	**-**	**-**
The University of Sheffield - ESRC Centre for care	**-**	**6,000**	**(3,957)**	**(5,253)**	**-**	**(3,210)**
University of Birmingham - IMPACT Centre-Project	**-**	**26,957**	**(4,845)**	**(22,110)**	**-**	**2**
University of Liverpool - EquaDem Network Plus	**-**	**8,119**	**(2,880)**	**(4,705)**	**-**	**534**
University of Warwick - PIPER Project	**-**	**1,800**	**-**	**(1,800)**	**-**	**-**
DHNI Landscape Review	**-**	**19,570**	**(14,771)**	**(3,303)**	**-**	**1,496**
	196,232	**1,065,689**	**(936,062)**	**(214,848)**	**-**	**111,011**

	At 01 Apr 2024 £	Income £	Direct costs £	Expenditure support costs £	Fund transfers £	At 31 Mar 2025 £
70, Dunhill	70,097	-	-	-	-	70,097
Oak Foundation	3,001	-	-	-	-	3,001
LRS programme	4,226	-	-	-	-	4,226
Innovation Network	12,322	-	-	-	-	12,322
Nesta National Fundraising	(61,951)	20,001	-	-	-	(41,950)
VocTech	-	42,353	(38,139)	-	-	4,214
Think Local Act Personal (TLAP)	174,582	1,033,977	(879,237)	(185,000)	-	144,322
DHSC Commissions	-	412,100	(412,100)	-	-	-
Accelerating Reform Fund	-	1,247,015	(1,247,015)	-	-	-
	202,277	2,755,446	(2,576,491)	(185,000)	-	196,232

The specific purposes for which the funds were to be used are as follows:

Department of Health and Social Care commission

The DHSC provided funding to SCIE to benefit from our unique position as an independent social care charity working with a wide range of partners and people with lived experience, to improve people's lives through innovative consultancy, expert training, extensive resources and information and evidence-based insights for the continual improvement of social care.

This included:

- provision of sector leadership in conjunction with DHSC, providing social care expertise and insight to DHSC and bringing together national social care leads to co-ordinate responses to social care issues and policy, and wider sector leadership
- provision of evidence-based resources and practical information around best practice, innovation and improvement in social care
- maintenance and review of key content that the sector is dependent on, including safeguarding adults, the Care Act, mental capacity and co-production
- preparation and support for the sector in relation to new policy and funding initiatives such as the ARF including understanding local authority level of preparedness and priorities and delivering a package of support to projects as they start up, deliver and embed change.

VocTech Trust

During the financial year, the Charity received a restricted grant to develop digital tech-based solutions for learning. The grant will support early-stage ideas using digital tools to transform how people gain skills for work.

Think Local Act Personal

The TLAP partnership comprises over 30 national and umbrella organisations representing a broad interest in personalisation and community-based support. SCIE hosts the central team and also provides back-office services such as facilities, finance and HR support. The funds are provided by the DHSC. During the financial year, SCIE reviewed a historic restricted reserve relating to the hosting of TLAP, which originated from DHSC funding provided in 2011/12 to establish the hosting arrangement. Since then, the unspent balance has been carried forward as a restricted reserve, disclosed in the annual financial statements, audited as part of the annual external audit, and reported annually to DHSC through grant usage returns. After the year-end, in agreement with the DHSC, the remaining balance of £85,493 was returned to DHSC, closing the restricted reserve.

The Rayne Foundation

During the financial year the Charity received a grant from the Rayne Foundation to fund one of the two first-prizes for small organisations in our Social Care Impact Awards. We are very grateful for their support.

The University of Sheffield - ESRC Centre for care

The Centre for Care is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)-funded research centre that brings together leading universities, charities and the Office for National Statistics to produce evidence and research aimed at improving care and support across the UK. The research grant runs from 2021–2026. SCIE is one of the Centre for Care's core collaborating partners, contributing its expertise in social care improvement, evidence-based practice and co-production to support the Centre's research and impact work.

University of Birmingham - IMPACT Centre-Project

SCIE is a leadership partner of this ESRC and Health Foundation-funded multi-year (2022–2027) research initiative, Improving Adult Care Together (IMPACT), the UK centre for implementing evidence in adult social care. SCIE provides thematic leadership for knowledge mobilisation. The programme is led by the University of Birmingham and involves a range of academic and care sector partners.

University of Liverpool - EquaDem Network Plus Project

SCIE is one of the collaborating partners of the EquaDem network, which is headed up by the University of Liverpool and funded for five years (2025–2029) by the ESRC, the NIHR and the Alzheimer's Society. Working with leading universities, the NHS and the voluntary sector, the network is the United Kingdom's first national network dedicated to tackling inequalities in dementia diagnosis and care. SCIE has been involved in research aiming to tackle individual, community, and systemic barriers in accessing dementia care and support. Co-production with people living with dementia is a core component of the work programme.

University of Warwick - PIPER Project

This project has concluded. SCIE were co-investigators for the University of Warwick's Pathways to Implementation for Public Engagement in Research (PIPER) study.

Department of Health, Northern Ireland (DHNI) landscape review

During the financial year SCIE was issued a grant by the Office of Social Services in the DHNI to undertake a review of the role of The Northern Ireland Social Care Council within the social care landscape in Northern Ireland.

Other funds

As at 31 March 2026, the Charity was holding a number of residual restricted funds from Dunhill, the Oak Foundation, LRS Programme and Innovational Network where the related projects or activities have been completed. These balances are being retained in line with the terms of the donations and will either be applied to continuation or follow-on work consistent with the original purpose, or will be reviewed in consultation with the funders to determine their appropriate use.

13. Analysis of movement on funds

The below tables show the movement in the restricted and free reserves of the organisation for both the current and prior year. Asset movements refer to the adjustments that have been made to the tangible fixed-asset fund to reflect the amount of committed depreciation outstanding at the end of the financial year. The Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) refers to expenditure incurred in 2026 in relation to five SIF projects, approved by the Board of Trustees (note 14).

	Restricted funds	Free reserves	Tangible fixed assets fund	Strategic Investment Fund	Total 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 1 April 2025	**196,232**	**4,759,075**	**33,508**	**81,905**	**5,070,720**
Movements:					
(Deficit)/surplus for the year, before expenditure on Strategic Investment Fund	**(85,221)**	**(537,375)**	-	-	**(622,596)**
Strategic Investment Fund	-	-	-	**(159,950)**	**(159,950)**
Designation	-	**(129,124)**	-	**129,124**	-
Asset movement	-	**13,670**	**(13,670)**	-	-
Fund balances at 31 March 2026	**111,011**	**4,106,246**	**19,838**	**51,079**	**4,288,174**

	Restricted funds	Free reserves	Tangible fixed assets fund	Strategic Investment Fund	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 1 April 2024	202,277	4,050,463	15,875	153,428	4,422,043
Movements:					
(Deficit)/surplus for the year, before expenditure on Strategic Investment Fund	(6,045)	726,245	-	-	720,200
Strategic Investment Fund	-	-	-	(71,523)	(71,523)
Asset movement	-	(17,633)	17,633	-	-
Fund balances at 31 March 2025	196,232	4,759,075	33,508	81,905	5,070,720

14. Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)

In the 2023 financial year, the Charity received a refund of Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) surplus of £1.2 million, ceasing the Charity's involvement with the LGPS. Using this pension refund, SCIE adopted a SIF, for projects that align with SCIE's strategic objectives. The Board of Trustees approved five SIF projects in 2026 (covering the areas of Care Equity Commission, children's services, Target Operating Model, Charitable Offer and London Digital Innovation Collaborative), i.e. expenditure that could be incurred for five strategic projects which could be funded via the LGPS refund held in the Charity's unrestricted reserves. For the 2026 financial year, SIF expenditure totaled £159,950 against a budget of £211,029. (2025 expenditure: £71,523).

15. Members' liability

In the event of the Charity being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

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SCIE hosts Think Local Act Personal (TLAP)
www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/About-us