



The Challenging
Behaviour Foundation

making a difference to the lives of people with severe learning disabilities

Annual Report and Accounts

2025 – 2026



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1. Foreword

From Dr David Allen Chair of Trustees



The CBF has continued to support many families of individuals with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour this year as well as providing training which enables professionals to enhance their practice. The feedback we receive from families shows how much continued need there is for our charity as a trusted source of information and support for families navigating their way through an ever complex and seemingly increasingly unhelpful service system. This is vital in a world where online misinformation is increasingly rife. All the resources and training workshops that the CBF creates and delivers are based on the latest evidence and co-produced by families with relevant lived experience – which we believe to be unique in our field.

The CBF has led two really important projects this year to drive change based on lived experience:

- The *What Matters to Me* project ended in March 2025 and demonstrated the powerful impact of taking time to really get to know and understand the perspectives of young people who are often excluded from engagement activities. The CBF hopes to build on this work in the future.
- *Forward Together* is bringing families and professional together in communities of practice in three areas of England. Families tell us that having a relative with challenging behaviour can leave them feeling excluded even from networks of carers of disabled relatives. Forward Together is creating an inclusive space where families can both access support and inform improved services.

The CBF has supported families to influence important research studies and some key policy changes this year including the Mental Health Act and the Law Commission report on disabled children in England and the guidance on restrictive practices in education settings in Northern Ireland. Hard-won policy changes are important to celebrate but must also be viewed with caution in an uncertain delivery environment. The announcement of the abolition of NHS England has raised many unanswered questions about learning disability priorities and responsibilities moving forward. Rest assured that the CBF will continue to champion the voices of individuals with severe learning disabilities and their families in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Allen'.

Dr David Allen, **Chair of Trustees**

2. Report of the Trustees

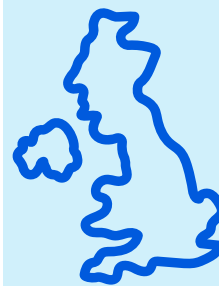
For the year ended 31st January 2026

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2026.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 *"The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"* and the Charities SORP *"Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)"*.

Objectives and activities

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) is the only UK charity specifically focused on the needs of children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour may be described as challenging, and their families.



**30,000+ people
in the UK**

have a severe learning disability and are at risk of developing behaviours that challenge.

Our values

Inclusion – We embrace diversity and actively ensure every perspective is sought, valued, and included respectfully and with dignity, promoting connections and collaboration.

Understanding and compassion – We aim to comprehend diverse perspectives with empathy and openness, to support and help make things better for people in need.

Co-production and collaboration – Our work is co-produced, and we work collaboratively.

Integrity and independence – We ensure that our work is not compromised by conflicts of interest (e.g. through accepting funding from a particular source) and we retain our core focus on getting the right support in the right place at the right time, upholding honest and ethical principles in all our work.

Advocacy – We champion the rights and wellbeing of individuals with severe learning disabilities and their families with passion and dedication.

Learning through experience – We record, reflect and learn from our work and its outcomes to improve and amplify our impact.



Our vision is for all people with severe learning disabilities, whose behaviour challenges, to have the right support and opportunities to live full and active lives.



Our **mission** is to make a difference to the lives of people with severe learning disabilities, whose behaviour challenges, and their families, working together to:



**Champion
their rights**



**Ensure timely
information
and support**



**Raise awareness
and
understanding**



**Promote and
share best
practice**

Challenging behaviour

The term “challenging behaviour” has a specific and precise use in relation to people with a learning disability who might have difficulties communicating. It refers to behaviour which presents a serious risk to the person themselves or to those supporting them. Individuals with a severe learning disability will have little or no speech, find it very difficult to learn new skills, need support with daily activities such as dressing, washing, eating and keeping safe, have difficulties with social skills and need life-long support.

Examples of challenging behaviour include self-injury, hurting others, destructive behaviours, running off or ingesting inedible objects or substances. It is not the person that is challenging – it is the behaviour. Challenging behaviour often represents a person’s only way of demonstrating an unmet need and getting that need met. Reasons for behaviour may include pain, sensory needs, anxiety, a need to escape or to get something.

Challenging behaviour has **a formal definition**

Terminology: challenging behaviour

When individuals do not communicate verbally, the onus is on services and professionals to understand, support alternative communication approaches and ensure a good quality of life. If this is done well, it can prevent behaviours that challenge developing. Too often, this does not happen and people respond to challenging behaviours with fear, restriction and even punishment, rather than with curiosity, advocacy and enablement.

Individuals whose behaviours challenge are at greater risk of restrictive responses which compromise their rights and their quality of life. Family carers are at risk of poor outcomes too, including physical and mental ill-health, physical injury, and increased financial burdens. This is not inevitable and can be avoided with the **right support**, in the **right place** at the **right time**.

”

“People whose behaviour challenges have the same needs as everyone else, in addition to special needs for help to overcome the problems their behaviour presents. They do not surrender their needs for personal relationships, for growth and development or for anything else because their behaviour presents a challenge to services. They have the same human rights as everyone else.”

– Mansell 2, 2007



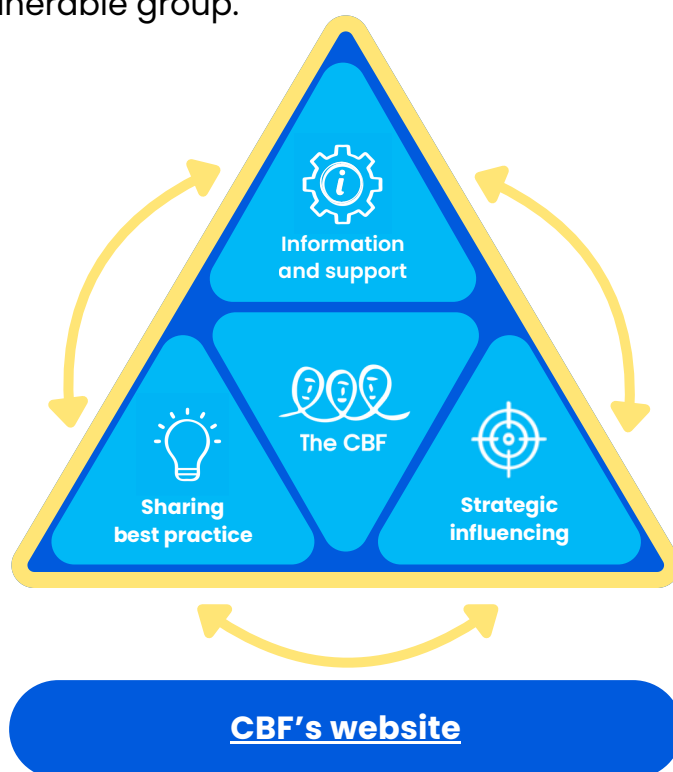
How we work

The CBF was established in 1997 by a family carer to ensure that children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities have the right support and opportunities to live a happy, active life in their community with access to healthcare, employment, leisure and education, as well as a fulfilling family life. An important part of this is raising awareness of why children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities may display behaviours described as challenging, how to support individuals well and how to stop responses which compromise people's rights or restrict their lives.

Family carers are key to their relative's lives but often face isolation due to the unusual challenges they face. Despite their critical role in advocating for their relative, families are too often side-lined or faced with parent blame. Families have to deal with a wide range of services across health, education, social care and housing to get the support they need for their relative. The system that should be there to support families is not joined up and is often itself a direct cause of trauma.



We support families to navigate this complex system by providing **information and support**. Based on what we hear from families, we work to change and improve the system through **strategic influencing** and to deliver the right support in the right place at the right time by **sharing best practice**. These three strands of our work together effect change at an individual and strategic level and aim to tackle discrimination, marginalisation and the root causes and barriers that create problems for this disadvantaged and vulnerable group.



Improving the care and support provided to people with a learning disability is an issue of crucial national significance. We believe that family carers' views and the perspectives of individuals with severe learning disabilities should be routinely sought and valued by professionals and decision makers at all levels. There are two golden threads which run through everything we do to achieve our vision; **co-production** and **partnership working**. Our work is driven by lived experience of severe learning disability and challenging behaviour, and everything we do at the CBF is co-produced with families, based on the principle that family carers should be full and equal partners in their relative's care and support, with equal access to information and evidence about best practice.

Often when families contact the CBF for support, it is because they are **in crisis**. For example, services are saying they cannot provide support due to the severity of challenging behaviour, their relative has been inappropriately detained in a mental health setting, is being abused or neglected or they have serious concerns about health, education, housing or care. Much of our direct work involves supporting families through these crises and working hard to influence the system to avoid such situations.



We have learnt over the years, through our family support work and through research and best practice, that there are key points in time when families need additional support and that, with the right support, crisis situations and associated trauma can be prevented.

- When children are young, **early intervention**, to optimise child development at this key stage and equip families with the information, skills and support network they need, sets them on a path to a good quality of life, with the tools they need and the knowledge of where to seek help if things get difficult.
- When individuals are going through **transition** points, there will always be risks. Providing additional support to negotiate these transitions, especially the transition from child to adult services, can mitigate entirely preventable crises and trauma, including moving out of area and far from home and admission to a mental health unit for inpatient care.
- When families have been key to their relative's support, **getting older** brings worries about future care when they are no longer around. This is an important time for families when extra help is needed to plan for the future.



Much of our work focuses on research, best practice and influencing change in these three areas alongside crisis support and prevention. If the system provided the **right support** in the **right place** at the **right time** there would be no need for the support the CBF provides to families in crisis. For this reason, sharing best practice and strategic influencing are just as important as direct support to families, to encourage a shift towards better early intervention and prevention by statutory services.

Internships

This year we have been able to offer two more paid internships. Since 2011 we have had thirty-six paid interns covering family support, policy, research and communications. Each internship is for one year and provides valuable experience in learning disability, working with a range of professionals in the field, and gives insight into the experience of family carers. Our Interns are paid the Real Living Wage.

Previous Interns have gone on to:

- Senior policy and communications roles in the voluntary and public sector.
- Practitioner roles such as: social work, learning disability and mental health nursing and special needs teaching.
- Further study at Masters and PhD level in related fields and to secure work as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the field of learning disabilities.



"Interning for the Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) has been an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience. The charity and my colleagues have been more than supportive and welcoming, and there is a real focus as part of the internship on providing opportunities that are conducive to my personal and professional development. The CBF conducts a range of impactful work on a large scale, and it has been insightful and rewarding being able to contribute to a varied workload whilst also witnessing the positive impact this has on individuals and families. From the start, I have been trusted and encouraged to take on meaningful responsibilities, felt supported in my learning and training, and been able to contribute to a wide range of policy and research work.

I greatly value the opportunity and trust to manage significant projects including submitting consultation responses, contributing to specific work on restrictive practices and contributing to the organisation of events. The CBF's focus on co-production and lived experience has also been highly valuable, and my involvement in facilitating focus groups and supporting research projects has allowed me to gain first-hand insight into the experience of people and families with severe learning disabilities, and, alongside my policy work, has further developed and strengthened my passion for this area. I feel very lucky to have been a part of a charity that makes such a meaningful difference and will always feel connected to the CBF."

Becky, 2026 Policy and Research Intern



Information and Support

Objectives and activities



Lived experiences gathered from our **information and support** service drives our **strategic influencing** work which interconnects with **sharing best practice**. Our family support service offers a range of free, confidential, and expert resources to families including support delivered through:

- Telephone helpline
- Ongoing in-depth casework
- Information by email
- Digital, printed and video resources on a range of topics
- Information through our website
- Peer support email networks
- Listening ear calls with trained family carers
- A closed Facebook group

[Support for families](#)

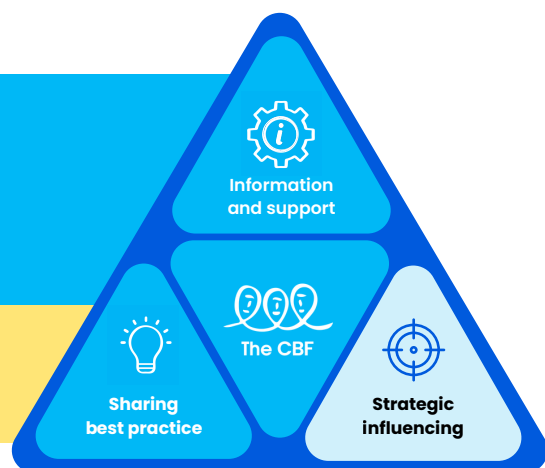
[Support for professionals](#)





Strategic Influencing

Objectives and activities



Our **strategic influencing** work is informed by the lived experience of families gathered through our **family support** team, utilising examples of evidence-based **best practice**. This work focuses on ensuring all parts of a complex system work well together and deliver positive outcomes for children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges, and their families. These activities require an understanding of the holistic context, particularly within systems that are often fragmented and organisationally disconnected.

We are solution focused, believe more can be achieved by working together, and facilitate joined up, collaborative working. We actively identify, seek out and engage with the many individuals and organisations in the sector to build strong relationships and foster collaboration and co-production.

We established and continue to chair the influential **Challenging Behaviour - National Strategy Group (CB-NSG)**, a unique multi-stakeholder group which brings together members including family carers, senior representatives from health, education and social care, government departments, regulators, service providers, clinicians, and researchers.

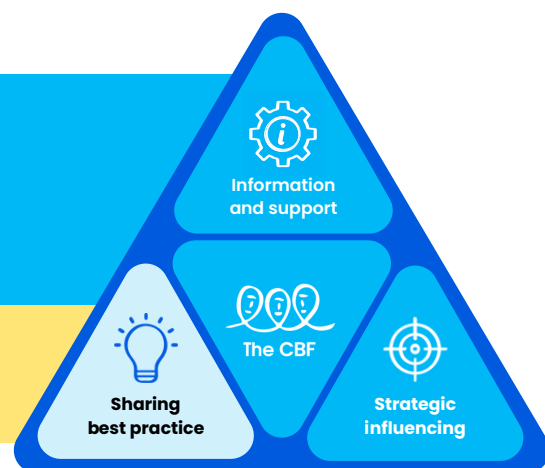
[Find out more: CB-NSG](#)

We promote and highlight the need for an early intervention approach, to work with and invest in families as valued partners, and with full and meaningful co-production. In partnership with others, we work to find ways to seek the views and input of children, young people and adults with the most complex needs and share and promote their engagement. We have developed positive relationships with researchers to amplify the voice of the families of individuals with severe learning disabilities in research, and we support them to input into national policy making and service development. Our work aims to push forward the agenda for better and timely local provision, investment in family support and promotion of enhanced skills and training for support workers and paid carers.



Sharing Best Practice

Objectives and activities



Sharing best practice is embedded in our **strategic influencing** work and our **information and support**. Best practice provides evidence that it is entirely possible to deliver the **right support** in the **right place** at the **right time**.

Sharing, modelling, and actively promoting best practice in real-world settings is a core thread running through all our work. We do this through our family support casework, information and resources, strategic influencing work, and family carer and professional email networks, as well as through specific projects involving local authorities, government departments, and other partners.

We have invested in additional capacity, to support, build on and deliver the best practice learning through our workshops. We continue to work with local family carers and stakeholders in specific geographical areas to provide additional resources and experience to empower local families and facilitate their input at a strategic level.

Strategic report

The description under the headings "*Achievements and performance*" and "*Financial review*" meet the company law requirements for the trustees to present a strategic report.



Information and Support

Achievements and Performance



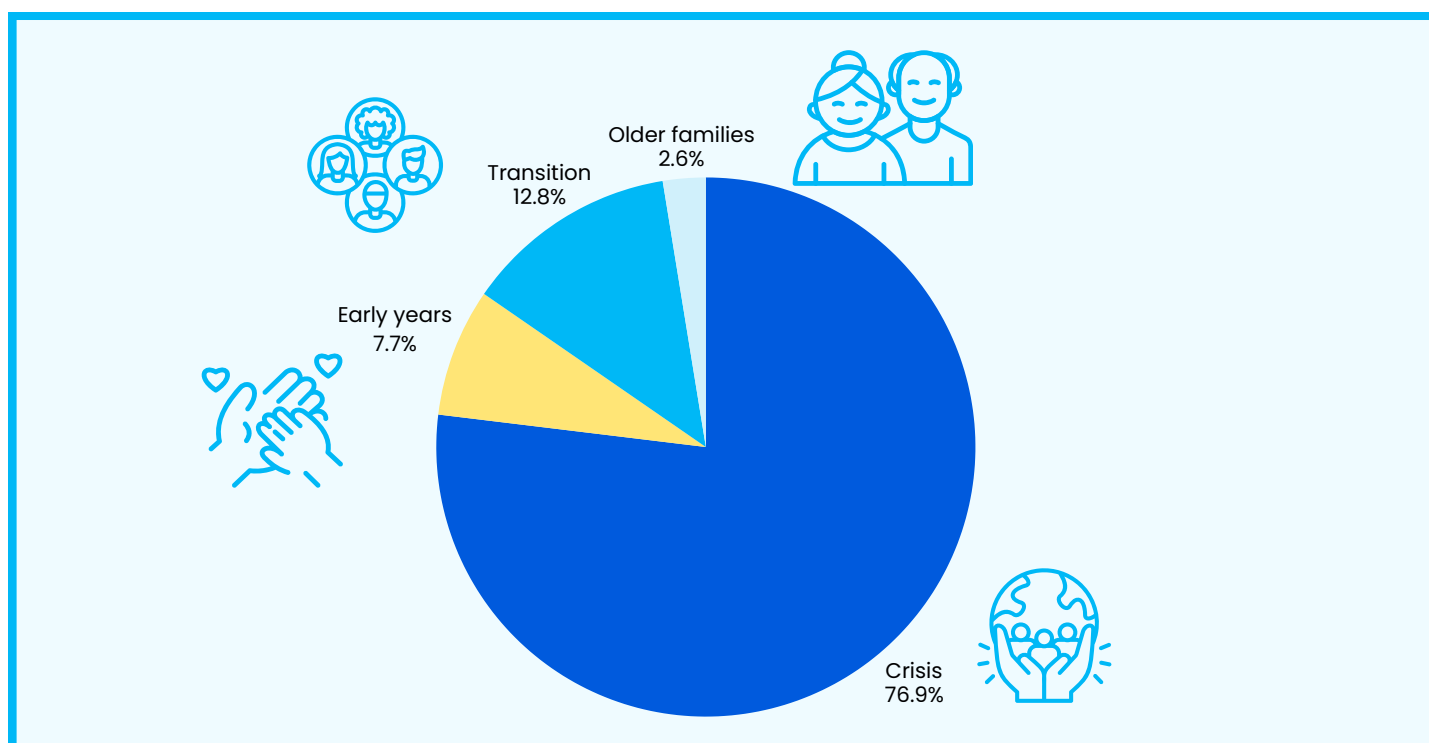
Family support service

Our family support service has responded to **2,884 individuals** through our support line, email and website this year and we had **31,758** downloads of resources from our website. Many families who have relatives with severe learning disabilities require ongoing support through complex situations and caseloads remain high within the team with **forty-nine cases** worked on. These are shared between the Family Support Lead and Caseworker with each case given individual and personalised support. The average case length is **six and a half months** (195 days).



The family support triage function continues to be successful and when contacting the Triage Administrator, a family may be offered a call with a caseworker or signposted. This year the service has supported **772 triage activities**, provided **169 families** with tailored support or information and a further **235 families** by signposting to other organisations more appropriate for their needs.

Last year we began to classify cases using the four communities identified through our Theory of Change; early intervention, transition, crisis or at risk of crisis and older families. Most of our casework this year involved supporting families at risk of crisis.



Case study

Penny contacted the CBF after being told that the additional 30 hours of support previously provided by Children's Social Care would not continue when her husband was deployed. Penny was recovering from major surgery and help when coming home from hospital is routinely only provided for 6 weeks. Penny was concerned that, without this support, she would be unable to safely meet the needs of her children, particularly Freddy who has Fragile X Syndrome and behaviours that challenge and needs physical care such as being carried. The family had been signposted to informal sources of help including Home Start and relatives, but these options did not appear suitable or sufficient given Freddy's needs and the family's circumstances.

The CBF explored the legal and practical routes available to the family, including whether the support should be treated as Freddy's needs under the Children Act, Penny's needs under the Care Act, or health-related needs that could potentially be considered for Continuing Healthcare funding. A two-pronged approach was suggested: CBF could write to the social worker to raise concerns about the risk of the family being left without adequate support, while Penny could also request an Adult Social Care assessment to help clarify responsibility and avoid delay. The aim was to encourage Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care and the NHS to work together so that the family received timely and appropriate support.

A week after the CBF wrote to the Social Worker and following a meeting with Penny, it was confirmed that the additional support hours would continue until her recovery was complete.

Peer support

Families tell us that [peer support](#) is incredibly valuable and helps to address feelings of isolation. We continued to provide a range of peer support this year including:

- **Local Champion volunteers** were supported to attend a number of events in their local communities to share information about CBF's support with other families.
- The **Family Carers' Email Network** (FCEN) is very active. It has **644 members** and this year sent **369 messages** on over **100 different topics**. Families can ask questions, share solutions, and seek support.
- Families can also ask our **Professionals' Email Network** questions, with **1,250 practitioners** across health education and social care who also use this forum to share information and learning.
- **Listening Ear Calls** are a fifty-minute call with a family carer who has a counselling background. They are offered to complement our casework by offering **active listening** and a chance for family carers to offload how they are feeling.
- The **CBF Family Forum** Facebook group has over **500 members**.

Our **podcast**, [Challenge Accepted](#), is now in its third series. The latest series is centred around transition:

In **episode one** we hear from family carers who've been through transition including where their relatives are now and how they decided what was best for them.

Episode two features our family carers talking about how they secured a home for their relative and what they want those on a similar journey to know.



Episode three has real families discussing the importance of connecting with others locally and nationally with tips on how to prepare for some potentially huge changes.

Episode four takes a deep dive into the complexities of navigating the system: deputyship, annual health checks, and the emotional realities of lifelong caring.

In **episodes five and six** Sally, a family carer, sits down with Luke Clements, Cerebra Professor of Law at Leeds University. Luke answers questions from CBF families about the laws and legislation that affect people with severe learning disabilities and behaviour that may be described as challenging. These powerful conversations unpack the realities family carers face when navigating the legal system.

[Find out more about peer support](#)

The CBF continues to convene and facilitate the **Helpline Collaboration** made up of charities that provide helpline support to families of people with learning disabilities. The collaboration meets monthly which helps to identify common issues and provide peer support to staff.

Resources for families and professionals

We have updated twelve resources this year, making sure that information is fully up to date and informed by the latest evidence. We have also published two new resources including co-producing a resource to **support older families** to plan a positive future for their relative with a learning disability.

Updated resources:



- [Sexual Behaviour](#)
- [What is Challenging Behaviour parts 1, 2 and 3](#)
- [Healthcare - Consenting to treatment](#)
- [Teaching New Skills](#)
- [Planning for Adulthood \(Wales\)](#)
- [Deputyship](#)

Promoted resources:



- [Hospital Passport](#)
- [Teaching new skills](#)
- [Person-Centred Support](#)
- [Deputyship](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Planning for Adulthood \(England\)](#)

Website updates:



- [Circles of Support](#)
- [3 frequently asked questions resources](#)
- [Reasonable Adjustments](#)
- [Trauma Support](#)
- [Complaints](#)

New resources:



- [Planning for the Future](#)

Other information and support work

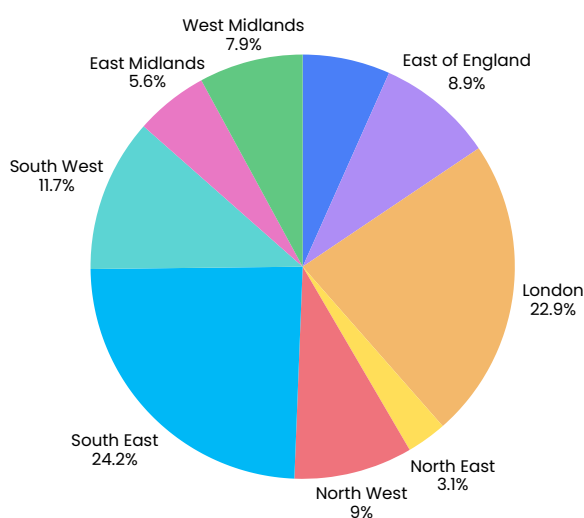
Accessibility

We have been working to increase the accessibility of our Family Support Service, helping more families access the support they need. The families we support are often in very complex situations, navigating through disjointed education, health and care systems, and experiencing marginalisation, “parent blame” and exclusion, often simultaneously. Families clearly describe the “fight” for the support and services their relatives need, and their experiences of discrimination and basic human rights being ignored. These are the families we know about and are already in contact with.

However, we are very aware that there are many families who are not yet reaching us, and who may face additional and compounded barriers to accessing support. This includes neurodivergent family carers and families who come from cultures or communities where it is not the norm to ask for help, where disability may carry stigma, or where experiences of statutory systems have historically been characterised by mistrust or fear.

Families facing intersectional discrimination or marginalisation – for example linked to ethnicity, language, or disability – may be particularly reluctant to engage with services

or may struggle to be heard when they do. These families can experience heightened *parent blame*, cultural misunderstanding, and systemic bias, further intensifying isolation and even delaying access to information or support. These are the families that we have been working to meet where they are, in order to provide the support they need. We also know that our geographical reach across the UK is wide-ranging, with families being supported in all 9 regions of England and across all parts of the UK.



Evaluation

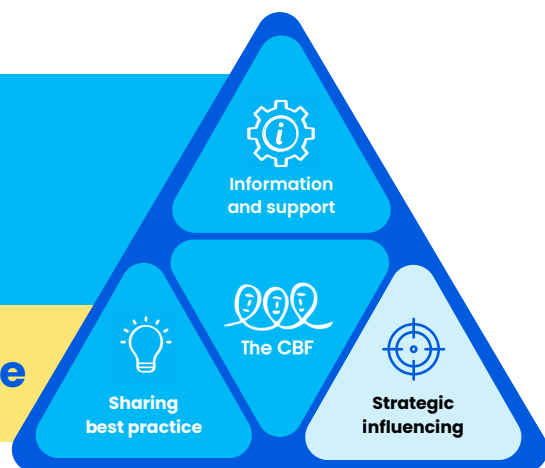
Thanks to funding from The Masonic Charitable Foundation we have started work to evaluate the whole of our Family Support Service to better understand its impact and inform future work. We have continued tracking feedback and comments from the family carers that we support, as well as evaluating through self-scoring before and after receiving support for 6 areas; wellbeing, isolation, current situation, making changes, empowerment and hope for the future.





Strategic Influencing

Achievements and Performance



We work collaboratively with everyone who has a role to play in improving the lives of individuals with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges, and their families. We believe that bringing family carers together to work in partnership with other experts is the best way to learn, share best practice, and influence change. In our experience, effective change is driven by lived experience and informed by evidence and professional practice.

We have a strong track record in advancing equity and social justice for children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities and their families. This year we have led national influencing resulting in changes to the **Department for Education use of force guidance** and, thanks to funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation and John Ellerman Foundation, have ensured a strong coalition of support for **improvements to the transition to adulthood**.

John Ellerman
Foundation

phf Paul Hamlyn
Foundation

We submitted 23 consultation responses on issues relevant to people with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour this year.

Mental Health Bill and Co-ordinated Campaigns Group

Following years of campaigning by families, people with learning disabilities, autistic people and charities, the Mental Health Bill finally received Royal Assent on 18th December 2025. The law will change so that people with learning disabilities and autistic people cannot be detained in mental health hospitals unless they have a mental health condition that needs treatment. A quote from the CBF was used by Learning Disability Today in their article on the Royal Assent. The CBF has continued to work closely with the group of charities we brought together to ensure co-ordinated campaigns on this issue, to ensure greater impact.

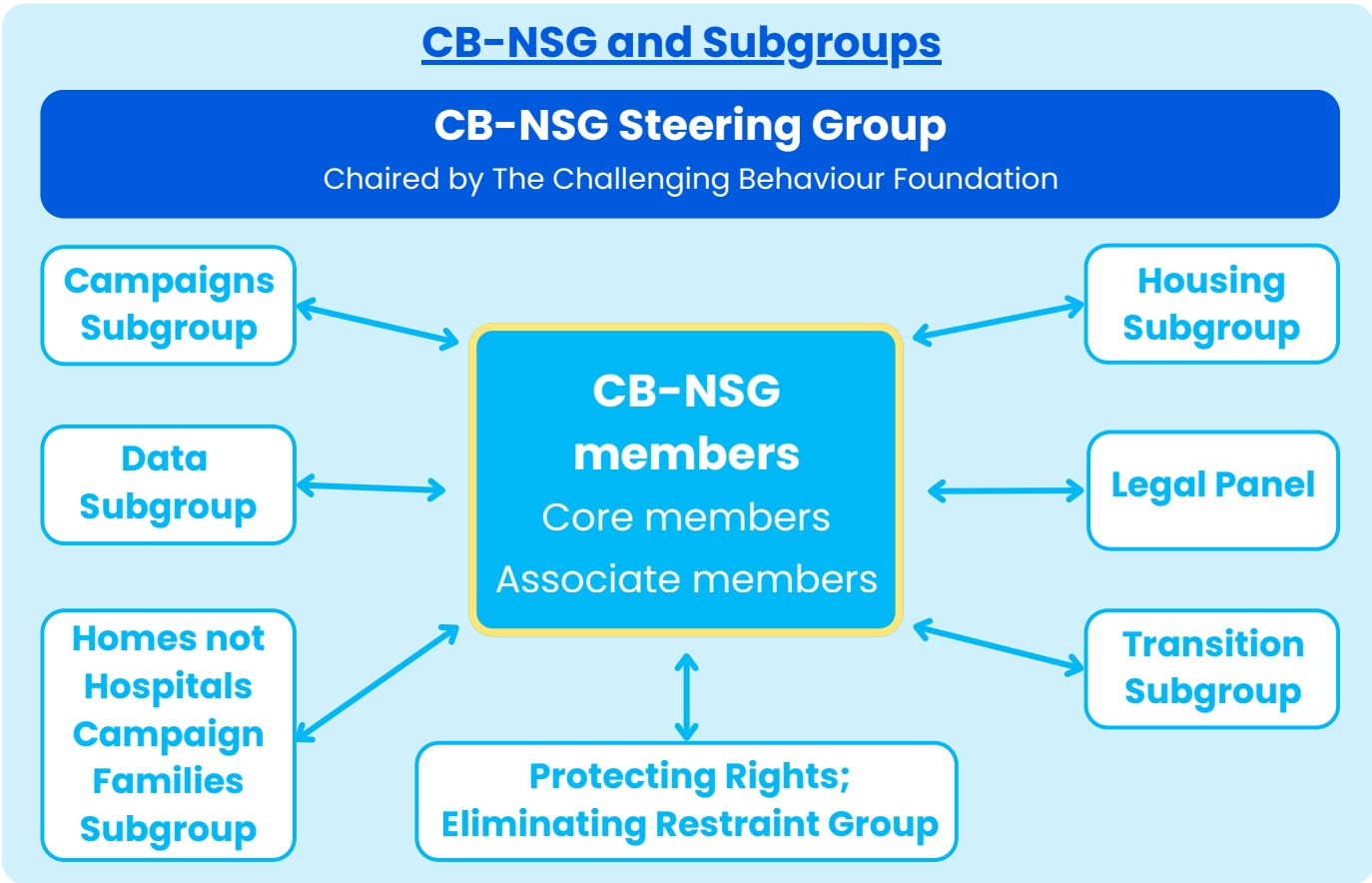
The Co-ordinated Campaigns Group produced a briefing for Jen Craft MP (Chair of the APPG on Learning Disability) for a meeting with Baroness Merron (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women's Health and Mental Health) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) officials in October, ahead of the Report Stage in the House of Commons. An amendment tabled by Jen Craft MP with the support of these charities (and co-signed by 18 other MPs) was debated in the Report Stage and led to a commitment by Stephen Kinnock (Minister for Care) that the government would work with people with lived experience, families, and other stakeholders to produce a roadmap for implementation.

The Coordinated Campaigns Group is also working on a joint learning disability and autism Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) report to support the development of community support. There is still a major piece of work required for this change to become a reality. We will continue to push for a strategic, system-wide resourced plan, co-produced with people with lived experience and their families, to develop effective community support. We are using the [CB-NSG co-produced action plan](#) to push for this.



Challenging Behaviour–National Strategy Group (CB-NSG)

The CB-NSG includes representatives from professional bodies, networks, charities, and the government alongside family carers, people with learning disabilities and researchers, who are all equal partners in the group. It is based on the principle that if all the individuals and organisations who have a role to play in supporting this group work together in a coherent and coordinated way it will deliver better outcomes. There are currently over ninety core CB-NSG members who have significant knowledge and expertise or lived experience and/or a senior level role in supporting and delivering services to people with learning disabilities. There are also over six hundred associate members who commit to working with the values and principles of the co-produced [Challenging Behaviour Charter](#).



The CB-NSG had two national meetings this year; one focused on the Mental Health Bill 2025 and the second on co-producing good support for life for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities whose behaviours challenge, against a backdrop of change and adversity.

CB-NSG has led a range of strategic influencing and developed a number of specific projects including:

- Co-producing a resource to **support older families** to plan a positive future for their relative with a learning disability.
- Co-producing policy asks to improve the **transition to adulthood** supported by an open letter to Government with 300 signatures and three short films.
- Influencing the development of a policy proposal to **improve housing** for people with learning disabilities.
- Inputting to the **law commission review** of disabled children's social care with our submission cited 11 times in the report.
- *Homes not Hospitals* campaign families feeding into NHS England's work on **community ingredients** for people with learning disabilities.
- Following policy and influencing work led by the CBF, the Department for Education revised their guidance on the use of force and introduced a **legal requirement** from April 2026 **for schools to record every significant incident of use of force** and report these incidents to the parents of the pupils involved.
- Work by the **Data Subgroup** continues to consider data covering issues including health inequalities, targets around inpatient numbers, and measuring levels of community support. This includes work to input into national and local targets around inpatient numbers and the development of community support in which progress can be measured. Work has also taken place to ensure confirmation from NHS Digital that the Assuring Transformation dataset would continue to be published for the next two years. This means we can continue to track inpatient numbers of people with a learning disability and autistic people.
- The **Legal Panel** and representatives from thirty-nine Essex Chambers, Access Social Care, the Association for Real Change (ARC) England and Fieldfisher agreed strategic approaches that can be taken to use the law to improve the lives of children, young people and adults with a learning disability, and autistic people. The meeting, which was chaired by Steve Broach KC, focused on issues identified by CBF's policy and family support teams.
- The **Legal Panel** have also input into various consultations and policy work, including giving advice on suggestions made by members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Learning Disability regarding the Mental Health Bill, and how to ensure the changes to detention criteria for people with a learning disability and autistic people are switched on in a timely manner.

- Members of the **Housing Subgroup** have worked with other stakeholders to raise the profiles of housing issues that impact people with a learning disability, including how these can be overcome. Some of the work that has been done includes **engagement with Ministers and officials** in both the Department of Health and Social Care and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- In July, a Learning Disability and Autism Housing Coalition, led by Sir David Pearson and including a member of the **Housing Subgroup**, met Stephen Kinnock MP (Minister for Care) and Rushanara Ali (former Minister for Building Safety and Homelessness) to discuss **housing in the community** for people with a severe learning disability. The Departments have agreed to undertake joint scoping work as part of a **joined-up approach to finding housing solutions**.
- **Housing Subgroup** members also presented at the September meeting of **the National Housing Community of Practice** (NHCoP). As part of this presentation, a resource was developed showing the pathway that someone with a severe learning disability goes down when they are trying to get a suitable house, the points where things go wrong, and how these points can be addressed at each stage. Follow-up work was agreed by NHS England and our resource was shared with the Department of Health and Social Care. The presentation was well-received by stakeholders at the National Housing Community of Practice meeting, who particularly noted that the **family carer testimonies** were powerful.
 - Journey 1: [Read P's transition journey](#)
 - Journey 2: [Read T's transition journey](#)
- The **Homes not Hospitals Campaign Families Subgroup** have been feeding into NHS England's community ingredients work, **sharing their experiences and views** on what is needed to support people with learning disabilities in the community, particularly given changes around the Mental Health Act. The Subgroup have also been working with the CBF and Mencap to **develop an exhibition** around 'Homes Not Hospitals' which will, be held early next year.
- Additionally, through the Subgroup, CB-NSG members and other stakeholders, including people with lived experience, have collectively been engaging with the Government to share information about what is needed to improve the lives of children, young people and adults with a learning disability whose behaviour challenges. This is part of a sector-wide approach from the learning disability and autism sector. This has included producing [briefings](#) around the **Mental Health Act reforms and community support**, as well as engaging with Ministers and Peers around the **Mental Health Bill** as it has been going through Parliament; writing to Ministers and other key stakeholders about the issues facing people with a learning disability, such as housing, health and social care; and campaigning around changes to benefits.

The November CB-NSG meeting was attended by representatives from the **Casey Commission**, strengthening our relationship with them ahead of Baroness Louise Casey's review of adult social care in England.

Protecting Rights; Eliminating Restraint Group (PR;ERG)

Two meetings of the **PR;ERG** were held this year. The Department for Education (DfE) published new guidance, *Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools* on 18th December following a consultation which closed in April 2025. This updated the previous *Use of reasonable force in schools* guidance, which was published in 2013. The CBF, informed by our work with the PR;ERG, submitted a response to this consultation and also produced a briefing paper which was shared with PR;ERG members and other key stakeholders, including the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition, to inform their responses.

Parents have been calling for transparency on the use of restrictive practices for many years. Following influencing work by the CBF and others, the DfE will be introducing new legislation to mandate schools to record and report the use of seclusion to parents, which will put it on the same legal footing as restraint. While we continue to call for seclusion to be banned, this change will ensure that parents are informed if their child is secluded at school and will also mean that seclusion is included in the restrictive practices that are monitored by Ofsted

”

“I couldn't safeguard my child because I didn't know it (seclusion) was happening”

Family carer

Following the What Matters to Me project, Josh Babarinde MP asked CBF for advice on restraint on school transport in relation to one of his constituents who had also contacted the CBF. We developed a **briefing paper on restraint on school transport** with the input of the family carer. Josh Babarinde MP asked a Prime Ministers Question in the House of Commons highlighting the need for training standards and recording and reporting of restraint on school transport, both of which we discussed with him and included in our follow-up briefing paper.

The **Prime Minister's reply** included:

”

“Every child should have tailored support, including on transport to school, and I can reassure him and Lewis's mum that that principle will be central to our reforms.”

Josh Babarinde MP shared a clip from this event on his social media platforms where it was **viewed 15,600 times** helping to raise awareness of the issue and the need for reform.

Other strategic influencing work

We have met with and continued to **support Whitefield School families to campaign** and supported a journalist's investigation which was broadcast on BBC News at 10 and published on the BBC News website alongside a spokesperson from the Whitefield families group:

[Read the full BBC News article](#)

Work continued to ensure that the roll out of mental health teams in schools includes special schools, including a **Ministerial meeting** with Stephen Morgan MP, a follow up letter with **Children and Young People Mental Health Coalition**, meeting with **NHS England** and discussing at **Children and Young People National Steering Group** meeting. Mental health teams will be rolled out to special schools, however there is no national model for children with severe learning disabilities.

Our [What Matters to Me Transition Report](#) was shared with the **Transition Subgroup, Disabled Children's Partnership** (DCP) and **National Working Group for Safeguarding Disabled Children** and to contacts suggested by the subgroup.

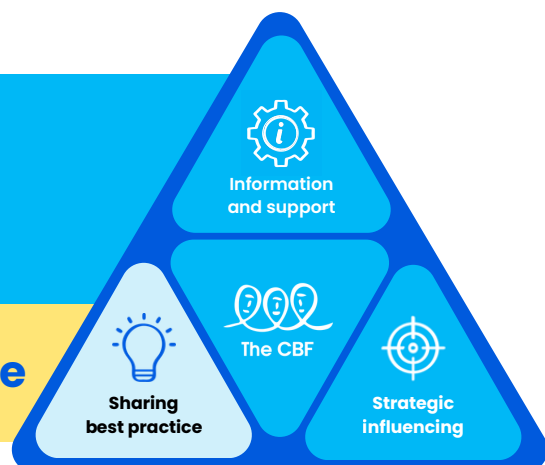
We contributed to the transition policy paper which was used to inform DCP policy briefings. This has contributed to an increased awareness at DfE to focus on this area.





Sharing Best Practice

Achievements and Performance



What Matters to Me

Our 3-year Blagrove Trust funded, *What Matters to Me* project finished in 2025. *What Matters to Me* involved engaging directly with 11 young people who have severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities.

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CHILDREN
IN NEED

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Supporting young people

Proudly supporting
youth social action
#iwill

Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

COMMUNITY
FUND

The project demonstrated that, by taking the time to build relationships, using evidence-based approaches and learning about individual ways of communication, it is possible to meaningfully engage with young people with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities, to find out what is important to and for them, and to use what we learn to influence policy and shape the support and services that impact upon their lives. We launched the findings at an event at the House of Commons with the young people central to the event. This was followed by an online launch event which you can [watch back here](#). Over 100 professionals and family carers attended and contributed through discussions and interactive activities. During the event, four short films containing the project findings were broadcast, and best practice examples were shared.

Following the launch we have produced a number of resources including the *What Matters to Me Practical Toolkit* which provides materials and resources that can be used by both professionals and families to improve how people with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities are consulted with and engaged in processes that impact their lives.



Forward Together

Since 2024, the CBF-led *Forward Together* project has been building regional networks and hosting community of practice events in three regions of England, to improve the lives of individuals with a severe learning disability and behaviours that challenge, and their families. Forward Together operates in Salford/Manchester, Black Country, and Kent/Medway. Each area has a dedicated Family Carer Project Worker, and **multi-stakeholder regional networks** are being established.

Network members are invited to **community of practice** events held in each region to bring together family carers and professionals to work collaboratively to understand the local challenges faced by individuals with severe learning disabilities, and their families. Forward Together gives local level insights to identifying key issues, as well as scoping and sharing evidence of good practice which feeds into the CBF's national strategic influencing, including via our CB-NSG. So far, across the three areas, **over 300 professionals and family carers** have signed up to their region's network.



In the summer of 2025, the first community of practice events were held in each region. 78 members attended and the sessions focused on introducing the project, understanding the local landscape in regards to how support and services operate for children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities and behaviours that challenge, and their families, and how the networks could grow to have the biggest impact in the areas.

These events brought together a diverse group of stakeholders including family carers, professionals working across health, social care and education, commissioning teams, local authority teams and charity and voluntary sector organisations.



“Forward Together was a fantastic reminder of how much can be achieved when families, carers, and professionals come together. Hearing people share their experiences, seeing connections form, and knowing we could provide information that might make life a little easier for someone – that’s why events like this are so valuable.”

Event attendee (professional)

Workshops

This year we have successfully transitioned from a Workshop Co-ordinator model to a Workshop Manager role, recognising the growth and increasing strategic importance of our workshops programme. This has strengthened oversight of quality, delivery, and development across the full suite of workshops.

We now offer a comprehensive programme of **six workshops** available to family carers and professionals. All workshops are co-designed with families, ensuring that content reflects gaps in knowledge and understanding identified through lived experience. They are co-produced and co-delivered by family carers alongside practitioners, modelling the partnership working approach that we promote.

During the year, significant work has been undertaken to review and update workshop content and materials. This has ensured they reflect current research, best practice and feedback from participants, while also improving consistency in structure, format and branding across the suite. Alongside this, we have streamlined workshop processes, clarifying roles, standardising approaches and improving efficiency for booking, delivery and follow-up.

We have also invested in developing our existing co-trainer workforce, providing opportunities for co-trainers to observe and train in newer workshops so that they are equipped to deliver across a broader range of topics, supporting programme sustainability and growth.

This year we delivered **51 workshops** across a range of programmes and partnerships, including specially commissioned workshops, an open-access series, workshops for the *Forward Together* project, *Black Country Proof of Concept - All Age Keyworker* Project and Skills for Care user-lead organisations training.

We completed a successful pilot for **open-access workshops**, increasing accessibility for both family carers and professionals. We responded directly to an identified need and co-developed a **new workshop** for family carers focused on navigating complex systems of support. We also adapted our **Whole Family Approaches** workshop for delivery in the Black Country.

Work to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of our workshops is ongoing, with a continued focus on using learning and feedback to inform future development.



Feedback from participants highlights the practical value and impact of our workshops. Family carers and professionals report increased understanding, confidence and skills to support individuals with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges, as well as a greater appreciation of the importance of working in partnership. The co-produced and co-delivered approach, grounded in lived experience, is consistently identified as a key strength, helping to bridge gaps between families and services and enabling participants to reflect on and improve their own practice.



“[The workshop demonstrated] the importance of hearing from a professional trainer and a family carer trainer. By co-hosting, both professionals and families can get a better understanding of each other and how important both roles are in supporting loved ones”

Workshop participant

Locally Commissioned Work

Black Country All Age Keyworker Project

This project is a proof of concept and builds upon learning from the initial keyworker project CBF was involved in, and the work from both our *Getting it Right* project and the current *Forward Together* project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. We are drawing on and utilising resources and networks established over several years through this work. The CBF contribution focuses on upskilling and empowering individuals, families and keyworkers. The fundamental principles of co-production, working in partnership and focusing on outcomes for individuals are embedded in the work.

We are co-developing a model of focus groups and training workshops that can be embedded within the local area as a core offer available to people and families going forward. This includes utilising existing co-produced resources and materials as well as co-producing the *Navigating the System* training workshop. This new resource was identified as a need locally, as well as through CBF national work. This project is due to finish March 2026.

Input to research projects

In line with our aim of sharing families lived experiences and building evidence to inform our information and support and strategic influencing work, we have continued to support and shape a variety of research applications and funded projects with a wide range of academics and researchers. We have continued to provide input to steering and advisory groups and supported paid family carer participation in consultations and focus groups, including translating research findings into practice. This year we established the new role of Family Carer Research Lead and we have been involved in thirteen research projects.

Early years and early intervention

Early Positive Approaches to Support – Doctor Nick Gore, University of Birmingham ([E-PAtS Study](#)).

Mapping and Evaluation Learning Disability Services (MELD)– Professor Richard Hastings, University of Birmingham ([MELD](#)).

i-RISC (identification of children at the highest risk for developing severe challenging behaviour) – Professor Caroline Richards, Birmingham University.

Feasibility of the i-KNOW (identifying and knowing about behaviour) preventive intervention programme for individuals under 5 at clinical high risk for behaviours that challenge – Professor Caroline Richards, Birmingham University.

Reduction in crisis & systemic change

Reduction in Crisis and Systemic Change Mental Health Admissions to Paediatric Wards Study (MAPS) – Doctor Lee Hudson, University College London ([MAPS](#)).

Family wellbeing & systemic change

A feasibility trial of remotely-delivered Video Interaction Guidance [VIG] for families of children with a learning disability referred to specialist mental health services – Professor Vaso Totsika, University College London ([VIG-LD](#)).

Data and evidence

Research, Engagement, Access and Dissemination (READ) project – Doctor Nick Gore, University of Birmingham ([READ](#)).

Changing poor practice

Trauma-AID: NIHR – PTSD (Eye Movement Therapy) research – Professor Peter Langdon and University of Birmingham ([Trauma-AID](#)).

Rationalising psychotropic medications for adults with intellectual disabilities – a scoping study (RAPID COP) – Professor Shoumitro (Shoumi) Deb, Imperial College London.

Valuing individuals and their families

Supporting healthy weight in people with learning disabilities – Doctor Karen Coulman, University of Bristol.

Support and services

An evaluation of care (EduCatlon) and treatment reviews for people with learning disabilities and autistic people (CECILIA) – Professor Peter Langdon (link: [CECILIA](#)).

Personalised approaches for support for individuals who display aggressive behaviour (PerTa/Petal) – Professor Angela Hasiotis, University College London (link: [PerTa/Petal](#)).

Harmful sexual behaviour in men with intellectual disabilities (HaS-IDD) – Professor Glyn Murphy, Tizard Centre, University of Kent (link: [HaSB-IDD](#)).

We held a full day event with family carers and people with learning disabilities to input to the early thinking of IDRIS, the new learning disability research hub at Birmingham University, and have had a number of meetings subsequently to identify funding to ensure co-production remains a core theme.

This year we started working with a University of Birmingham PhD student whose research is titled *longitudinal determinants of mental wellbeing amongst people with intellectual disabilities*. The study aims to:

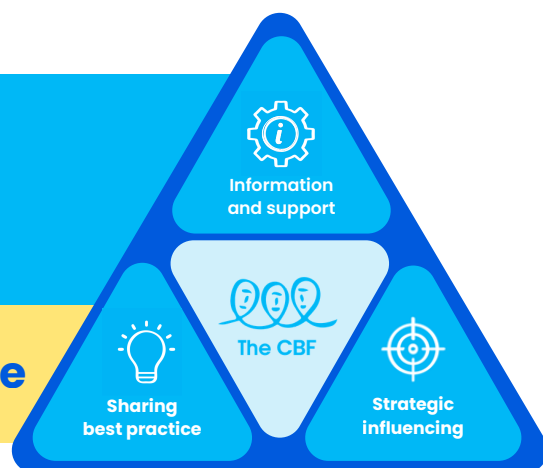
- Develop greater understanding of the longitudinal determinants of mental wellbeing for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Inform government policy, help shape service design and delivery, and assist the CBF with effective evidence-based lobbying.
- Improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

We continue to promote the need for a national research strategy with a range of researchers and academics. Various discussions have recently taken place with senior people in NHS England (NHSE), the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). Most recently we have connected with APPRAISE– a collaboration of academics, practitioners and people with lived experience, and have secured their support to work with us all to facilitate the development of a national strategic approach.



Enabling Activity

Achievements and Performance



Wellbeing of staff

This year we have had a wider organisational focus on staff wellbeing through the introduction of mid-year reviews, an extended Employee Assistance Programme and celebrations of achievements and milestones in the office. We have also made changes to internal systems and processes in response to staff feedback. The wellbeing of our staff and volunteers will remain a key priority in our 2026–2029 Strategic Plan.

Newsletter

We produced two newsletters this year:

- Summer 2025 – *Good Communication for Good Lives*
- Winter 2025 – *Enabling Full and Active Lives*

Both newsletters went out to just over 4,000 people digitally. The summer newsletter also went to 2,300 people in hard copy, thanks to funding from the Care Quality Commission – Share for Better Care work, to ensure families throughout the UK without digital access were not excluded.



Social media

We continue to use our social media platforms to share news, statements, best practice information and practical resources. All our social media platforms have all seen an increase in audiences this year, more consistent posting and a more strategic approach to our social media channels.

Fundraising

The introduction of a new Fundraising and Communications Lead in January 2025 has meant we have been able to improve our external communications, increasing visibility and engagement for all areas of our work. We have developed a three-year fundraising plan for 2026 – 2029 focused on diversifying our income and increasing the stability of funding for our core work. The plan will support organisational aims with a focus on strategic applications, visibility, and stewardship.



3. Financial review

Financial Position

Income for the year amounted to £495,565, a reduction of £47,496 compared with the previous year. The downturn was mainly the result of lower grant income, with the termination of several multi-year projects, including What Matters to Me, funded by The Blagrove Trust, not yet being fully replaced by new ones. Within charitable activities there was an increase in income from training workshops, while funding for the participation in research projects also rose. This was, however, offset by reduced income from other charitable activities which consist mainly of ad hoc projects commissioned by public bodies. While the volume of this type of work inevitably fluctuates from year to year, the continuing tightening of public finances, coupled with the abolition of NHS England, has resulted in a notable downturn over the last two years.

Expenditure rose from £593,382 in 2024/5 to £671,716, an increase of 13.2%, reflecting the strengthening of organisational capacity, particularly in fundraising and communications, project management and research. As a result, there was a one-off increase in net expenditure of unrestricted general funds from £12,098 in 2024/5 to £86,147 in 2025/6. We anticipate a significant improvement in the position next year as the new fundraising plan starts to take effect. Already since the year-end we have secured a grant totalling £2.2 million spread over five years from The National Lottery Community Fund's UK Fund for our Making It Matter project.

Grant funding is crucial in enabling the CBF to continue its work, and indeed represented 69% of total income both in 2025/6 and the previous year. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to all those who have provided this support. The grant from the National Lottery Community Fund has enabled us to expand our sharing best practice activities, while funding from The Blagrove Trust has allowed us to further our policy and influencing work. We are grateful to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation which has supported our policy work relating to young people and transition while the Masonic Charitable Foundation has helped to fund our family support service, enabling us to evaluate its impact. Thanks are also due to the Garfield Weston Foundation and Pears Family Charitable Foundation for their invaluable contributions towards the CBF's core running costs, which, although essential for the efficient and effective running of the charity, are always particularly difficult to fund.

Despite our recent success in securing a major grant, the general financial environment is increasingly challenging. Grant funding is subject to fierce competition and usually one-off or relatively short-term. Paid work, always unpredictable and fluctuating in volume, is becoming harder to secure due to severe financial pressures in the public sector. At the same time, inflation continues push up costs, exacerbated by the recent increases in employers' National Insurance Contributions.

The CBF's overall short-term financial position was boosted by the receipt of a legacy of over £300,000 received in December 2023. This is, however, one-off income, and does not in itself provide underlying financial sustainability. The legacy is being used, via the designated Jan Seamer Memorial Fund, to invest in measures to promote the charity's longer-term sustainability and to cover development opportunities that cannot be funded elsewhere.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the key risks across the organisation and have set a target of holding closure costs plus six months of running costs in general unrestricted funds to ensure the charity is in a stable position to:

1. Provide effective staffing to seek alternative funding and support the development of alternative forms of support for families in need of long-term casework in the event of a downturn in income or closure (we typically provide casework support to families for a period of six months to three years).
2. Ensure that longer term project commitments can be met.
3. Enable the organisation to respond to unforeseen external challenges such as an increase in demand similar to that experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Provide a level of flexibility to respond to any opportunities that may arise at short notice to influence national policy on behalf of our beneficiaries. In taking any decision to use reserves in this manner the Trustees take account of CBF's financial position ensuring that any risks do not impact on its sustainability.
5. Fulfil notice periods, statutory redundancy and meet all other obligations and liabilities in event of closure of the charity.

In determining the reserves strategy, the Trustees have taken a holistic and strategic approach, considering carefully the reasons for maintaining reserves as well as the logistics of utilising them. This includes consideration of the external factors that may affect reserves such as demands on capacity and the high competition for and relatively short-term nature of grant funding, which forms a large part of the charity's income, and often involves a long lead time to secure.

General funds amounted to £279,757 at 31 January 2026, representing approximately 2.4 months of running costs, after taking account of estimated closure costs, based on predicted expenditure for 2026/27. This is well below the target and reflects the challenges the CBF faces in securing funding for its work. The increased focus on fundraising, which has already borne fruit since the year end, should enable us to make progress towards our target over the next year, although continuing to secure new funding remains vital.

Additionally, the charity's financial stability is enhanced in the short term by the designated Jan Seamer Memorial Fund, which amounted to £211,584 at 31 January 2026.

4. Our plans for the coming year

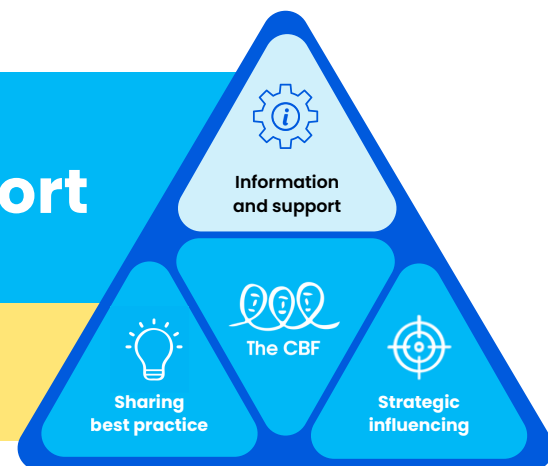
We will soon publish our strategic plan for the next three years (2026 – 2029). Alongside information and support for families, and sharing best practice, our core policy influencing work remains key.

Although our ultimate aim as an organisation continues to be that we are not needed because the 'system' works, we know this is a long-term aim, unlikely to be achieved in our lifetimes and the core work of the CBF in the current climate is needed more than ever. We will work towards lived experience informing policy decisions and systems change. This includes input and perspectives from both family carers and individuals with severe learning disabilities to key policy areas and research studies because we know from long experience that when people with lived experience have an equal seat at the table, better decisions are made.



Information and Support

Future Plans



Families of children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour may be described as challenging, have the information and support they need to support their relatives to realise their rights and to live full and active lives.

We plan to continue to ensure our specialist family support and information service is maintained, continues to be family centred, and provides high-quality independent expertise and advocacy for families in need.

We are grateful to Pears Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Masonic Charitable Foundation and Alex Ferry Foundation who generously provide core funding for our specialist family support helpline and casework which are vital to enable this work to continue.



We will:

- Continue to offer our:
 - Peer support Facebook group.
 - Family Carer Email Network, helping us reach and support families with a range of communication and technology preferences.
 - Listening Ear Telephone Service to provide non-judgmental and confidential time to talk.
- Work with the Helpline Collaboration to review how we support people over the coming twelve months. Further improving relationships with other family support organisations and charities that run helplines by continuing to lead the co-ordination of regular meetings.
- Keep our information resources up to date and develop new resources which will be helpful to families and the professionals who support them.
- Actively communicate and raise awareness across different networks so families who may need the CBF can find out about our support.
- Maintain and strengthen our Family Support Service providing ongoing complex casework support, triage and signposting to relevant information and organisations.
- Review the diversity of the families who use CBF'S information and support service and offer Language Line interpreters for those whose first language is not English.
- Send paper newsletters (subject to identifying funding) and information resources to families who do not use the internet or who request hard copies of resources.

Due to the success of *Challenge Accepted*, CBF's podcast, and thanks to funding from The Masonic Charitable Foundation we will publish the last episode in our transition to adulthood – Bodies, boundaries and big changes: Puberty and sexual expression. We will sit down with Claire Lightly from Body Sense for an open, honest and practical conversation about puberty and sexual expression, discussing real questions from the CBF Family Carer Email Network and exploring some of the issues you might feel least able to talk

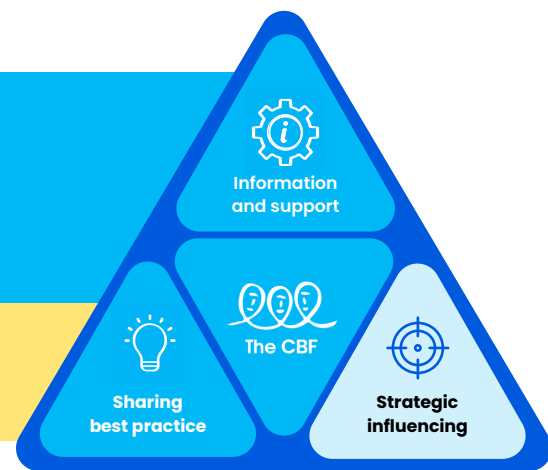
about. We are currently preparing to record our fourth series with three new episodes of *Challenge Accepted* focussing on pica (ingesting inedible objects or substances). This behaviour affects around 25% of people with a learning disability but there is very limited information available for their families. The podcast will bring together experts and family carers to explore the realities of living with pica.





Strategic Influencing

Future Plans



Key decisions makers engage with people who have lived experience of severe learning disability and behaviour described as challenging to inform systemic change

Life is getting more difficult for the families we represent. An increasing number of organisations supporting children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities and their families are closing their services due to financial difficulties or saying they cannot meet people's needs. The current financial landscape and pressures on public sector services mean many families of children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities are at breaking point, filling the gaps where the system is not meeting their relative's needs, often in fragile situations, which can lead to crisis and restrictive approaches if they break down. In addition, some political narratives frame people with higher support needs as "expensive" and "a burden." and their families as "abusing the system".

There are opportunities for UK-wide change on the horizon, but there is also a great deal of disjointed organisational and policy change underway across all the services people with a severe learning disability rely on – health, education, social care, housing and local government. There are Government reforms in train which risk watering down the rights of people with severe learning disabilities. Other reforms we have called for have been achieved as far as the Government is concerned (the Mental Health Act, the Use of Force guidance) but significantly more work is required to ensure that stated policy intentions are actually delivered in a way which makes a difference to people's lives.

We will:

- Continue to hold bi-annual Challenging Behaviour – National Strategy Group (CB-NSG) meetings with an action-focused approach, to breaking down the systemic barriers to a good life for individuals and families.
- Continue the work of the CB-NSG subgroups to focus on family carer driven change which will have the biggest impact on people's lives including *Homes not Hospitals* work to enable more people with a learning disability to be supported to live fulfilling lives in the community rather than inpatient mental health hospitals and work to end the "cliff edge" by improving transition to adulthood.

- Review and update the membership of the CB-NSG to ensure a representative and active membership.
- Advocate for co-production with people with lived experience in key areas of policy reform across the UK.
- Publish a UK wide statement on the harm caused to children and young people by the use of restrictive interventions.
- Lead a high-profile campaign culminating in open letter to Ministers to *End the Cliff Edge* of transition and publish a transition report setting out the current situation and recommendations.
- Influence Department of Health and Social Care to ensure family carer input into implementation of the Mental Health Act and development of a co-produced roadmap.
- Ensure the experiences and views of family carers of children and young people with a severe learning disability influence the SEND reforms.
- Work to influence the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards reforms.



Sharing Best Practice

Future Plans



Families, professionals and staff understand more about the reasons for challenging behaviour displayed by individuals with severe learning disabilities and about best practice in supporting a good quality of life.

We will:

- Continue to deliver co-produced and co-delivered training workshops across the UK.
- Continue to review our workshop materials to ensure they reflect current research and best practice.
- Co-develop a new workshop around engagement as part of the new *Making it Matter* project.
- Provide lived experience input to high quality research studies and share the findings widely to inform evidence-based practice, including early intervention and preventative approaches.

- Through *Making it Matter*, build on our *What Matters to Me* project which engaged directly with young people to find out what mattered to them and encourage others to adopt the approach.
- Deliver the *Forward Together* project to reduce isolation and connect families up to improve local services in Kent/Medway, Manchester/Salford and the Black Country/Birmingham.
- Share findings from the [MELD](#) study which is identifying different service models for supporting children with learning disabilities and behaviours that challenge, the outcomes they deliver, how well they work with families and how much they cost.

Making it Matter

Thanks to National Lottery players, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation has received



funding from The National Lottery Community Fund. The funding will be used for *Making it Matter: no voice but a lot to say*, a five-year project to increase direct engagement with young people who have been historically excluded from engagement activities because they do not communicate using speech and/or are assessed as not having capacity.

This comes from The UK Fund, one of The National Lottery Community Fund's significant commitments as part of its 2023-2030 strategy, *It starts with community*, funding projects that help children and young people thrive – one of the funder's four key missions.

Making it Matter builds on the work completed in our *What Matters to Me* project, and the previous projects that underpinned this. We know that young people with severe learning disabilities and profound and multiple learning disabilities are routinely excluded from consultations and decision-making processes because many of them cannot communicate verbally. But, as evidenced in our previous project work, these young people can share what matters to them if we utilise creative engagement methods, tailored to their individual communication methods and invest time and skills to understand their experiences, preferences and views. *Making it Matter* will use the methodology we have developed for engagement with people with severe learning disabilities and profound and multiple learning disabilities, to give these young people a voice at CB-NSG. We know that this is possible, however, it requires those around them to recognise this and to value their input, to have the right skills and to take the time to understand each individual's life and learn the best way to communicate with them.



Enabling Activity

Future Plans



The Challenging Behaviour Foundation continues to be a sustainable and efficient place to work and volunteer

To deliver this we will:

- Make sure current fundraising activity is reviewed, refreshed, tightened and improved.
- Seek funding from Grants and Trusts whose aims align with our goals.
- Achieve the fundraising targets set in our annual budget.
- Improve reporting and stewardship to increase retention and renewal rates for existing donors.
- Research and manage the fundraising pipeline, agreeing a multi-year income plan by May.
- Increase visibility of the CBF and our charity status through improvements to communications channels including website, newsletter and social media, and measuring engagement.
- Take steps to diversify our income sources through our fundraising plan, and investment in workshops and fundraising.
- Take further steps to pro-actively maintain the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers continuing the work already done.
- Continue to use our funds wisely and be mindful of our environmental impact.

5. Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

The Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are set out below.

- Dr D Allen (Chair)
- Ms S Cooper (Retired August 2026)
- Mr J Dodd (Retired October 2025)
- Dr N J Gore (Retired August 2025)
- Dr K Jankulak (Vice Chair)
- Ms P Joshi (Resigned January 2026)
- Mrs C Million (Honorary Treasurer)
- Mr A Rook
- Mrs K Sanger
- Dr N Manktelow (Appointed January 2026)
- Mr J Hunt (Appointed 30 July 2026)

No Trustee shall serve for more than three terms or nine consecutive years, unless the other Trustees consider it would be in the best interests of the charity for a particular Trustee to serve beyond that period and that Trustee is reappointed in accordance with the governing document. As an exception, Clare Million has completed three terms as of August 2026, and has been unanimously re-appointed for a fourth term in view of her considerable and in-depth knowledge of the CBF and its finances, bringing both stability and continuity to the Board. Three other Trustees retired as they had served for more than nine consecutive years.

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up. Day-to-day management of the charity's activities is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Trustee Board meets quarterly to review achievements and performance, finances, and future plans.

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustee skills are reviewed annually to ensure the board has the range of skills and experience required. Any gaps in specific skills are identified and addressed through training or pro bono consultancy input or through the recruitment of new members to the Trustee Board. Two new Trustees were recruited during the last year. We also have a network of Advisors who are supported, involved, and contribute to the CBF and we are exploring new ways for family carers to input strategically through additional online meetings with Trustees.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed, including ensuring appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees have a risk management strategy in place, including an annual review of the risks the charity may face, the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate risks identified, and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of these risks materialise. In common with many voluntary organisations, the risks are ongoing due to the nature of the work and the context in which we operate.

The trustees have identified funding shortfalls as a major risk, potentially leading to a lack of financial sustainability, exacerbated by pressure on public sector finances, along with increased competition for grant funding. In response, our recent investment in fundraising resource and new fundraising plan are increasing the focus on income generation. The regular updating and review of financial projections and tight budget management are also key elements in the management of this risk.

Staffing represents another major risk, with pressure on resources potentially leading to stress and sickness and reduced capacity to deliver our plans. The CBF is fortunate to have a highly motivated and experienced senior management team. This year has seen a wider organisational focus on staff wellbeing and this is included as a key priority in our 2026 – 2029 strategic plan.

Other key risks identified are in areas such as reputation, governance, compliance and IT security, with the Trustees and senior management ensuring that suitable mitigating actions are in place.

6. Reference and Administrative Data

Registered Company number

3307407 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1060714

Registered office

c/o The Old Courthouse
New Road Avenue
Chatham
Kent
England
ME4 6BE

Trustees

Dr D Allen (Chair)
Dr K Jankulak (Vice Chair)
Mrs C Million (Honorary Treasurer)
Mr A Rook
Mrs K Sanger
Dr N Manktelow
Mr J Hunt

Company Secretary

Mrs C Million

Independent Examiner

Xeinadin South East
Limited 12 Conqueror
Court Sittingbourne
Kent
United Kingdom
ME10 5BH

Public Benefit

The charity provides public benefit by providing free information and support to families caring for individuals with severe learning disabilities and behaviour described as challenging.

Someone with a severe learning disability will have little or no speech, find it difficult to learn new skills and need ongoing support to carry out daily activities such as washing and dressing. The NHS estimates that there are around 350,000 people in the UK with a severe learning disability. Around 10– 15% of people with severe learning disabilities are likely to develop behaviours described as challenging.

Challenging behaviour is a term used to describe a range of behaviours which some people with severe learning disabilities may use to communicate their needs or exert control over a situation. Behaviours can vary from hair pulling or aggression to eating inedible objects, obsessive repetition or making inappropriate noises. In many cases these behaviours are not intended to cause disruption or distress but offer a form of communication to children and adults with learning disabilities who find verbal communication difficult.

In addition to the immediate health and safety concerns becoming known as "challenging" can mean that an individual can find themselves excluded from local services and left with little control over how their support is provided. Families often find themselves isolated from their local community, unsupported by local services and separated from their relative. Without appropriate support children and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour may challenge find themselves at greater risk of poor healthcare, poor life prospects and at greater risk of abuse. We believe that with good support each individual can live a happy active life in their community with access to healthcare, employment, leisure and education, as well as a fulfilling family life.

More information about the work of the charity can be found at www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk. The trustees have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees' report, including the strategic report, was approved by the Board of Trustees

7. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Challenging Behaviour Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



.....

Mrs C MILLION

Trustee, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer

Date: 24th August 2026
.....

8. Independent Examiner's Report

to the Trustees of the Challenging Behaviour Foundation

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 January 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Rosanna Turner ACA DChA



Xeinadin South East Limited

12 Conqueror Court

Sittingbourne

Kent

ME10 5BH

United Kingdom

Date: 19/10/2026

9. Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

		Unrestricted funds general 2026	Unrestricted funds designated 2026	Restricted funds 2026	Total 2026	Unrestricted funds general 2025	Unrestricted funds designated 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	82,511	(10,000)	287,425	359,936	82,258	-	315,461	397,719
Charitable activities	4	75,099	52,627	-	127,726	104,910	22,650	-	127,560
Other trading activities	5	679	-	-	679	839	-	-	839
Investment income	6	7,224	-	-	7,224	16,943	-	-	16,943
Total income		<u>165,513</u>	<u>42,627</u>	<u>287,425</u>	<u>495,565</u>	<u>204,950</u>	<u>22,650</u>	<u>315,461</u>	<u>543,061</u>
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	7	26,309	-	-	26,309	22,913	-	-	22,913
Charitable activities	8	225,351	99,369	320,687	645,407	194,135	53,590	322,744	570,469
Total expenditure		<u>251,660</u>	<u>99,369</u>	<u>320,687</u>	<u>671,716</u>	<u>217,048</u>	<u>53,590</u>	<u>322,744</u>	<u>593,382</u>
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(86,147)	(56,742)	(33,262)	(176,151)	(12,098)	(30,940)	(7,283)	(50,321)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Fund balances as 1 February 2025		365,904	306,606	119,873	792,383	378,002	337,546	127,156	842,704
Fund balances at 31 January 2026		<u>279,757</u>	<u>249,864</u>	<u>86,611</u>	<u>616,232</u>	<u>365,904</u>	<u>306,606</u>	<u>119,873</u>	<u>792,383</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

10. Balance Sheet

31 January 2026

		2026	2026	2025	2025
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	13	41,829		19,088	
Cash at bank and in hand		648,565		911,218	
		<u>690,394</u>		<u>930,306</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(74,162)		(137,923)	
Net current assets			<u>616,232</u>		<u>792,383</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	15		86,611		119,873
Unrestricted funds - general	17		279,757		365,904
Unrestricted funds - designated	16		249,864		306,606
			<u>616,232</u>		<u>792,383</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 January 2026.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 24th August 2026.



.....
Mrs C MILLION
Trustee, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer

Company registration number 3307407 (England and Wales)

The notes form part of these financial statements

12. Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Old Court House, New Road Avenue, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6BE, England.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably. Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(continued)

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

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, and in bank. Overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(continued)

1.8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds general 2026	Unrestricted funds designated 2026	Restricted funds 2026	Total 2026	Unrestricted funds general 2025	Unrestricted funds designated 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	27,511	(10,000)	-	17,511	21,758	-	-	21,754
Grants	55,000		287,425	342,425	60,500	-	315,461	375,961
	<u>82,511</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>287,425</u>	<u>359,936</u>	<u>82,258</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>315,461</u>	<u>397,719</u>
Grants								
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	174,024	174,024	-	-	144,871	144,871
The Blagrave Trust	-	-	18,917	18,917	-	-	45,792	45,792
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	-	20,254	20,254	-	-	19,485	19,485
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
Skills for Care 2024-2025	-	-	12,980	12,980	-	-	12,980	12,980
Skills for Care 2025-2026	-	-	11,250	11,250	-	-	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	30,000	-	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	30,000
Pears Family Charitable Foundation	25,000	-	-	25,000	25,000	-	-	25,000
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,333	12,333
The Stonewall Park Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
John Ellerman Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
	<u>55,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>287,425</u>	<u>342,425</u>	<u>60,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>315,461</u>	<u>375,961</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

(continued)

Included within income from donations and legacies is an adjustment of £10,000 relating to the ex gratia payment of a portion of The Jan Seamer Memorial Fund, an unrestricted designated fund. This payment was made with the approval of the Charity Commission.

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds general 2026	Unrestricted funds designated 2026	Total 2026	Unrestricted funds general 2025	Unrestricted funds designated 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activity						
Information and support	708	-	708	7,150	-	7,150
Strategic influencing	2,000	-	2,000	9,147	-	9,147
Sharing best practice	72,391	52,627	125,018	88,613	22,650	111,263
	<u>75,099</u>	<u>52,627</u>	<u>127,726</u>	<u>104,910</u>	<u>22,650</u>	<u>127,560</u>

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Fundraising events	<u>679</u>	<u>839</u>

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Deposit account interest and other interest received	<u>7,224</u>	<u>16,943</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

7. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	847	613
Staff costs	25,462	22,300
	<u>26,309</u>	<u>22,913</u>

8. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Direct costs		
Information and support	113,897	117,803
Strategic influencing	131,738	126,626
Sharing best practice	222,394	272,108
Core funding	177,378	53,932
	<u>645,407</u>	<u>570,469</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds – general	225,351	194,135
Unrestricted funds – designated	99,369	53,590
Restricted funds	320,687	322,744
	<u>645,407</u>	<u>570,469</u>

9. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2026	2025
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,200</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

10. TRUSTEES

During the year ended 31 January 2026, one (2025: one) trustee received a total of £72 (2025: £608) in expenses.

During the year ended 31 January 2026, one (2025: one) trustee received a total of £513 (2025: £743) in expenses for travel and replacement care costs whilst carrying out voluntary work, not as part of their role as trustee.

No trustee or any other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity other than as disclosed above and in Note 19, and no other related party transactions occurred.

11. EMPLOYEES

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Information & Support	4	4
Strategic Influencing	6	6
sharing Best Practice	6	4
Core/General	5	5
Total	21	19
	2026 £	2025 £
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries		
Social security costs	494,289	424,320
Other pension costs	54,819	32,836
	19,416	16,172
	568,524	473,328

Total full time equivalent number of employees for the year 14 (2025: 13).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12. TAXATION

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

13. DEBTORS

	2026 £	2025 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	11,525	15,389
Other debtors	25,000	1,832
Gift aid receivable	3,995	1,867
Prepayments and accrued income	1,309	-
	<u>41,829</u>	<u>19,088</u>

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Other taxation and social security	11,008	9,366
Trade creditors	3,844	14,747
Other creditors	8,210	9,414
Accruals and deferred income	51,100	104,396
	<u>74,162</u>	<u>137,923</u>

Funds held for other organisations £8,210 (2025: £9,414) represents monies held by the charity where it is working with other charities on joint projects. At 31 January 2026 these are as follows:

Learning Disability Senate: £6,831
Employment Dissemination: £1,379

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 February 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 January 2026 £
John Ellerman Foundation	27,519	-	(27,519)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC England Wide	44,927	174,024	(155,513)	63,438
SHIEC	3,572	-	-	3,572
National Lottery People's Project	8,885	-	(4,035)	4,850
The Blagrave Trust	26,575	18,971	(45,492)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	1,720	50,000	(50,532)	1,188
Masonic Charitable Foundation	6,675	20,254	(17,325)	9,604
Skills for Care - ULO Workshops	-	24,230	(20,271)	3,959
	<u>119,873</u>	<u>287,425</u>	<u>(320,687)</u>	<u>86,611</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS

(continued)

Previous year:	At 1 February 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 January 2025
	£	£	£	£
John Ellerman Foundation	24,401	30,000	(26,882)	27,519
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC England Wide	-	144,871	(99,944)	44,927
The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	6,000	-	(6,000)	-
CB-NSG	4,198	-	(4,198)	-
SHIEC	3,572	-	-	3,572
Asquith Legacy	2,792	-	(2,792)	-
National Lottery People's Project	20,105	-	(11,220)	8,885
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	2,314	12,333	(14,647)	-
The Blagrove Trust	23,638	45,792	(42,855)	26,575
BBC Children in Need	38,386	-	(38,386)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	1,750	50,000	(50,030)	1,720
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	19,485	(12,810)	6,675
Skills for Care - ULO Workshops	-	12,980	(12,980)	-
	<u>127,156</u>	<u>315,461</u>	<u>(322,744)</u>	<u>119,873</u>

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - DESIGNATED

The Training Designated Fund represents funds set aside by the trustees to invest in CBF's capacity to deliver training and help diversify the charity's income.

The Jan Seamer Memorial Designated Fund is to be used to reflect Jan Seamer's support of CBF and designated for the specific purposes of promoting the sustainability of CBF and to fund development opportunities that cannot be funded elsewhere.

	At 1 February 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 January 2026
	£	£	£	£
The Jan Seamer Memorial Fund	283,570	(10,000)	(61,986)	211,584
Training Designated Fund	23,036	52,627	(37,383)	38,280
	<u>306,606</u>	<u>42,627</u>	<u>(99,369)</u>	<u>249,864</u>
Previous year:	At 1 February 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 January 2025
	£	£	£	£
The Jan Seamer Memorial Fund	316,004	-	(32,434)	283,570
Training Designated Fund	21,542	22,650	(21,156)	23,036
	<u>337,546</u>	<u>22,650</u>	<u>(53,590)</u>	<u>306,606</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

17. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – GENERAL FUNDS

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 February 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 January 2026
	£	£	£	£
General funds	365,904	165,513	(251,660)	279,757
Previous year:	At 1 February 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 January 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	378,002	204,950	(217,048)	365,904

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds general 2026	Unrestricted funds designated 2026	Restricted funds 2026	Total 2026
	£	£	£	£
At 31 January 2026:				
Net current assets	279,757	249,864	86,611	616,232
	279,757	249,864	86,611	616,232
	Unrestricted funds general 2025	Unrestricted funds designated 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
At 31 January 2025:				
Net current assets	365,904	306,606	119,873	792,383
	365,904	306,606	119,873	792,383

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Two trustees received remuneration and out of pocket expenses totalling £123 for their roles in Patient and Public Inclusion and Engagement (PPIE) in research projects, by sharing their lived experience of caring for an individual with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour is described as challenging. Dr K Jankulak received £100 remuneration and £10 expenses. Ms K Sanger received £13 remuneration.



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