



South Cheshire
CLASP

Annual Report 2024

Mill House
Brook Street
Crewe
CW2 7DE

☎ 01270 250629

✉ info@southcheshireclasp.org.uk

💻 www.southcheshireclasp.org.uk

registered charity number: 1188608



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Organisational Structure & Governance:

South Cheshire CLASP is governed by its Constitution adopted on 12th June 2020.

The governing body is the board of Trustees. As at 31st December 2024, there were 6 members. Trustees are recruited annually at the AGM or can be co-opted on to the board. Decision making takes place at bi-monthly Trustee meetings.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trustees: | Chris Wenlock Gemma Harris (Lone Parent Representative) Graham Bushill (Safeguarding Lead) John Colclough (Chairman) Rachel Jones Ruth Grimshaw (Treasurer) |
| Staff: | Emma Culleton (Support Worker) Jan Wenlock (Support Worker) Jill Lloyd (Support Assistant) Julia Wood (Chief Executive) Lucy Secker (Finance Officer) Lynne Davies (Finance Officer) Marie Harrison (Cleaner) Rachael Doherty (Children's Work Manager) Sandra Tatton (Parent Support Worker) Sarah Blake-Appleton (Counsellor) Sarah Mankazana (Administrator) Sharon Hickson (Counselling Service Manager) Sharon Stowell (Funding Manager) Stuart Watson (Counsellor) Sue Chapman (Project Manager) |
| Volunteers: | Christel Remond Gemma Harris Jean Bradshaw Margaret Whyley Maureen Joy Natalie Clowes Ray Breen |

Values and Objectives

The Charity is an expression of care and support for all lone parents in the locality, whatever their circumstances and regardless of how they became lone parents.

South Cheshire CLASP was first established in 1998 and obtained charity status in 2002 under charity number 1093471. In 2020 the Charity became a CIO with the new Charity Number of 1188608.

Charitable Objects:

The objects of the CIO are:

For the public benefit and within a Christian ethos to advance the education and development of children and lone parents living in the South Cheshire area, in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) providing child development and parenting skills training to parents;
- b) providing safe group play and other activities designed to support children's social and emotional development;
- c) providing support, activities and signposting to advice which develop the capabilities, competences, skills and understanding of parents;
- d) providing activities and services designed to preserve and protect the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and their parents;
- e) providing or assisting in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of children and their parents with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Vision Statement:

To reach out and support those in the community who are affected by the difficulties associated with parenting alone, whatever their circumstances. We offer friendly support and encouragement to assist with the progression from crisis to wholeness, and a positive future for the whole family.

Values

- CARING
- ACCEPTING
- RESPECTFUL
- EMPOWERING

Overarching Aims and Objectives

- Lone parents and their children will experience an increase in confidence and self-esteem
- Lone parents and their children will experience improved family relationships
- Lone parents and their children will be able to better cope with family breakdown/their family situation
- Lone parents and their children will report improved emotional health and wellbeing

Chairman's Report

I am delighted, as CLASP's Chairman, to introduce our Annual Report for 2024.

It was another excellent year. The biggest obvious change was our move of premises from Jubilee House to Mill House. We were sorry to say goodbye after many years to our friends and colleagues at Wishing Well; however the two organisations combined had outgrown the building. We have much better accommodation and facilities at Mill House, and we have been made very welcome by My CWA.

We started the year anticipating a large in-year deficit, which was eventually bridged because of a huge fundraising effort- very well done!

The new Cheshire East contract was prescriptive, resulting in our inability to bid for the work. Our previous contract with the local authority had given us an annual income of over £40,000- for CLASP, this was a huge sum of money to lose. Our reserves meant that we could continue our activities at the same level for one year, but this is unsustainable in future.

Going forward, trustees (in conjunction with staff, volunteers and service users) must make hard decisions to ensure that CLASP remains a flourishing and viable charity.

Rachel Jones joined the Trustee Board in summer 2024; she has already made an excellent contribution to the board's role of overseeing the management of CLASP, and I look forward to our working together in the years to come.

I also say thanks once more to the rest of our trustees, as well as staff and volunteers. We have all built up a great organisation that continues to provide much-needed support to lone parent families in the local area.

John Colclough
Chairman

A Snapshot of 2024

At the end of last year we were just moving into our new Brook Street premises, we hit the ground running and since then have supported more than 300 people and received 232 new referrals.

The year has been a great success filled with exciting activities and skills building with a big focus on resilience.

Our 2024 services included our professional counselling service, 1:1 parent support, peer support groups, parenting courses, lifeskills workshops, wellbeing activities, support for children and young people, holiday activities and volunteering opportunities.

- We have completed more than 900 hours of counselling in schools and our new counselling rooms. Offering a safe and confidential space for 1:1 counselling, family therapy and play therapy.

- Our coffee n' chat groups have provided a platform for peer support, signposting and information sharing and more than 400 cups of tea and coffee!

- We worked hard to bridge the funding gap left due to the end of our commissioned contract and successfully raised over £100k in 2024.

- 29 children have graduated from primary plus and we have supported 20 young people in our therapeutic groups in High Schools.

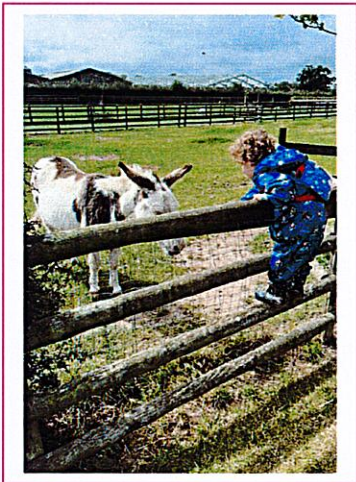
- 15 parents have received 1:1 support to help achieve the goals that they had set for themselves, increasing confidence and resilience. Many parents have received support with parenting skills, budgeting or housing issues and reduced isolation by attending groups and courses.

- We have spent the school holidays having the BEST days out with CLASP families, splashing in the sea, building sandcastles, eating ice-creams, building dens, visiting farms, kayaking and canoeing, picnicking in the park, hiking up the Cloud, picking pumpkins and booing at the bad guys at the panto!

Our brilliant team have listened to the needs of the families we support and have created brilliant opportunities to learn new skills, improve their quality of life and to have fun doing it!

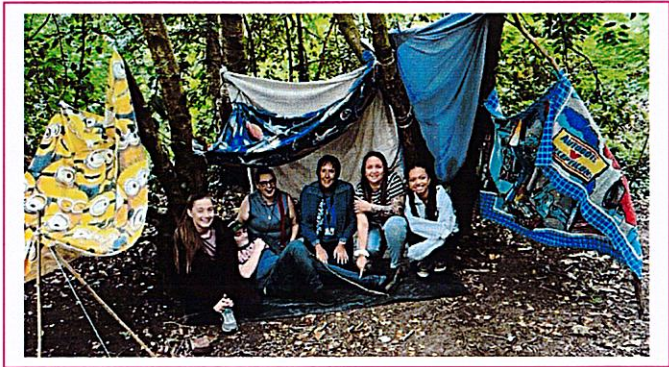


Thank you letter from a grateful child



Visit to the farm

Den building in the school holidays!



Achievements 2024

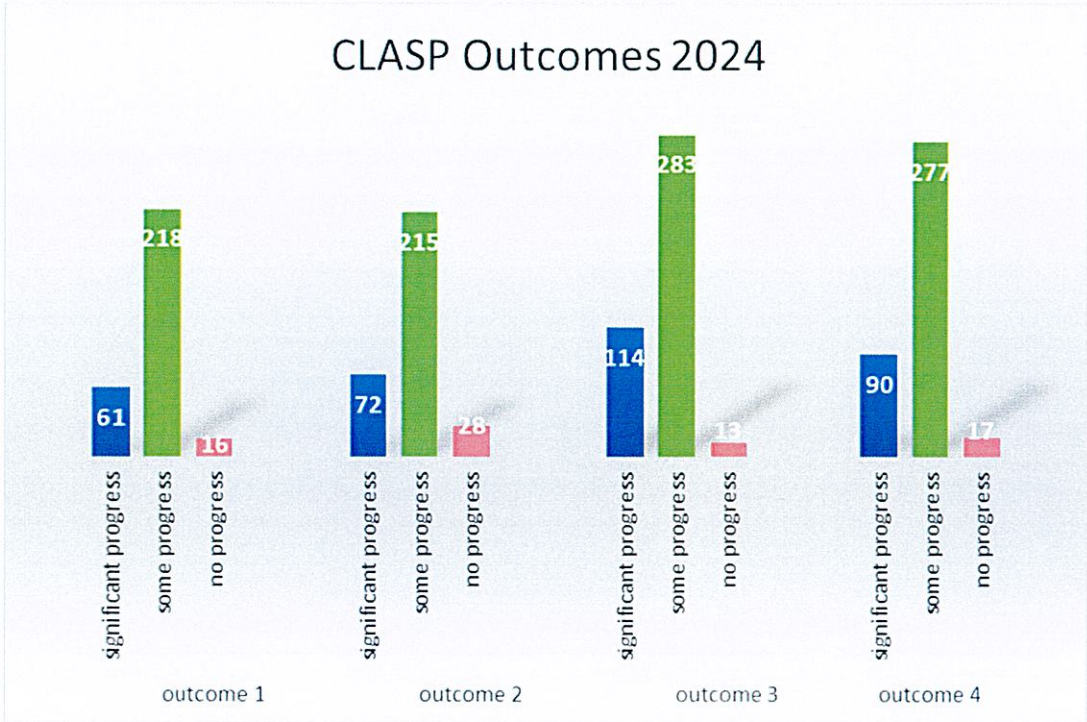
We have 4 main outcomes running across all of our projects, as well as additional outcomes relating to individual projects. The following shows our progress across these 4 main outcomes.

Outcome 1. Lone parents and their children will benefit from an increased ability to cope with family breakdown and/or their family situation

Outcome 2. Lone parents and their children will benefit from improved family relationships

Outcome 3. Lone parents and their children will benefit from increased confidence/self-esteem

Outcome 4. Lone parents and their children will report improved emotional health and wellbeing.



Some feedback from lone parents and children:

Mum feels that the boys are benefitting from counselling, and they absolutely love coming.

It has been helpful to explore issues around parenting alone with a counsellor. My confidence and emotional wellbeing have increased.

K learned to use new tools she has never used before and learnt lots of new skills, to tackle DIY tasks in the home.

J feels that she can cope with her feelings better.

Mum feels that F's confidence and self-esteem has skyrocketed. Mum says he is now very easy to parent.

L brought the children to the Monkey Forest trip today, which was fun for them all, she was able to chat and interact with the other parents.

After doing the 1 to 1 PP programme, M's Mum said, "I think he understands feelings and emotions better."

Counselling has helped M to express how he feels at home and to stay away from trouble.

P is a much calmer and happier child since attending counselling.



Referrals received in 2024 for **232** families



We interacted in some way with **250** lone/step parents



We provided support to **232** children and young people

Acknowledgements & Thanks

The Trustees and Staff Team of South Cheshire CLASP wish to thank all the individuals and organisations who have supported us throughout 2023, through donations, funding support, partnership working, free training, volunteering, and advice.

- ❖ All of our wonderful volunteers
- ❖ Ann Norburn
- ❖ Anonymous donors
- ❖ Audlem Baptist Church
- ❖ CSB Compliance Group
- ❖ CVS Cheshire East
- ❖ Cheshire Community Foundation
- ❖ Cheshire Connect (Dianne Parrish)
- ❖ Cheshire East Council – Children and Families
- ❖ Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust
- ❖ Crewe Rotary
- ❖ Custom Powders
- ❖ Dunelm (staff and customers)
- ❖ Everybody Health & Leisure
- ❖ George Heath Foundation
- ❖ Henry Smith Charity
- ❖ J & R Rivers
- ❖ Jan Ferguson
- ❖ Just Drop-In
- ❖ L Gentil
- ❖ Local Primary & Secondary Schools
- ❖ Martin Corlett Moss
- ❖ Mornflake Staff donation
- ❖ Nantwich Churchwardens Merged Charity
- ❖ Peter Colyer
- ❖ St Bridget's Trust
- ❖ Stagecoach Giving for Good Community Fund
- ❖ Tesco
- ❖ Thandi and Emily
- ❖ The National Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities
- ❖ The Oakhanger Project
- ❖ Tim Setchell
- ❖ Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
- ❖ Visyon
- ❖ West St Christian Fellowship
- ❖ Wrenbury PCC

Appendix: Financial Reports

- Treasurer's Report
- Receipts & Payments Accounts for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 for Charity Number 1188608
- The set of Accounts includes a statement of Assets and Liabilities for the period, an analysis of Restricted Funds, notes to the Accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report

Operating for the Public Benefit:

As can be seen from the Project report we were able to meet our aims and objectives during the year to provide support for lone parents and their children, enabling them to grow and develop.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that we have had another good year financially. Our total income for the year ending 31st December 2024 was £213,075 and expenditure for the same period was £200,767, giving us a balance of £184,146 at the end of the year of which £25,496 was in restricted funds and £158,650 in unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds are as the name implies for specific projects and cannot be spent on other things.

Our Reserve Policy is to retain sufficient to cover 5 months expenditure of approximately £83,650 and this we have been able to do.

During the year we secured additional funding from Garfield Weston, Custom Powders and Peter Colyer, Crewe Town Council, CCF, CVS and CBS. We are very grateful to these and our other funders as well as the individuals, trusts and churches who have provided financial support during the year.

We have started 2025 in a good financial position but as ever we are dependent upon securing new funding to maintain our service level especially as all our current grants end this year.

Ruth Grimshaw
Trustee/Treasurer

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

Charity Commission Registered Number: 1188608

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2024

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| Donations & Grants | 47,500 | 161,548 | 209,048 | 196,230 |
| Receipts from Operating Activities | - | - | - | - |
| Tax Recovered on Gift Aid | - | - | - | - |
| Investment Income | 4,008 | - | 4,008 | 2,214 |
| Fundraising Activities | 19 | - | 19 | 435 |
| Other Income | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>51,527</u> | <u>161,548</u> | <u>213,075</u> | <u>198,879</u> |
| PAYMENTS | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | | | | |
| Staff Salaries/Sessional Workers/inc Creche | 33,586 | 136,833 | 170,419 | 167,443 |
| Volunteers Expenses | 91 | 279 | 370 | 337 |
| DBS checks | 258 | - | 258 | 211 |
| Counselling Supervision | - | 1,725 | 1,725 | 2,038 |
| Staff Training | - | 2,529 | 2,529 | 437 |
| Travel | 418 | 225 | 643 | 799 |
| Parents Courses/Activities | - | 406 | 406 | - |
| Materials/Resources | 106 | 656 | 762 | 899 |
| Refreshments/meals | 319 | 477 | 796 | 557 |
| Parties/Activities | - | 3,380 | 3,380 | 3,255 |
| | <u>34,778</u> | <u>146,510</u> | <u>181,288</u> | <u>175,976</u> |
| Support Costs | | | | |
| Utilities | - | 10,980 | 10,980 | 7,700 |
| Insurance | - | 2,207 | 2,207 | 2,118 |
| Subscriptions | - | - | - | 303 |
| Stationery/Telephone/Post | 399 | 940 | 1,339 | 1,195 |
| Repairs & Equipment | 25 | - | 25 | 842 |
| Database/IT | 1,625 | 1,368 | 2,993 | 5,724 |
| Advertising/Printing | 250 | 627 | 877 | 1,479 |
| Staff Uniforms | - | - | - | - |
| Fundraising | - | - | - | - |
| Other | 337 | - | 337 | 202 |
| Move | 721 | - | 721 | 400 |
| | <u>3,357</u> | <u>16,122</u> | <u>19,479</u> | <u>19,963</u> |
| Total Payments | <u>38,135</u> | <u>162,632</u> | <u>200,767</u> | <u>195,939</u> |
| Net Receipts / (Payments) | 13,392 | (1,084) | 12,308 | 2,940 |
| Transfer between Funds | 699 | (699) | - | - |
| Net Movement in Funds | <u>14,091</u> | <u>(1,783)</u> | <u>12,308</u> | <u>2,940</u> |
| Total funds b/fwd - 1 January | 144,559 | 27,279 | 171,838 | 168,898 |
| Total funds c/fwd - 31 December | 158,650 | 25,496 | 184,146 | 171,838 |

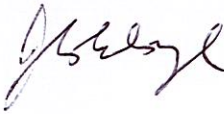
SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

Charity Commission Registered Number: 1188608

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024


| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2024 £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and Bank Balances | | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | 158,650 | | 158,650 |
| Restricted Funds | | | |
| CCF Coffee and Chat | | 2,101 | 2,101 |
| CCF Trips/Outings | | 1,462 | 1,462 |
| Crewe Town Council | | 45 | 45 |
| Garfield Weston | | 9,579 | 9,579 |
| National Lottery Reaching Communities | | 12,309 | 12,309 |
| Total Cash & Bank Balances | <u>158,650</u> | <u>25,496</u> | <u>184,146</u> |
| Other Monetary Assets | - | - | - |
| Debtors and Pre-Payments | - | - | - |
| Investment Assets | - | - | - |

| Assets Retained for Charity's own use | Fund to which asset belongs | Original Cost £ | Current Book Value £ |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | | |
| Computers | All | 6,860 | 2,711 |
| Furniture & Equipment | All | 633 | 126 |
| Total | | <u>7,493</u> | <u>2,837</u> |
| Liabilities at the end of the year | | - | - |
| Total Value of Assets less Liabilities | | | <u><u>186,983</u></u> |

Trustee's Signature 

Print Name JOHN COLCLOUGH

28/4/25

Trustee's Signature 

Print Name RUTH GRIMSHAW

28/4/25

Date Approved

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

Charity Commission Registered Number: 1188608

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy aims to stabilise our unrestricted cash and bank balances at a level sufficient to cover our next five months worth of expenditure. This would suggest that our optimum cash balances would be £83,652. At the end of 2024 our unrestricted cash balances totalled £158,650.

Depreciation

Our furniture and office equipment is depreciated over 5 years

Trustees Remuneration

Trustees should not generally receive payment for being a charity trustee and no Trustee has received any remuneration. Janet Wenlock is employed by CLASP and her husband Christopher Wenlock is a trustee. Employment cost was £5,724 (including pension contributions). Christopher does not take part in any discussions regarding salary increases etc.

Operating for the Public Benefit

As can be seen from the Project report, we were able to meet our aims and objectives during the year to provide support for lone parents and their children, enabling them to grow and develop.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the South Cheshire CLASP (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: AP Buchan

Name: A.P. Buchan - ACMA, CGMA
Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
28 Cormorant Close
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 5LN

Date: 28 April 2025