

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Company Limited by Shares
Charitable Community Benefit Society
Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2026

Registered Number: 7953

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

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Board Members Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Board Members present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026. The accounts have been prepared in compliance with the Companies Act 2006 and “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charitable entities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2018)”.

Foreword by Marie Gilluley, Chair of SKylight Board

Welcome to SKylight’s seventh annual report. I hope you find it both engaging and informative.

SKylight continues to support some of the most vulnerable households in our local communities through the delivery of a wide range of initiatives. These include services to prevent and address homelessness and rough sleeping, to alleviate food and furniture poverty, and to support people from all backgrounds to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes.

Against a challenging economic backdrop, many residents and communities across Stockport continue to face significant pressures. Ongoing cost-of-living challenges and the housing crisis mean that SKylight remains crucial in providing timely help and support to reduce disadvantage, enabling customers to move forward and achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

I hope this report clearly demonstrates the difference that SKylight continues to make. The powerful and personal case studies included illustrate, in a compelling way, the real impact of SKylight’s work.

SKylight works in close partnership with colleagues at Stockport Council, other housing providers, and a wide range of local and regional partners to identify opportunities to do even more for Stockport residents and to attract additional resources into the borough. I am pleased that this collaborative approach has recently resulted in further funding being secured from the GMCA to continue the Ageing in Place work and from the National Lottery to deliver the Manbassadors programme.

SKylight is currently developing its second Business Plan, setting out an ambitious framework for future growth and development, while supporting the delivery of both the Stockport Homes Delivery Plan and Corporate Plan. We are extremely grateful to all those who help fund our work, including Stockport Council, partner charities, and in particular members of the Stockport Homes Group.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Kath Hanna, SKylight Board Member, who sadly passed away in December 2025. Kath was a highly valued member of the Board, bringing over 30 years of experience across the health, care, and support sectors. Her kindness, knowledge, and commitment will be fondly remembered, and her contributions have left a lasting legacy in improving the lives of people in need across Stockport.

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Objectives and activities

SKylight is a Charitable Community Benefit Society (CCBS), incorporated on the 10th December 2018 and is a subsidiary of Stockport Homes Limited.

SKylight has four broad key Aims stated in its governing document, and activity is structured and prioritised to deliver against these Aims:

- Supporting people into employment, relieving poverty, relieving food poverty and developing digital skills,
- Supporting customers in local communities and delivering support services to help people live independently,
- Empowering communities to develop networks of support, including targeted work with people who may experience disadvantage such as people with disabilities, from BAME communities and those with complex needs,
- Working in partnership to reduce demand for statutory services; and supporting the development of the third sector, ensuring additional resources and services are secured.

The Aims of SKylight seek to address a wide range of disadvantages experienced by people living within the Borough of Stockport including:

- Economic disadvantage, particularly for those residents who live within social housing,
- Disadvantage which are specific to particular groups including people with disabilities, people from BAME communities and those with complex needs,
- The difficulties people face in living independently and again recognises that customers with vulnerabilities tend to be concentrated in social and private rented housing.

The Aims also recognise the need to work in partnership with other third-sector organisations in the Borough, harnessing the collective knowledge, experience and skills of organisations to secure additional resources and services, helping to reduce demand on stretched statutory services.

As well as being able to bid for new funding streams and tender opportunities as they arise, SKylight is responsible for several projects which were previously delivered by Stockport Homes.

Key areas of activity

Each area of work within SKylight has been categorised under the aim it most closely aligns with, though many projects deliver a range of benefits and contribute to the achievement of multiple outcomes. The charitable aims are furthered by operating in the following key areas:

Aim - Supporting people into employment, relieving poverty, relieving food poverty and developing digital skills:

Motiv8

The Motiv8 service funded by the Department of Work & Pensions works with those most removed from the labour market supporting them to make progress in their lives and move towards education, training and employment.

Motiv8 delivery partners work together to provide wrap around support for six months to remove barriers to employment by developing a personal action plan which is unique to a person's needs. A Motiv8 Keyworker works alongside the participant to overcome their barriers and improve their prospects of accessing training or finding a job.

The original Motiv8 service commenced in 2016 and was funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund until March 2023. The partnership of five housing providers and specialist partners supported 5,979 people across Greater Manchester helping them to address issues and overcome barriers, resulting in over 2,100 people starting training, job searching and employment.

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From April 2023, the project adapted and continued on a smaller scale via funding from the DWP. Over the next three years, the partnership supported a further 1,525 individuals to move closer to the labour market. Of those, 833 progressed into training, 966 have been supported with job search activities, and 247 started employment or self-employment.

As of 31 March 2026, the Motiv8 programme formally concluded in line with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) statutory funding parameters, having reached the maximum delivery period and funding allocation permitted within the funding format.

Following the conclusion of The Motiv8 Programme, SKylight will continue to fund the Complex Needs Keyworkers to continue the Motiv8 model and support those most removed from the labour market.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

The Motiv8 service has received 750 referrals and supported 516 people across Greater Manchester (GM) to move into employment, education, training or job searching. The programme achieved a total of 703 results, inclusive of 319 progressions into education and training, 66 customers moving into employment or self-employment and 318 commencing job-searching as part of the programme. Additionally, customers were supported in areas such as Health and Well-being, Finance and Employability and Self-confidence and Self-Development, with a total of 1592 outcomes achieved across GM.

In Stockport the DWP referred 37 individuals into the programme and 20 participants successfully onboarded onto Motiv8. High levels of engagement with the complex cohort resulted in nine participants completing training and/or moving into education, seven commenced job-searching, one customer started their own business and one customer commenced a volunteering placement. To support participants to achieve their goals, Keyworkers support each participant to create an action plan and achieve outcomes in relation to their Health & Wellbeing (including accessing primary health services, reducing substance misuse & alcohol), Finance and Employability (including creation of CV's, opening bank accounts and addressing debts) Self-Development & Self-Esteem (including accessing social activities and informal networks and participating in volunteering) and Tenancy goals (including bidding for, securing and sustaining a tenancy). Over the 12-month period, Stockport residents were supported to achieve a total of 21 Employability & Financial outcomes, 16 Health and Wellbeing outcomes, three Self-Development & Self-Esteem outcomes, and three tenancy outcomes.

The Complex Needs role, funded by SKylight, has supported some of the most complex customers in the community including customers with offending backgrounds and people with physical and mental health needs and disabilities. During 2025/26, 113 customers were supported with 29 customers moving into employment, 14 customers started a volunteering position, 30 customers commenced accredited and non-accredited education, and one customer entered higher education. A total of 351 bespoke job searching activities were undertaken to support customers, which resulted in 274 job applications being completed. Customers received the full range of information, advice and guidance and with 134 onward referrals to other support services.

Weekly drop-in employment support is provided at three Temporary Accommodations (TA) locations for homeless households. This initiative helps residents move closer to the labour market. Timing and flexible appointments and engagement practices are key to successful outcomes, with this in mind the weekly drop-in occurs the day after new residents move in, emphasising the importance of employment in securing permanent accommodation and making positive progress. This year 74 residents have been supported across the three schemes. The officer assisted residents in creating functional CVs, registering on job boards, enrolling in ESOL classes, and accessing accredited training. One resident engaged in warehouse training, while others began volunteering. This year the TA customers has achieved quality sustainable outcomes including five customers moving into employment, six commencing volunteering placements 12 starting ESOL classes and six commencing vocational based training.

Case study

Tara was referred to the Motiv8 Programme by her DWP Job Coach following an unsuccessful experience on the Work and Health Programme. At the point of referral, Tara was disengaged from employment

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support and experiencing low confidence following a negative experience in part-time employment within a women's shelter.

During initial engagement with her Motiv8 Employability Key Worker, a comprehensive risk and needs assessment was completed, which explored Tara's employment history, skills, mental and physical health, confidence, and self-esteem. This assessment identified that Tara had felt under-prepared for the role she had undertaken and lacked the necessary core competencies and support to carry out her duties effectively. As a result, she reported feeling unsafe within the working environment, which had a significant impact on her confidence and wellbeing.

When Tara attempted to raise these concerns with her employer, she felt that appropriate support was not provided. This contributed to attendance difficulties and culminated in a formal process, which Tara described as highly distressing. The experience led to a significant erosion of trust and confidence in employers and the workplace, and at the point of joining Motiv8, Tara did not feel ready to return to employment or actively seek work, expressing a belief that there were no viable or safe options available to her.

The Motiv8 approach provided a marked contrast to Tara's previous experiences. Through a participant-led, trauma-informed model, Tara reported feeling listened to, supported, and able to progress at a pace that felt appropriate to her circumstances. Initial sessions focused on rebuilding confidence and self-esteem and addressing the emotional impact of her earlier employment experience.

Following this period of stabilisation and confidence-building, Tara identified that retraining in a new sector could offer a positive route forward. Her Employability Key Worker supported her to explore a range of training and skills development opportunities aligned to her interests and longer-term career aspirations.

As part of this process, Tara was also referred to the LAB Project, a two-week confidence and employability programme using drama and creative approaches to develop communication, teamwork, and self-expression. Although initially apprehensive, Tara found the programme both challenging and rewarding, particularly the opportunity to participate in delivering a drama session within a local school setting.

Rather than moving directly into job applications, Tara and her Key Worker agreed to focus on building clarity, resilience, and informed decision-making. Tara was supported to attend local skills workshops, carefully evaluate training options, and work through assertiveness resources to strengthen her communication skills and confidence in setting boundaries within future workplaces.

As a result of this supported exploration, Tara decided to pursue a career within the digital and technology sector and has since enrolled on the Northcoders Java Software Bootcamp. This represents a significant step forward and a positive re-engagement with her future employment prospects, with Tara viewing this as the foundation for a sustainable and fulfilling career in the tech industry.

Economic Inactivity Trailblazer

The Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Paid Placement Programme, launched in September 2025 with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) commissioning Stockport Homes to deliver 30 six month paid placements at Real Living Wage for Stockport residents aged 18-64 by March 2026. The contract had a focus on priority groups including care-experienced young people, residents with SEND, Armed Forces veterans, and long-term unemployed individuals with health conditions.

From the programme launch in September 2025 through to March 2026, the Trailblazer has supported 37 Stockport residents into paid placements within a wide range of organisations across the borough.

Opportunities have been secured in multiple sectors including construction and multi-skills, cleaning services, employment support, health and social care, as well as creative industries such as music, media, arts, events and entertainment.

A significant number of placements have been within the local VCFSE sector, supporting initiatives that tackle homelessness, inequality, inclusion and diversity. Opportunities have also been created with small

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local businesses, including Restocked in Stockport, which focuses on refurbishing and redistributing furniture to reduce waste and support the local community. These partnerships continue to create valuable paid opportunities while strengthening connections between local employers and residents.

Not all placements were sustained for the full six-month period. In some cases, placements ended early for a range of reasons, including, health-related issues, or other personal and programme-related factors. A total of six participants exited the programme early due to individual circumstances. Of these, five individuals continue to receive ongoing support from the Employment Team and are being supported to work towards suitable and sustainable employment. One individual has successfully secured full-time permanent employment and no longer requires ongoing support.

In these instances, the Employment Team successfully secured replacement candidates to complete the remainder of the work placement. This ensured the opportunity for paid employment was maximised, enabling additional participants to gain meaningful experience within a working environment, while also ensuring employers continued to benefit from consistent staffing capacity. Seven companies have taken the maximum two placements, with one company hosting three customers due to replacement opportunities. A further 16 organisations have hosted a single placement.

The programme has received a total of 130 participant referrals to date. Feedback from both participants and organisations remains very positive. Employers have highlighted the meaningful contributions participants are making to their organisations: In some cases, employers have sought additional funding to extend employment opportunities beyond the initial placement period.

Participants involved in the programme have recorded a total of 162 outcomes across the 37 individuals. These have included, CV creation, interview preparations and completing job applications who have either secured or were referred for a Trailblazer placement.

The final programme placements were onboarded at the end of March 2026.

Stockport Social Supermarket

The SKylight Social Supermarket Programme funded by the National Lottery supports men in Stockport aged 18-65 who are either out of work or engaged in insecure employment, many of whom experience overlapping barriers relating to health, finances, confidence, and access to progression opportunities including training and education. The programme is delivered in partnership with Groundworks Working Wardrobe who deliver the personal styling and interview coaching aspect of the service, creating a unique service delivery model for Stockport.

The programme adopts a person-centred, strengths-based approach, recognising participants often present with complex and interrelated needs rather than a single employment-related challenge. Support is delivered by the Employment and Services Programme Coordinator, providing intensive, one-to-one wraparound support tailored to individual circumstances.

Participants are supported to develop a personal action plan following a detailed assessment. The action plan goals are shaped by each participants own priorities and lived experience. Plans commonly address a range of issues including:

- Cost of living pressures
- Physical and mental health
- Employment readiness and job search
- Training and skills development
- Confidence, motivation, and self-esteem
- Financial resilience and budgeting

This style of holistic approach supports improvements in health and wellbeing, alongside practical steps towards employment, training, or greater stability.

The programme is specifically designed to reach men with the greatest complexity and delivers intensive employment support alongside targeted signposting to wider services to support and address complex

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needs. The programme also offers additional support following progression into employment as Social Supermarket participants are supported for the first year following an employment outcome.

A key strength of the programme is its distinctive offer through Working Wardrobe, providing styling support and interview coaching, which enhances confidence, professional presentation, and readiness for employment. This element complements wider employability support by removing practical and psychological barriers to progression.

The programme operates a 'no wrong door' referral model, creating a joined-up pathway between participants, SKylight core services, and a wide range of external partners. Over the three-year lifetime of the programme, SKylight have been contracted to support 120 men.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

133 men have been referred into the Social Supermarket Programme. Illustrative of the complex nature of this group lower numbers progress through to engagement. In the last year, 49 participants have been engaged on programme demonstrating a 36% engagement rate akin other employment programmes nationally for highly complex groups.

The core offer of the Social Supermarket Programme provides access to:

- One-to-one coaching and tailored advice
- Confidence-building support
- Education and training opportunities
- Health and wellbeing services
- Employment information, advice and guidance
- Interview clothing and preparation sessions
- Membership of Your Local Pantry, supporting food access and financial resilience

During the reporting period, participants have achieved a range of meaningful outcomes that reflect both employment progression and wider personal development. Notable outcomes include:

- 33 participants supported into employment since the start of the programme
- Three participants have achieved multiple employment outcomes
- 27 education and training opportunities accessed
- 213 referrals made to external services, including:
 - Mental and physical health support
 - Financial advice and cost-of-living support
 - Your Local Pantry
 - Housing-related support

The volume and diversity of onward referrals demonstrate the complexity of need within the participant group and the importance of a coordinated, wraparound approach to support. Progress into employment or training is often achieved alongside improvements in wellbeing, stability, and confidence, reflecting the programme's emphasis on sustainable outcomes rather than short-term fixes.

Case Study

Andrew was referred to the Social Supermarket, initially seeking volunteering opportunities and support with accessing social housing, due to long term unemployment (over 2 years) and homelessness.

He faced challenges with low confidence and limited IT skills, prompting a referral to Starting Point for digital inclusion support. As part of his connection with Starting Point he was provided with a mobile phone and a data package which immediately improved his connectivity and access to job applications and general communication.

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Over time, Andrew's confidence grew, to the point where he started to consider paid employment opportunities. He received tailored support including a referral to the Working Wardrobe for interview preparation and confidence building, as well as assistance with refining his CV and cover letters to target roles in cleaning, dog walking, and active outdoor work.

Although initial trial shifts in cleaning and valeting roles were unsuccessful, these experiences helped Andrew clarify his long-term goal of becoming a self-employed dog walker. The Employment & Services Programme Coordinator supported him in understanding the steps required for self-employment while seeking interim paid work to fund his venture.

He actively engaged in attending job fairs and was referred to Catch 22's SIA course to broaden his opportunities. During the latter half of 2025 Andrew successfully secured a temporary role as a window cleaner, and although it was not permanent, it marked a significant step forward.

He continues to work with the Social Supermarket and currently has three upcoming interviews with cleaning companies, reflecting steady progress towards sustainable employment and long-term independence.

Apprenticeships

SKylight's apprenticeships programme provides people with an opportunity to work whilst obtaining an appropriate qualification. Qualifications can range from 12 to 24 months dependent upon the unit and level the learner is studying. Upon completion of the programme, this will enable the colleague to put what they have learned into practice and/ or progress further in their employment. The apprenticeship levy has been used to its full capacity, meaning all money obtained has been spent on acquiring new developmental opportunities.

As well as increasing the number of apprenticeship opportunities within SHG, it also provides opportunities for aspiring managers and leaders to gain experience of supporting and mentoring staff, with a bespoke training programme and the development of supportive networking groups for both apprentices and mentors.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

SKylight continues to undertake significant work to identify roles within Stockport Homes which are transferred to SKylight and form part of a comprehensive apprenticeships programme. As part of ongoing workforce planning, SHG continually review where apprenticeships will add most value to meet the future talent challenges and in particular during 2025, new apprenticeship opportunities were created to meet this growing need.

During the last 12 months, 41 colleagues have undertaken an apprenticeship with eight newly appointed in SKylight during 2025/26. The apprentices cover a wide range of service delivery areas which include:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Carecall & Concierge
- Customer Access
- Customer Engagement
- Customer Finance
- Employment Support
- Housing Services
- Independent Living and Temporary Accommodation.

A dedicated member of the Learning & Development (L & D) team leads on apprenticeships ensuring a smooth 'on-boarding' for new starters, linking in with new or existing providers and holding introductory calls with the learner, manager and L&D Partner. Once on programme, the L&D team provide ongoing support. In addition, a mentor is provided to each apprentice within their service area helping to develop aspiring managers as well as giving an apprentice peer support.

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Towards the end of an apprenticeship programme apprentices are offered employment support if they are looking to apply for a permanent position at Stockport Homes Group or moving on. If a suitable position is not forthcoming within the business, or an apprentice has decided to pursue another career pathway, opportunities within the housing sector and beyond are explored across SHG's extensive professional networks.

Furniture Recycling Project

The Furniture Recycling Project collects furniture and recycles it for provision to households who are experiencing furniture poverty. The project helps alleviate financial hardship through the provision of low or no cost furniture, diverting low-income households away from high-cost credit and thereby supporting Stockport's most vulnerable households with essential items fundamental to setting up home initially and sustaining a tenancy. From an environmental perspective recycling of furniture and goods also prevents it from ending up in landfill.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

The project has collected from 586 donor households, including 160 void properties. The project supported 366 households in need with supplying furniture. A total of 7.844 tonnes were diverted away from landfill. To meet the continued high demand, the service has prioritized customers leaving Temporary Accommodation and customers that have been homeless. Of the 366 households supported, 275 of those were deemed to be Tier one (the highest level of need) equating to 75% of referrals.

During 25/26 the project has been proactive in advertising the service in various ways. This includes the use of social media through both the Stockport Homes Group profile and establishing a Furniture Project profile targeting local groups and building followers. To help promote the project and assist with increasing donations a video has been made and is available via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/MDadLWbwBtI?si=XEoWriYlgHXzqUYc>

A new partnership with Graham Construction was established in 2025, resulting in the donation of goods from student accommodation schemes in Manchester which were being regenerated. In total 414 goods including 84 cookers, 118 fridge freezers, 45 sofas, 59 dining chairs, 77 smaller kitchen appliances were donated. In addition, funding was received from Poynton Rotary Club for £700, this enabled the purchase of additional equipment for the recycling project.

The Project is managed across two spaces, stores at Mottram Street Estate, for goods being received, and the furniture warehouse in Hazel Grove, which is accessible for customers to attend to view and choose goods. It also provides an opportunity to showcase items which customers may not have considered, which can be purchased at minimal cost. The lease on the warehouse at Hazel Grove was renewed for a year till July 2026. A review of the local market and alternative properties has been completed, due to the significant increase in the rental price for a new warehouse, negotiations with the landlord of the existing warehouse have taken place to secure a lease for the next three years at a fixed rate. In addition, the landlord has committed to works to improve access and the overall appearance of the internal environment for the benefit of customers.

During the year, donations received resulted in the sale of items typically too large for many customers' properties, for example, large sofas and side units. These are cleaned and repaired and sold via Facebook Marketplace, and through other partners including Age UK. During 2025/26 the additional sales helped to bring in £44,768 which is an increase of £11,879 from 24/25.

The service continues to grow in reputation, receiving positive feedback from both those receiving the service and those donating to it. Many customers have said that without support from the Furniture Recycling Project they would have looked at alternative ways to source furniture such as securing a loan or a monthly payment plan at a high cost. During 25/26 customer feedback continues to be positive:

"Helped me get back on my feet after starting with nothing, very helpful."

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"I would have been without furniture, if not for the help of your service Customer of the Furniture Recycling Project. They were so kind and helpful with bringing it in and helping set it up and explained everything for me."

Customers of the Furniture Recycling Project

During 2025/2026, 1003 volunteering hours were provided to the project, with volunteers supporting the project from across Stockport and including staff members volunteering as part of Stockport Homes Group Volunteering Policy. Volunteering support is invaluable, helping to support the cleaning, repair and delivery of recycled goods and furniture. The exceptional work of one volunteer was celebrated at Stockport Homes Star Awards in October 2025 with an award for the "Inspirational Volunteer Award". On receiving the award, the volunteer shared:

"Volunteering with the Furniture Recycling Project has been such a meaningful experience not only because of the difference it makes for others, but because of the kindness, teamwork, and purpose I've felt being part of it. To be recognised for something that comes from the heart feels both humbling and overwhelming in the best way."

Your Local Pantry

Your Local Pantry (YLP) is a network of community food stores set up to help reduce grocery costs for Stockport residents who are struggling financially. Pantry members pay a weekly membership fee of £5.50, which entitles them to select up to ten items per shop. This provides an average saving of £27.00¹ compared to a typical retail shop.

Community volunteers play a vital role alongside staff in the day-to-day operation of each Pantry. Their responsibilities include receiving deliveries, managing stock storage and rotation, carrying out opening and closing procedures, and supporting members as they complete their weekly shop.

Strong partnerships have been established within the Third Sector, notably with the food redistribution charity FareShare and Church Action on Poverty (CAP), which leads the national Your Local Pantry (YLP) network. YLP serves as the primary referral pathway for residents contacting Stockport Council's Cost of Living helpline for issues relating to food poverty, enabling eligible individuals to access a fully funded four-week free shopping experience.

Supplies are purchased from FareShare, local retailers and Tesco. These are supplemented by regular donations from a range of retailers, restaurants and other locations. Additional provisions have been sourced via the donation portal 'Neighbourly' who post daily information regarding stock nearing sell by dates from large retailers including ASDA, Aldi, Lidl, Sainsbury's and the Co-op.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

As of the end of March 2026, there were 298 active members across the five pantries. During the same period, 323 referrals were received via Stockport Council's Cost of Living helpline, with 221 individuals going on to access Your Local Pantry for the free shops. Referrals received via the Cost-of-Living Helpline receive four shops of no charge for four weeks to support individuals and families facing immediate financial hardship. Following the completion four free shops, they can register to become a paid pantry member.

Over the course of the year, members made a total of 7,558 pantry visits. Based on an estimated average saving of £27.00 per shop compared to regular retailers, this equates to an overall annual saving of approximately £204,066 for pantry members.

¹ While Church Action on Poverty (CAP) has not yet published an updated impact report for 2025/26, revised calculations reflecting current cost of living pressures indicate that average weekly savings have increased to £27.00, up from the previous figure of £21.33. CAP is expected to formally release these updated figures in the forthcoming financial year.

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YLP generated £45,174² in social value through volunteering. A total of 30 volunteers supported the YLP by providing 3,197 hours of their time. Over the past 12 months, three new volunteers have been welcomed into the team and supported through a comprehensive induction programme, including training in manual handling and food hygiene. In addition, two pantry volunteers have successfully progressed into paid employment during this period.

Since the last report, Your Local Pantry has fully embedded a range of changes, including the revised opening hours, improving efficiency and ensuring the service remains within budget for the financial year. The service currently has no waiting periods for any of the pantries in the borough ensuring those in need can access the service immediately. During 2025/26 it was noted waiting times were becoming a challenge, to resolve this issue temporary fortnightly memberships were introduced. In June a total of 77 fortnightly memberships were created which eliminated the waiting lists. As memberships settled over the following months all members were offered weekly memberships, all but 18 members selected to transition to a weekly membership.

A shift from fixed to variable-weight FareShare deliveries has increased flexibility, allowing pantries to select and decline items and redirect spend towards products better aligned with member demand. This approach has improved value for money and choice. Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2026, FareShare deliveries reduced from 33,140,915 kg to 25,293,923 kg, a decrease of 7,846,992 kg, with expenditure falling from £13,665 to £11,804, reflecting the move to a more flexible selection process.

Over the last financial year, Your Local Pantry collected more than 2,500 meals from Eat Well GM, a collection of Greater Manchester restaurants who redirect potential food waste into pre-packed 'meals for one' helping YLP members and their families access nutritious, high-quality food. The use of the Neighbourly portal resulted in over 16,500 items of free food being collected by the YLP team, significantly supplementing purchased stock and keeping costs down.

Feedback continues to highlight the vital role Your Local Pantry (YLP) plays in supporting customers both financially and in reducing social isolation. A survey of 77 members (September 2025), shows strong demand for the service, driven primarily by cost-of-living pressures. Key reasons for attendance include rising living costs (56%), managing household budgets (53%), saving money on food (51%) and social interaction and community support (53%). Feedback on value was overwhelmingly positive, with 66 out of 77 members stating the pantry offers good value for money. The service is highly accessible, with 62 members travelling less than one mile to their nearest pantry, demonstrating strong local reach. Overall, the findings confirm the pantry's continued importance as both a vital cost-saving resource and a key community support service.

During the year, Your Local Pantry received £30,978 in grants and financial donations, including £25,000 from Stockport Council's Household Support Fund to support increased access to low-cost food during the cost-of-living crisis. Additional funding supported both infrastructure and essential provision: £983 from the Manchester Airport Community Fund and £400 from Forever Manchester funded a new freezer, fridge and shelving for Penny Lane Pantry, while £1,485 from the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund provided female sanitary products across the network. Further financial donations included £1,584 from Efficiency East Midlands (EEM) and £1,525 from the Lord Mayor, this was used to purchase essential food items and strengthen stock across all five pantries.

Skylight designed and developed the Your Local Pantry (YLP) model and retains the intellectual property rights, enabling Church Action on Poverty (CAP) to franchise and deliver the model nationally. The success of the approach is demonstrated by its continued growth and reach. This year marked significant milestones including celebrations for the One Millionth Pantry Member shop, in addition to the network expanding to over 120 pantries, engaging more than 90,000 people as members and providing volunteering opportunities for more than 2,000 people.

² Based on the cost of a Pantry Officer salary plus on-costs

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Aim - Supporting customers in local communities and delivering support services to help people live independently:

Greater Manchester Housing First (GMHF)

SKylight worked with a range of GM partners to secure the GM Housing First contract which began in April 2019. Housing First is a relatively new approach to meeting housing need and homelessness in the UK and can be more commonly found in Europe, the US and Canada.

It marks a move away from a traditional staircase approach³ to homelessness and is instead based upon the premise that housing is the priority requirement that must be met, which then provides a stable base from which recovery and progress can be made. It is not suitable for everyone and can therefore only be part of a range of offers, but does have a strong, and growing, evidence base of success.

The success of Housing First is based on access to a home, dedicated, tenacious support, workers with small caseloads who have the time and energy to dedicate to their cases and wider stakeholder engagement. All cases supported by the service are characterised by a range of complex needs including entrenched rough sleeping, offending behaviour, substance misuse and mental and physical health issues resulting in chaotic and challenging behaviours.

Working with other partners, extended funding for the pilot was received, securing delivery until March 2025. After a reprocurement exercise GMCA have extended the current programme until June 2029, offering 12 month contracts each year.

Notable achievements 2025/2026

During 2025/26, the GM Housing First service delivered by SKylight has continued to provide intensive, personalised support to some of the borough's most vulnerable residents, with a strong focus on tenancy sustainment, improved wellbeing, and long-term recovery. Over the course of the year, the service has worked with 15 customers, supporting seven graduations from the programme, with ongoing support for eight current customers.

A significant element of support throughout 2025/26 has centred on mental health and complex needs. The service has made five referrals to the Dual Diagnosis Practitioner (DDP) service delivered by Greater Manchester Mental Health (GMMH) as part of the Housing First contract. Customers referred have received intensive support in progressing formal diagnoses through their GPs and consultants, accessing ADHD and ASD assessments in adulthood, engaging with Community Mental Health Teams, and exploring alternative long-term pathways including supported accommodation. The DDP service has also facilitated access to therapeutic interventions around childhood trauma, suicidal ideation, and other long-standing mental health challenges, offering a more structured approach to recovery.

The service has also supported customers with sensory impairments, with three successful referrals made to SMBC's Sensory Team. These referrals have resulted in home visits, adaptations within customer properties, and access to specialist support services for deaf and partially-sighted customers, including the provision of support and group activities at Walthew House. This work has enabled customers to better manage day-to-day life, improve confidence, and address previously unmet needs.

Tenancy sustainment remains a key indicator of programme success, and encouragingly, all customers supported across the borough have maintained their tenancies throughout the year. Reports of tenancy distress and anti-social behaviour have been minimal; however, where concerns have been raised, GMHF has worked swiftly with social housing providers and local GMP officers to conduct joint visits and implement targeted action plans. This timely response has ensured that issues are resolved early and do not progress to the point of tenancy breakdown.

³ A staircase approach refers to more traditional approaches to housing and supporting homeless people whereby a person is moved to, (sometimes several different types), of temporary accommodation and having to demonstrate they are 'tenancy ready' before moving into a permanent home

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The year has also seen continued commitment to co-production and lived experience involvement. Attendance at the Co-Production Panel has remained consistent, and notably, two Stockport customers were selected to feature in promotional videos about their experience of Housing First. Their involvement not only raises awareness of the programme but also encourages others to engage with co-production as a meaningful part of their recovery journey.

Over the last quarter, four new customers—two men and two women—have joined the programme. Each has presented with distinct needs and has made progress through tailored support:

One female customer has been supported to secure a long-term supported accommodation placement specialising in mental health and substance misuse. Another female customer has recently signed for her first tenancy and is receiving assistance to furnish and decorate her home, with added support from the Coming Home charity. One male customer, previously cuckooed on two separate occasions, has remained stable in the male temporary accommodation scheme for almost a year and will shortly move on with intensive Housing First support. The final new male customer, who has experienced twenty years of rough sleeping and repeated custodial sentences, is currently living with his parents and has made significant strides towards independence. Since joining the programme, he has accessed dental treatment, begun therapy through GMMH's DDP service, applied for a DBS, engaged with SHG's Employment Outreach Team, commenced volunteering, and is preparing to start a work placement at Drug and Alcohol Services once his DBS is approved. He has been offered several properties but is being supported to wait for a home that offers the best chance of long-term stability.

As in previous years, the service has continued to champion social inclusion and community engagement, recognising that meaningful activity plays a vital role in wellbeing and tenancy sustainment. Throughout the year, customers have taken part in a variety of activities including garden centre visits, pottery sessions, trips to Blackpool, cinema afternoons, snooker, and co-production events. These activities support confidence-building, reduce isolation, and create opportunities for customers to form positive community connections.

Performance data continues to be gathered across all areas of support, including budgeting, substance and alcohol recovery, benefits and banking, community integration, education and training, criminal justice progress, mental health, physical health, and making a house a home. Between April 2025 and February 2026, a total of 209 individual achievements have been recorded across these domains, highlighting the sustained progress customers are making with the support of the programme.

Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP)

Established in April 2022, The Rough Sleeper Accommodation Project (RSAP) provided capital funds to purchase and renovate one-bedroom, self-contained properties. Properties were purchased directly from the open market to provide fixed term tenancies to individuals with a history of entrenched rough sleeping. In addition, 10 one-bedroom properties were also allocated from Stockport Homes existing portfolio and specifically assigned to the RSAP programme.

Integral to the success of the programme are the dedicated project officers providing person centred, intensive support which commences prior to a customer being allocated a property.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

Of customers supported during 2025/26, six successfully progressed to sustained independent living and tenancy management through a step-down support model delivered by the RSAP workers. These individuals have built the skills and confidence needed to manage their tenancies independently, without ongoing involvement from the Project Officer. They are now able to self-manage, problem-solve and draw on their own strengths and networks as needed, representing a strong outcome in achieving long-term housing stability, improved wellbeing and sustained independence.

The remaining ten customers continue to access intensive support, ensuring they continue to receive tailored assistance to sustain their tenancies and access services that promote health and wellbeing.

During this year one customer made the positive transition from RSAP accommodation into a Stockport Homes tenancy. This transition was supported by the Project worker through tailored practical

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assistance, ongoing guidance and support which included securing financial help for items to set up home, as well as support with packing, moving and settling into the new home. Following the move, additional person-centred support ensured a smooth and stable transition. This successful outcome not only secured a permanent home for the customer but also released the RSAP property for another individual with a history of entrenched rough sleeping, enabling continued positive impact for people with high support needs.

Case Study

In 2023, Mike secured a property through the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP), following a long history of rough sleeping and repeated periods in temporary accommodation. It was recognised Mike's complex needs meant an independent tenancy would be highly challenging, if not unmanageable, without tailored, consistent support, making the involvement of a Project Officer essential for tenancy sustainment.

Mike presented with multiple challenges including ADHD, unresolved trauma, substance misuse, limited literacy, recurring mental health crises and involvement with the Community Mental Health Team. He also had a probation officer due to years spent in and out of prison.

The Project Officer played a central role in a multi-agency approach, coordinating weekly with the Community Mental Health Worker, primary health services and drug & alcohol services. By maintaining consistent communication across agencies, the Project Officer ensured that interventions were timely, coordinated and responsive, with a particular focus on reducing Mike's substance misuse, identified as the main barrier to tenancy sustainment.

The Project Officer offered guidance, structure and routine, building trust and helping Mike engage with services. With this support Mike successfully participated in the Reduction and Motivation Programme (RAMP) and subsequently a six-week detox and rehabilitation course, maintaining ongoing contact with substance misuse services. The Project Officer also helped Mike develop social networks including a fishing club which supports his wellbeing.

Despite ongoing challenges such as learning difficulties and limited literacy, Mike has shown resilience, made informed choices and maintained consistent engagement with the Project Officer. He remains motivated to achieve long-term goals including living near family in Marple, remaining drug-free, rebuilding relationships with his children and contributing to the community through peer-support work at the drug & alcohol service.

Since securing his RSAP property, Mike has moved from homelessness to settled accommodation, steadily increasing his independence and ability to take ownership of his future. His journey highlights the crucial role of the Project Officer in providing consistent, tailored support and coordinating multi-agency interventions.

Aim - Empowering communities to develop networks of support, including targeted work with people who may experience disadvantage such as people with disabilities, from BAME communities and those with complex needs:

Rough Sleeper Initiative

The Rough Sleeper Service is funded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The funding supports the delivery of a Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker and a Rough Sleeping Navigator, both employed by Skylight.

GMCA funding also provides access to specialist mental health and substance misuse support for rough sleepers, including a part-time Dual Diagnosis Worker and Psychologist from the Greater Manchester Mental Health team.

The Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker focuses on responding to reports of rough sleeping and engaging individuals sleeping rough. The Rough Sleeping Navigator works in partnership with local organisations,

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including The Wellspring, to help individuals access support services and move into appropriate accommodation.

Despite the resources above, rough sleeping in Stockport has increased significantly over the past year due to sustained pressures on both the national and local housing system. A continued shortage of affordable and move-on accommodation has reduced options for people at risk of homelessness, placing greater pressure on homelessness services. In recent years, all locally available temporary accommodation is at full capacity, and there has been a marked increase in the use of emergency bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation for households in priority need. The high financial cost of emergency accommodation has limited the Council's ability to provide options for those who are not in priority need, contributing to a rise in rough sleeping.

Stockport delivers A Bed Every Night (ABEN) which is funded by GMCA and provides emergency accommodation and support for people at immediate risk of rough sleeping who do not qualify for statutory temporary accommodation. ABEN offers short-term accommodation (13 bed spaces) alongside assessment, engagement and support to help people move away from rough sleeping and access longer-term housing and services. Due to high levels of demand, the service operates a waiting list, which can limit immediate access to accommodation.

In addition, rough sleepers can access accommodation through the Rough Sleeping Accommodation and Housing First Programmes and CAS3 accommodation for those with an offending history.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26

Rough sleeping has continued to rise at local, subregional and national levels. At the end of 2025/26, it is estimated that around 30 people were sleeping rough on a single night in Stockport, despite sustained and intensive outreach activity delivered by Skylight's Rough Sleeper workers who engage daily with people experiencing street homelessness.

The Autumn 2025/26 Rough Sleeping Annual Snapshot recorded 48 people sleeping rough, representing the highest figure recorded in Stockport and a 55% increase on the previous year. The snapshot also shows that Stockport had the second highest number of people sleeping rough across the ten Greater Manchester authorities, highlighting the scale of pressures facing the borough.

Year	Number of people sleeping rough	% increase/decrease on previous year
2025	48	+55%
2024	31	+24%
2023	25	+127%
2022	11	+57%
2021	7	-

There has been a substantial increase in the number of people sleeping rough on a single night in Stockport, with an average of 31 people in 2025/26 compared to 21 in 2024/25. In March 2026, 30 people were sleeping rough on a single night. Similarly, the number of people sleeping rough across the course of the month has continued to increase year on year in Stockport, with an average of 43 people in 2025/26 compared to 33 in 2024/25.

Due to the lack of accommodation options, 66% (at the end of 2025/26) of Stockport's rough sleepers are long-term, entrenched rough sleepers, compared to 36% across the Northwest in Jan 2026 (latest published statistics). Entrenched rough sleepers require intense support, however they are often more difficult to engage with.

Additionally, the number of 'new' rough sleepers is starting to rise with an average of eight new rough sleepers per month in 2025/26 compared to an average of six in 2024/25.

The Rough Sleeper Outreach Team respond to referrals from partner agencies and the public. They visit known rough sleeping locations at around 7am to ensure they find people while bedded down. The team's

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co-location at The Wellspring helps build relationships with those who are rough sleeping, or at risk of doing so. During 2025/26 there were 797 reports of people sleeping rough compared to 690 reports in 2024/25.

When Rough Sleepers are identified, the team visit regularly to encourage them to engage. Support includes practical advice, wellbeing support, health services, and wider homelessness services. The team also identify safeguarding concerns and make referrals. The RSI workers actively encourage and support rough sleepers to consider the ABEN (A Bed Every Night) offer, helping them understand the process to access accommodation.

The Rough Sleeper Team are key members of Stockport's Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) partnership alongside Adult Social Care and the VCSFE sector. MEAM focuses on working with people with multiple disadvantages, including rough sleepers.

Mental Health & Housing Support Worker (MHHSW)

There is a strong correlation between mental ill-health and homelessness, often accompanied by other issues such as substance abuse and a history of trauma. Delivered through SKylight, this role focusses on assisting people with serious mental ill-health to live independently and access support.

It aims to:

- Work with people at risk of homelessness or hospital admission due to significant mental health issues
- Provide specialised advice and support to staff around mental health cases
- Help navigate mental health services and ensure correct assessments and referrals

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

During 2025/26, the Mental Health and Housing Support Worker provided support to 88 people, with needs ranging from low level mental health concerns to serious mental illness. With extensive experience in mental health, the specialist worker supports individuals to access appropriate services, provides direct one-to-one assistance, and acts as a source of expertise for colleagues across SHG.

Across the course of the year referrals were made to services including, Adult Social Care, MEAM, START, GP services, YARAN counselling and CMHT. The MHHSW liaised with the Access Team and Mental Health services to gain information which enabled the MHHSW to provide targeted support. With people seeking rehousing with increasingly complex needs, this role both improves outcomes for customers and supports SHG in preventing tenancy failure. It also helps enable wider 'One Stockport' objectives around improving mental health and wellbeing within the Borough and reducing the need to access services in crisis situations.

Domestic Abuse Case Officer

The Domestic Abuse Case Officer (DACO) provides specialist support to people in Stockport who are experiencing domestic abuse. The role is funded through homelessness monies and offers advice, advocacy and daily risk management, alongside making referrals to a wide range of partner agencies, including Greater Manchester Police, Stockport Without Abuse, Adult Social Care, Stockport Family and health services.

The DACO works with individuals to support them to remain safely in their homes where appropriate, or to explore emergency and longer-term housing options where this is not possible. Support is underpinned by bespoke plans tailored to each customer's needs, wishes, and aspirations. The role also works closely with partner agencies to hold perpetrators to account. Feedback gathered through partner focus groups as part of the DAHA process highlighted the high value placed on the DACO role by both statutory services and third sector organisations supporting victims and survivors.

The DACO attends all Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) for high-risk domestic abuse cases and actively participates in the multiagency Domestic Abuse Operational Group. The role aims to

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reduce harm and prevent homelessness by supporting individuals to remain safely in their own homes where appropriate, or by securing alternative accommodation when this is not possible.

A strong partnership approach underpins the response to domestic abuse within the borough. The DACO is regularly co-located with Stockport Without Abuse and represents SHG at Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings, contributing to the coordinated management of high-risk cases.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

- The DACO works as part of a dedicated domestic abuse team alongside two specialist Housing Options Officers. During the year, the role provided direct support to 90 households experiencing domestic abuse.
- The DACO plays a key role in embedding learning and best practice from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.
- Mandatory Domestic Abuse eLearning was launched across SHG in 2025/26 to ensure that all colleagues understand how to identify domestic abuse, how to respond effectively and understand the specialist support available.
- In 2025/26 an exit survey was introduced to understand the strengths of the domestic abuse offer and where improvements can be made. The survey results are reviewed regularly, and feedback is used to improve the delivery of the service. There have been 23 respondents to date, all responses stated that “Overall, how would you rate the support you received from our service” as either excellent or good and “Did the support improve your overall safety or circumstances” was rated as significantly by all respondents.

One survivor's feedback was *“Very grateful to you and your team for supporting me through the hardship of my poor health. Your help gave me safety, peace of mind, and the ability to manage my situation. You are truly “on fire” to help people in need, and it shows in everything you do; I honestly found everything excellent and have no suggestions for improvement. Your dedication and care make a real difference, and I deeply appreciate all your support”*

Skylight Partnerships Manager

The Skylight Partnerships Manager continues to play a key role in supporting the Council to deliver services for refugee and migrant households across the borough. A key priority remains support for Ukrainian households resettled through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, which has now entered its fourth year. The role supports Ukrainian households to secure settled accommodation as hosting arrangements end, helping to prevent additional pressure on SHG delivered homelessness services.

The Partnerships Manager also manages the Move-on Officer who provides support to the Housing Options and Temporary Accommodation Teams to access private rented accommodation for homeless households. The Move-on Officer has also delivered a pilot focused on securing private rented sector accommodation to move families out of emergency bed and breakfast and hotel provision. The pilot aims to respond to the limited availability of social housing and affordability pressures within Stockport by securing more stable private rented homes, including options outside the borough where appropriate.

The Partnerships Manager oversees engagement and development work with ethnic minority communities. Current partnership activity with the Cultures Together Group and the Asian Heritage Group is supported by the Independent Living and Customer Engagement teams. The longer-term aim is to support the development of a self-managed committee structure, enabling these groups to independently oversee activities and membership.

Notable achievements and performance during 2025/26 include:

Ten new households comprising of 20 people arrived under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and were successfully resettled into housing arrangements within the borough.

17 households, comprising 28 individuals, were supported to move into private sector accommodation following the end of hosting arrangements.

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Eight Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) properties have now been secured and tenanted. Two were allocated to the Afghan programme and six to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

35 homeless households were supported to secure a private rented sector tenancy, 28 of these were outside of the borough.

Manbassadors

During 2025-26, Skylight successfully launched the Manbassadors Project in Stockport following the award of £60,000 funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. This investment enabled the delivery of a two year Greater Manchester pilot in partnership with Bolton at Home, Salix Homes and Wigan Council, with Stockport identified as a key area for initial development.

The project was established in Brinnington, selected due to strong community relationships due to the Ageing in Place Partnership (AIPP) and identified need. This location has provided a strong foundation to develop, test and refine the Manbassador model, with a clear intention to expand delivery across Stockport as the pilot progresses.

The Manbassadors Project aims to engage men of all ages, with a particular focus on those experiencing or at risk of poor mental wellbeing. The approach is rooted in peer to peer support, community presence and informal engagement, recognising that many men are less likely to access traditional services or discuss mental health concerns through formal routes.

The first year of delivery focused heavily on partnership development and capacity building. The team built on relationships established through the earlier AIPP project, strengthening collaboration with a range of local organisations and community groups, including Age UK Stockport, Life Leisure, and a volunteer led peer support group for men experiencing addiction.

These partners undertook Manbassador training, equipping staff and volunteers with the skills and confidence to identify men who may be struggling, provide early support, and encourage further engagement. This training has been central to creating a visible and trusted network of support embedded within everyday community settings.

In parallel, the project has worked closely with Stockport Homes, with caretakers completing Manbassador training to enhance their ability to signpost residents to appropriate wellbeing and mental health support. Within the workplace, Stockport Homes Active Listeners also completed Manbassador training improving support for men's mental health among colleagues.

The Manbassadors Project has raised its profile locally and strategically. Presentations were delivered to the Stockport Suicide Prevention Forum and the Central Neighbourhood Meeting held at Stockport County Football Ground. These sessions increased awareness of the Manbassadors model, led to new professional connections, and generated interest.

The Manbassadors Project has raised its profile locally and strategically. Presentations were delivered to the Stockport Suicide

Prevention Forum and the Central Neighbourhood Meeting held at Stockport County Football Ground. These sessions increased awareness of the Manbassadors model, led to new professional connections, and generated interest in training and volunteering opportunities. To support visibility and community ownership, Manbassador window stickers were introduced and distributed to local businesses, with ongoing engagement to encourage wider participation in the network. Formal Manbassador training certificates were also developed, reinforcing the credibility of the programme and recognising the commitment of partners and volunteers. **Notable achievements and performance during 2025/26 include:**

In the last 6 months

- 23 men accessed direct support
- 4 events were delivered
- 5 structured Manbassador activities took place
- Over 100 men engaged through activities, events or regular sessions

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Community based activity has been a defining feature of the Manbassadors approach. During the year, targeted support was provided to prevent the closure of a men's football group in Brinnington, including assistance with financial arrangements and governance. The continuation of this group has delivered tangible benefits to participants, with men reporting improvements in both physical health and mental wellbeing, as well as reduced isolation and stronger peer connections.

Alongside this, the project has maintained consistent, visible engagement through a weekly men's meet up in the park, combining informal conversation with practical activity through litter picking, a weekly Manbassador pop up support session at Brinnington Foodbank, offering advice, signposting and referrals and participation in community and awareness events, including Time to Talk Day.

These informal, regular touchpoints have proven effective in reaching men who may not otherwise seek support, creating safe spaces for conversation and connection.

The project has demonstrated the value of early, informal and peer led engagement in reducing stigma, increasing help seeking behaviour and fostering supportive relationships among men who are often under represented in traditional services.

The programme has also strengthened partnership working between community organisations, council teams and health partners, improving pathways into wellbeing, mental health and social support services

In response to the success and growing demand for the programme, a Manbassador Partnership and Engagement Assistant role has been created to support continued growth and sustainability during the final 12 months of the pilot. This role will focus on partnership development, volunteer recruitment and expansion of activity across Stockport.

The priorities for the coming year will be consolidating learning, strengthening evidence of impact and exploring opportunities for longer term sustainability beyond the pilot period.

Aim - Working in partnership to reduce demand on statutory services; and supporting the development of the third sector, ensuring additional resources and services are secured

Supporting the development of the Third Sector

SKylight continues to work closely with Sector 3⁴ and Stockport Council to develop a more consistent joined-up voice of the Third Sector. SKylight supports a wide variety of third-sector organisations and civil society groups to design and create community projects. The SKylight Funding Officer supports community groups to identify and access a range of grant funding to maximise local opportunities to the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) to ensure a vibrant third sector community.

The SKylight Funding Officer provides detailed funding searches using a bespoke grant matrix to refine and define the grant information and advice for each community organisation. This service can also progress into a bespoke project consultation from the Funding Officer which can be provided prior to any grant application being developed and submitted.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

SKylight aligns with Sector 3 to deliver events which bring civil society groups together with funders, with 96 community groups benefitting from events this year. SKylight's annual 'Funding the Future' conference was held in September 2025, 75 community groups were brought together with local and national funders. SKylight facilitated smaller, bespoke 'Meet the Funder' coffee table events with 21 community groups attending, these sessions enable the groups to ask specific questions of the funder to maximise their bid potential. Coffee table sessions are aimed at smaller community groups who are new to grant funding or those groups looking to branch out into new areas of funding. The Vernon Foundation, Manchester Airport and ASDA Foundation worked with SKylight to deliver successful coffee table sessions this year. Local Intelligence meetings were held with Stockport Council, Sector3, SKylight Community Fund and the National

⁴ Sector 3 is a network of third sector organisations set up in Stockport in 2017 to improve the resilience and sustainability of sector organisations by bringing them together to share resources, expertise and voice.

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Lottery Community Fund which resulted in positive outcomes and local groups getting the appropriate support from the most relevant organisation.

Working directly with local third sector groups, SKylight has contributed to securing £1,146,450⁵ of grant income into the borough in 2025/26. These totals include successful multi-year bids where funding has been annualised across relevant years. SKylight supports over 300 civil society groups each year through the 'LIFE' model (Lead, Influence, Follow, Exit). LIFE is the process by which support is provided at a variety of different levels to allow groups access to help and advice when required leading to autonomy once the community group has learned to grow and develop. Support given under LIFE can range from:

- Funding searches and recommendations for applications
- Guided support to develop a funding bid in detail.
- Provision of statistical data
- Monitoring and supporting the submission of grant applications as a 'critical friend'

Some highlights of this work in 2025/26 includes:

- SKylight secured funding continues to deliver projects aligned with the objective of supporting people into employment and relieving food poverty. The Social Supermarket "Pathways to Employment" project is at the midway point of a three-year grant allocation from the National Lottery drawing down £64,232 during 2025/26.
- SKylight secured £4,452 from Manchester Airport, EEM Frameworks, Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund and Forever Manchester to purchase white goods for the Your Local Pantry network.
- SKylight has referred five organisations to the Fusion 21 "Community Catalyst" programme to access dedicated advice and professional support to evolve their legal form and maximise their status. The Fusion 21 Resilience Programme provides specialist consultancy to allow civil society groups to evolve and select the right legal structure for their aims. During 2025/26 unique specialist advice has enabled four local organisations to register with the Charities Commission as Charitable Incorporated Organisations and one organisation to register with Companies House as a Community Interest Company, this will open new avenues of grant funding previously unavailable to these groups.

The SKylight Funding Officer has a particular focus on identifying and nurturing community groups to enable them to grow into a sustainable, incorporated legal entities to maximise opportunities for growth and development. This focus addresses the challenges inherent in continuous reliability on short-term grants and funding identified by the National Council for Voluntary Organisation (NCVO). By utilising the LIFE model, future pathways are identified and explored to ensure a successful third sector is sustained which continues to develop and evolve.

SKylight Community Fund

The SKylight Community Fund provides awards to constituted community groups, non-profit organisations, small charities and social enterprise for projects and activities which improve Stockport neighbourhoods, making a difference to the lives of customers and the wider community. To be eligible for funding, applicants must demonstrate how funding would benefit Stockport Homes' customers or communities. The panel, comprising local residents, evaluates applications and makes decisions on how the fund is spent.

With an annual budget of £50k, the Fund's objectives support groups and projects which meet one of the following designated categories:

- Community Spirit
- Digital Inclusion

⁵ This figure includes £368,716 from multi-year bids. The grant total for each of these projects has been divided to each year of the project's delivery as per the amounts specified within the grant application.

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- Employment & Skills
- Health & Well-being
- Older People
- Younger People

Key achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

During the 2025/26 financial year, the SKylight Community Fund received 57 applications, with total funding requests of £77,037 against an annual budget of £50,000. The oversubscription in demand continues a multi-year trend, reflecting the value of the fund within Stockport communities. £49,945 had been allocated to 29 community groups across four funding rounds (leaving a small underspend of £54)

Projects who were successful in their applications covered a wide range of community impact, including reducing social isolation, improving wellbeing, activities for older residents, families with SEND children, youth projects, digital inclusion initiatives, home security improvements, community inclusive sport, cultural cohesion initiatives, gardening projects, Christmas events, men's mental health support groups, heritage trails, gardening clubs, SEND and mental health support groups, Crucial Crew, allotment infrastructure, disability-inclusive basketball, creative therapy for young carers, a youth-led community garden, and the expansion of an accessible yoga model.

The Panel strengthened capacity representation during 25/26 with four new members recruited, increasing membership to 11. Its Terms of Reference and application evaluation process was also enhanced to improve consistency and support clearer demonstration of impact.

The Panel also approved ring fencing 10k (of the £50k) as a Local Impact Fund targeted at CICs, CIOs and small charities. Initially launched as a pilot, the Local Impact Fund was created due to an increasing amount of applications from CIC's and CIOs. By having clear criteria between CICs and CIOs and unincorporated (grass roots) groups, ensures the SKylight Community Fund is supporting all groups proportionately. Prior to the ring fencing, grass root applications were being outnumbered and at times at a disadvantage competing with applications from incorporated, established and well resourced, groups.

Offender Engagement Work

The Offender Engagement Officer (OEO) delivers direct and practical support to offenders in housing need. Delivered through SKylight, it is part of the organisation's commitment to engaging with the most excluded in the Borough who struggle to maximise their full potential.

In addition, the OEO delivers the 'Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Scheme' (AFEO) and the 'Community Accommodation Scheme' (CAS-3) within Stockport. The former supports ex-offenders at risk of rough sleeping into private rented accommodation, and the latter provides interim housing for up to 84 days for people leaving custody and those moving on from Approved Premises who would otherwise face homelessness, supported by the OEO.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

The OEO continues to work closely with the National Probation Service (NPS) and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Service to provide seamless support to offenders, many of whom have complex backgrounds and needs and often feel unable to access mainstream provision.

18 individuals have been supported under the AFEO scheme into private rented accommodation.

CAS-3 funding was uplifted to extend provision from nine units of accommodation to 13 for 2026/27. The following outcomes have been achieved:

- 17 people successfully re-housed into their own private tenancies
- Six people supported to find and maintain employment
- Three people commenced training courses

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Ageing in Place

The Skylight Brinnington based Ageing in Place Pathfinder Programme (AIPP) was delivered as part of a Greater Manchester-wide initiative testing new ways of creating neighbourhoods that better support people to age well. Funded through external philanthropic investment of £2.5m across Greater Manchester, the programme comprised ten local Pathfinder projects, with Skylight receiving £200,000 over three years to September 2025. Placing older people at the heart of decision making, the AIPP focused on reducing loneliness, improving quality of life and strengthening community led approaches to ageing well.

Brinnington was selected due to high levels of deprivation, poor healthy life expectancy and a significant number of older residents living alone. The programme was overseen by a resident led Steering Group and delivered through strong partnerships with external organisations

At the heart of the Skylight AIPP was a commitment to listen first and act with residents, rather than delivering solutions to them. More than 1,000 residents aged 50+ were engaged over the life of the programme through drop ins, pop ups, walk and talks, tower block visits, community events and informal conversations.

This consistent, visible “boots on the ground” approach rebuilt trust in the area. Over time, engagement shifted from consultation to collaboration, with residents co-chairing meetings, leading or co-designing projects, influencing priorities and investment decisions

Delivery was underpinned by strong partnership working across the key Age Friendly domains, including community support and health, social participation, outdoor spaces, safety, transport, housing and communication.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

- Engaged over 1,000 residents aged 50+
- Successfully transitioned activity and oversight through a permanent Independent Living Assistant (ILA)
- Consolidation of community gardens, allotments and green spaces, supporting healthy eating, physical activity and Warm Spaces provision
- Sustainability of the Brinnington community newsletter, now led by the ILA and used as a wider engagement tool
- Social connection increased through walking groups, art activities, gardening projects, trips and community events, reducing isolation and improving mental wellbeing
- Health and independence were supported through access to benefits advice, health checks, physical activity, confidence-building and support following bereavement, illness or homelessness.
- Neighbourhood environments improved through community gardens, allotments, raised planters, benches, litter picks and safer, more usable shared spaces
- Intergenerational activity, particularly with schools and care homes, strengthened community cohesion
- Development of the video below showcasing the work of the programme
<https://youtu.be/raucj2bglCA?si=t0TV2IML-rdwwtd7>

Preventative Services

SKylight is a partner in The Prevention Alliance (TPA) along with Age UK Stockport, Jigsaw Support, Nacro and Talk Listen Change. The TPA deliver early help and prevention support to improve the wellbeing of residents in Stockport.

The TPA are funded by Adult Social Care at Stockport Council to deliver the Boroughwide Contract from April 2022 to March 2027, with potential for a two-year extension up to March 2029. The Boroughwide contract includes the delivery of Stockport Support Hub and Your Support. Stockport Support Hub is a single point of access for people and professionals looking for support in Stockport. Through extensive local knowledge and partnership working, the Hub help people reach the right support at the right time and prevent escalation into statutory services.

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Board Members Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

Your Support have dedicated Key Workers who provide one to one support to help people who are feeling overwhelmed. Through person-led support people are encouraged to improve their health and wellbeing addressing issues such as housing, finances, digital skills, and confidence to enable them to live a full and independent life. Your Support also work in partnership and co-ordinate a multi-agency approach when needed.

Notable achievements and performance for 2025/26 include:

Stockport Support Hub received 6760 referrals. This is an increase of 59 referrals compared to 2024/25. The Hub triages every referral and provides information and advice, and signpost or refer people directly to the most appropriate support. The Hub provided advice on 5081 occasions to 3553 individuals and issued 935 foodbank vouchers.

Your Support received 1283 referrals, 13 more than in 2024/25. Changes to the person's wellbeing are measured whilst they are working with Your Support. 96.79% of people showed an improvement to their wellbeing at case closure compared to 97.24% in 2025/26. Your Support also capture where people have made some progress but may not have fully achieved their goal. 98.1% of all goals were either partially or fully achieved, demonstrating that overall people are making positive progress.

Weekly BSL Interpreter support sessions are delivered for the Deaf Community at Cornerstone with regular access to support services, advocacy to break down barriers in accessing other services and the promotion of digital skills. The TPA delivered 359 BSL support sessions during the year.

The TPA are key partners in DigiKnow, Stockport's Digital Inclusion Alliance to help shape, support and promote digital inclusion in Stockport. The TPA delivered 1304 digital support sessions to help people improve their digital skills and access.

Stockport Support Hub Case Study

Liz was referred to Stockport Support Hub by Adult Social Care following concerns about her home environment. When Nikki, a Support Hub Key Worker, contacted Liz, it quickly became clear that she had extensive and urgent support needs. Liz explained that she had been off work for a prolonged period due to significant health issues. Her sick pay had ended, leaving her with no income to cover food or maintain her mortgage payments. She had been relying on a neighbour for food, but this support had recently stopped as the neighbour developed health problems of their own.

Liz disclosed that she had no heating or hot water and that her toilet was broken. She expressed feelings of shame about the condition of her home but recognised that she needed help. Due to her health issues, Liz was largely confined to her bed and had developed bed sores. Nikki identified that the situation indicated severe self-neglect and constituted a safeguarding concern.

With Liz's consent, Nikki immediately contacted her GP to request an urgent home visit to address her health needs. A safeguarding referral was submitted to Adult Social Care, where Liz was already awaiting a Care Act Assessment. Following the referral, her case was prioritised and allocated to a Social Worker. A referral was also made to Home Support.

After the GP visit, Liz was admitted to hospital for further treatment. In preparation for her discharge, the Hospital Discharge Team worked closely with Home Support to arrange a deep clean of her property, installation of a new boiler, a repair the toilet, and provision of a new bed and bedding so she could return to a safe and suitable environment.

Liz has since been allocated a Your Support Key Worker, who is working alongside the Social Worker to provide ongoing support. This includes help with benefit applications, improving her health and wellbeing, and maintaining a safe and stable home.

'The support has been really good. I feel like I am getting back on track as I was in a bad place. Without all those key people, Nikki, Nicola, Sue the GP, I genuinely think I could have died - that one phone call saved me.' - Liz

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Board Members Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

Your Support Case Study

Sue and Carl were referred by Adult Social Care as they were facing imminent repossession of their home. Their mortgage had exceeded its term, and the bank had initiated legal proceedings. The couple had not sought advice earlier and only reached out for support four weeks before bailiffs were due to take possession of their home of 50 years.

They met with their Keyworker Lisa, to gather full financial and personal information. Contact was made with the bank's legal team to explore all feasible options. At this stage, the only formal solutions available were to sell the property or surrender possession and present as homeless. This was unacceptable to Sue and Carl due to their long-standing connection to the home and their beloved pets.

To prevent homelessness and loss of their home, Lisa supported the couple to find a suitable cash buyer. The buyer agreed to expedite the purchase process and, crucially, allow Sue and Carl to remain in the property as tenants following completion. This provided both immediate relief and long-term housing security.

On the scheduled eviction date, Bailiffs attended the property. Lisa negotiated with the Bailiff resulting in an agreement to place the eviction on hold pending completion of the sale.

Lisa supported applications for Housing Benefit, Attendance Allowance for both people and Council Tax Reduction to improve financial stability going forward. As a result of this intervention, repossession was halted, homelessness was avoided, and Sue and Carl were able to remain in their home.

'Lisa has been brilliant! We are happy in our home now. Lisa did amazing- we cannot praise her enough.' - Sue and Carl

Financial review

The 2025/26 financial year has been a successful year for SKylight with financial performance favourable to the approved budget.

The main sources of income are through Gift Aid donations, in delivery of services funded by the local authority or Stockport Homes, and through other government contracts and membership/subscription fees.

SKylight received £1,453,000 in Gift Aid in March 2026 and the funds position is positive, standing at £2,419,000 on 31 March 2026. It is not the aim of SKylight to hold higher levels of reserves than is deemed necessary. The Board have approved a budget for 2026/27 which will see a substantial amount of these funds being used to support the planned continuation and enhancement of projects through the financial year 2026/27.

Reserves policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the timing gap between expenditure and the receipt of income, and to provide a level of protection against unplanned events. The Board Members consider that the current minimum level of reserves should be equivalent to one month's expenditure relating to projects where any of the income received is from an external source outside of Stockport Homes, plus an additional amount in respect of consideration for unexpected events such as redundancy of externally funded staff. Based on the budget for 2026/27 this indicates a level of reserves of £156,000. This level will continue to be reviewed in future years in line with SKylight's activities.

The total level of reserves at the end of March 2026 is £2,419,000 which are all unrestricted for use. Reserves will be used to support the delivery of the 2026/27 budget, funding the continuation of projects through the financial year 2026/27 and into 2027/28, and reducing the level of existing reserves.

Principal risks and uncertainties

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Board Members Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

A risk register is in place for SKylight which is approved by both SKylight Board and the SHG Board. This risk register allows SKylight to manage risk and embrace opportunities and therefore supports the delivery of its charitable objectives. Each year, SKylight assesses the internal and external operating environment and identifies those risks (and opportunities) which could affect performance and achievement of agreed objectives. Quarterly risk update reports are then provided to ELT, SKylight Board and the Audit and Risk Committee of SHG Board as well as SHG Board (as part of a wider Finance and Risk Update). These reports describe progress against delivery of risk control actions, highlights any exceptions, and identifies any new or emerging risks which the organisation needs to take account of.

The key risks for 2025-26 included:

- SKylight does not successfully deliver the agreed SKylight Business Plan
- Stakeholders do not fully understand SKylight's strategic aims and relationships are not well managed
- SKylight does not positively contribute to SHG's consumer regulation requirements and / or to the political setting in which SHG (as an ALMO) operates
- SKylight does not deliver a balanced budget
- SKylight does not meet regulation requirements relating to its Community Benefit Society status, including not adhering to the current FCA registration
- SKylight's Board Members are ineffective in their role to oversee and challenge whilst also driving the company's vision in line with the agreed aims of SKylight and SHG
- SKylight is unable to attract / recruit / retain competent staff and employees in post (both current and future) are not engaged with SHG's values

Plans for future periods

The Board of SKylight considers that the Company has strong and sound future prospects. This is demonstrated by the following:

- Strong and effective governance arrangements;
- A sound financial planning framework which demonstrates a robust and healthy financial outlook in the short, medium and long term. This is supported by a 30-year Group financial plan, which is stress tested against a range of key strategic risks and scenarios.
- A clear strategic direction as set out in the Group's Delivery Plan and Corporate Plan for 2026–31.
- Continued strong performance of key indicators such as rent collection and void turnaround which has contributed to mitigating key financial risks arising from changes in government policy.
- SKylight is currently developing its second Business Plan which provides a clear framework for operations and priorities over the next five years, whilst remaining flexible and agile in order to be able to respond to funding and partnership opportunities as they arise.
- A key area of growth for SKylight continues to be the transfer of existing Stockport Homes roles, which align clearly with SKylight's Aims, to the subsidiary as they become vacant. A total of nine services and up to 125 roles have been identified as appropriate for delivery within SKylight across a range of teams.
- The ongoing demand for the provision of SKylight services which is not expected to decrease in the longer term.

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Board Members Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

Structure, governance and management

SKylight is a Charitable Community Benefit Society that is limited by shares and was incorporated on 10th December 2018.

SKylight is a Registered Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and is governed under its Rules.

SKylight (like its parent company Stockport Homes) has adopted and complies with the NHF Code of Governance (2020).

SKylight is controlled by Stockport Homes Limited, who has the right to appoint or remove any or all Board Members. Stockport Homes Limited produces consolidated accounts which are available to members of the public from its registered office: Stockport Homes Limited, Cornerstone, 2 Edward Street, Stockport SK1 3NQ.

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council is the ultimate controlling party of the Company. Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council produces consolidated accounts which are available to members of the public from its registered office.

Key management personnel of the organisation comprise the SKylight Board Members, and the senior management team who are employed by Stockport Homes, comprising the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Finance and Resources, the Director of Customer Services and the Director of Property. The Board Members are remunerated for their duties in relation to SKylight, governed by a Group-wide Remuneration & Expenses Policy. The remuneration of key management personnel is set by Stockport Homes Limited, and the calculated benefit based on the estimated percentage of their time spent on SKylight activities.

SKylight works in collaboration with Jigsaw Homes delivering the Motiv8 service, funded by the DWP. The contract is delivered across Greater Manchester with three other housing providers. SKylight also works in collaboration with a range of Greater Manchester (GM) partners on the GM Housing First contract, Great Places Housing being the lead partner on this contract. In addition, SKylight worked with a range of partners to secure and deliver a range of Preventative Services, these include Age UK Stockport, Jigsaw Support, NACRO, Talk, Listen, Change, PURE and Stockport Women's Aid.

Public benefit

The main activities are outlined in the section above. They are all undertaken to further SKylight's purpose for the public benefit, with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on this subject, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)."

Recruitment and appointment of Board Members

SKylight has a Board that directs the affairs of the organisation in accordance with its Objects and the Rules to ensure that its functions are properly performed.

The Board shall consist of between three and nine Board Members (excluding co-optees) as may be determined by the Board. The Independent Board Members who do not also sit on the Stockport Homes Board shall be a majority of the Board Members at all times. Board Members will be appointed for an initial fixed term of three years, which may be renewed and no Board Member may serve beyond nine consecutive years in office.

SKylight Board Members are recruited through an open and transparent process. The advertisement of vacancies is broad and far-reaching to encourage applications from a diverse range of applicants.

Board Member induction and training

A Board Member induction plan has been developed to ensure that newly appointed Board Members are provided with relevant and required information to provide them with the best platform to be effective Board Members. Board Members also meet with senior managers at the beginning of their tenure in order to learn as much as possible about SKylight.

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Board Members Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

Reference and administrative details

The name by which the organisation is registered is SKylight Proud to be part of SHG Limited. Registration Number: 7953. The address of the registered office is Cornerstone, 2 Edward Street, Stockport, SK1 3NQ.

Board Members:

- Marie Gilluley (Chair) (appointed 7 November 2022)
- Priti Butler (appointed 20 September 2021)
- Kathryn Hanna (deceased 20 December 2025)
- Tessa Wiley (appointed 7 November 2022)
- Nicola Firth (appointed 30 September 2024)

Senior Management Team:

- Helen McHale (Chief Executive - left the organization 31 January 2026)
- Carmel Chambers (Chief Executive - appointed to the role 1 February 2026)
- Anne-Marie Heil (Director of Customer Service & Lead Officer)
- Tim Pinder (Director of Property - left the organization 16 December 2025)
- Paul Worthington (Director of Property - appointed 3 November 2025)
- John Kennedy (Director of Finance & Resources - appointed to the role 16 February 2026)

The Board of SKylight meet quarterly and are responsible for providing strategic direction. The Senior Management Team are responsible for delivering the strategy which the Board set. The Scheme of Delegation sets out the responsibilities which the Board reserve for itself and those which it delegates.

Auditors:

Menzies
One Express
1 George Leigh St
Manchester
M4 5DL

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Limited
PO Box 190
Leeds
LS1 5WU

Solicitors:

Stockport MBC
Stopford House
Stockport
SK1 3XE

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Board Members Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

Board Members Responsibilities

The Board Members are responsible for preparing the Board Members' 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 Board Members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of

the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the board members are required to:

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- (b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- (c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- (d) state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- (e) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Board members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable entity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditors

In so far as the Board Members are aware:

- (a) there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- (b) the Board Members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution for the appointment of auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting

Approval

This report was approved by the Board on 27 July 2026 and signed on its behalf by



Marie Gilluley

Chair of the Board

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Independent auditor's report

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of SKylight Proud To Be Part Of SHG

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SKylight Proud To Be Part Of SHG ('the Charitable Entity') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charitable Entity's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Board is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Independent auditor's report

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Charitable Entity has not maintained a satisfactory system of control over transactions; or
- the Charitable Entity has not kept proper accounting records; or
- the Charitable Entity's financial statements are not in agreement with books of account; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Board

As explained more fully in the Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities set out on page 27, the Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and addressing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the Charitable Entity, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, and employment legislation.
- We enquired of the Board and reviewed correspondence and Board meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the Board have in place, where necessary, to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the Board have in place to prevent and detect fraud. We enquired of the Board about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Independent auditor's report

-
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following area: laws related to regulated nature of the Charitable Entity's activities.
 - We reviewed financial statements disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
 - We enquired of the Board about actual and potential litigation and claims.
 - We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
 - In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to members of the Charitable Entity, as a body, in accordance with section 87 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Entity those matters we are required to state to it in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Entity and the members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Menzies LLP

Menzies LLP
Statutory Auditor
One Express
1 George Leigh Street
Manchester
M4 5DL

Date: 27th July 2026

Skylight Proud to be part of SHG
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds 2026 £'000	Total Funds 2025 £'000
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,453	-	1,453	835
Income from charitable activities					
<i>Supporting people into employment, relieving poverty, relieving food poverty and developing digital skills</i>		401	54	455	465
<i>Supporting customers in local communities and delivering support services to help people live independently</i>		2,211	-	2,211	1,888
<i>Empowering communities to develop networks of support</i>		170	20	190	152
<i>Working in partnership to reduce demand on statutory services; and supporting the development of the third sector, ensuring additional resources and services are secured.</i>		263	47	310	396
Bank Interest Receivable		49	-	49	58
Total incoming resources		4,547	121	4,668	3,794
Expenditure on charitable activities:	4				
<i>Supporting people into employment, relieving poverty, relieving food poverty and developing digital skills</i>		894	54	948	961
<i>Supporting customers in local communities and delivering support services to help people live independently</i>		2,481	-	2,481	2,127
<i>Empowering communities to develop networks of support</i>		264	20	284	266
<i>Working in partnership to reduce demand on statutory services; and supporting the development of the third sector, ensuring additional resources and services are secured.</i>		378	47	425	522
Total expenditure		4,017	121	4,138	3,876
Net income/(expenditure)		530	-	530	(82)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		530		530	(82)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total Funds brought forward		1,889	-	1,889	1,971
Total Funds carried forward		2,419	-	2,419	1,889

All Incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

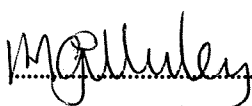
Skylight Proud to be part of SHG
Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2026

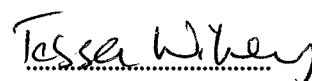
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds 2026 £'000	Total Funds 2025 £'000
Current assets					
Debtors	9	260	0	260	147
Cash and cash equivalents	10	2,299	71	2,370	1,981
Total current assets:		2,559	71	2,630	2,128
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(140)	(71)	(211)	(239)
Net current assets		2,419	-	2,419	1,889
Total assets less current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-	-	-
Total net assets		2,419	-	2,419	1,889
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted Funds		2,419	-	2,419	1,889
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-
Total charity funds		2,419	-	2,419	1,889

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 27 July 2026.

Signature:



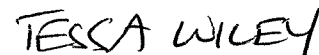




Name:







Secretary

Member 1

Member 2

The notes on pages 34 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

Company Registration Number 7953

Skylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

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SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (*continued*)

1 Legal status

SKylight is a Charitable Community Benefit Society that is limited by shares. SKylight was incorporated on 10th December 2018. Its registered address is: Cornerstone, 2 Edward St, Stockport, SK1 3NQ.

SKylight is a Registered Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and is governed under its Rules.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charitable entities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and are presented in sterling £ rounded to the nearest £'000.

SKylight meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or fair value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Going concern

The Board Members consider that there are no material uncertainties about SKylight's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

Funds structure

Where there is a legal restriction on the purpose to which a fund may be put, the fund is classified either as:

- A restricted fund or
- An endowment fund.

Restricted funds are those where the donor has provided for the donation to be spent in furtherance of a specified charitable purpose. SKylight's restricted funds tend to result from appeals for specified purposes.

Those funds which are neither endowment nor restricted income funds, are unrestricted income funds which are sub analysed between designated (earmarked) funds where the Board Members have set aside amounts to be used for specific purposes or which reflect the non-binding wishes of donors and unrestricted funds which are at the Board Members discretion, including the general fund which represents the charity's reserves.

Incoming resources

Income is derived from the provision of goods/services and stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and VAT where applicable.

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether "capital" grants or "revenue" grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the goods or services being provided is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met. Income is also deferred where it is either refundable, where performance or time

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (*continued*)

related conditions have not been met, or where other terms and conditions limit the recognition of the income.

Income from donations and legacies

Such income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the SOFA when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Where income is received in relation to a particular project or activity to be carried out over a specified period, the relevant proportion of such income is deferred so that it is recognised in the same period that the relevant expenditure is incurred.

Gifts and donated services

Donated facilities and services that are consumed immediately are recognised as income, with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities (SoFA).

As the value of services provided to the charity by volunteers cannot be quantified they have not been included in these accounts.

Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to each category of expense shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure is recognised when the following criteria are met:

- there is a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event
- it is more likely than not that a transfer of benefits (usually a cash payment) will be required in settlement
- the amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include finance, human resources, insurance, irrecoverable VAT and assurance costs.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management and administration of the charity.

Support costs have been apportioned between charitable activities on an appropriate basis. The analysis of support costs and the bases of apportionment applied are shown in note 5.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity. These costs, where not wholly attributable, are apportioned between the categories of charitable expenditure in addition to the direct costs. The total costs of each category of charitable expenditure include an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 4.

Debtors

Debtors are amounts owed to the charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

SKYlight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (*continued*)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the day to day running costs of the charity as they fall due. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, usually in 90 day notice interest bearing savings accounts.

Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the charity. They are measured at the amount that the charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.

Amounts which are owed in more than a year are shown as long-term creditors.

Financial instruments

SKYlight only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. The estimates and associated assumptions are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors considered to be relevant. No estimates, assumptions or judgements are deemed to be critical to the organisation's financial statements.

Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either other creditors or accruals at the year end.

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (*continued*)

3 Incoming resources from donations and legacies

	Total 2026 £'000	Total 2025 £'000
<u>Unrestricted Income</u>		
<i>Gift aid</i>	1,453	835
Total unrestricted incoming resources from donations and legacies	1,453	835

4 Analysis of charitable expenditure - Unrestricted

	Supporting people into employment, relieving poverty, relieving food poverty and developing digital skills £'000	Supporting customers in local communities and delivering support services to help people live independently £'000	Empowering communities to develop networks of support £'000	Working in partnership to reduce demand on statutory services; £'000	Total 2026 £'000	Total 2025 £'000
Costs directly allocated to activities						
Salaries, NI and pensions	593	2,195	169	93	3,050	2,619
Other staff costs including training and uniforms	57	15	1	89	162	219
Premises costs, licenses and health and safety	3	-	-	-	3	19
Your Local Pantry costs	52	-	49	1	102	109
Personalisation costs and participant expenses	4	-	-	-	4	3
Other costs	88	2	16	154	260	374

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

Support costs and governance costs allocated to activities						
Support costs (see note 5)	91	252	27	38	408	374
Governance costs (see note 5)	6	17	2	3	28	20
Total unrestricted	894	2,481	264	378	4,017	3,737

4 Analysis of charitable expenditure - Restricted

	Supporting people into employment, relieving poverty, relieving food poverty and developing digital skills	Supporting customers in local communities and delivering support services to help people live independently	Empowering communities to develop networks of support	Working in partnership to reduce demand on statutory services;	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Costs directly allocated to activities						
Salaries, NI and pensions	26	-	-	11	37	88
Other staff costs including training and uniforms	24	-	3	23	50	-
Personalisation costs and participant expenses	-	-	7	5	12	-
Other costs	4	-	10	8	22	51

Support costs and governance costs allocated to activities

Support costs (see note 5)	-	-	-	-	-	-
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SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (*continued*)

Governance costs (see note 5)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted	54	-	20	47	121	139

5 Analysis of governance and support costs - Unrestricted

Analysis of support costs

	Raising funds £'000	Charitable activities £'000	Total 2026 £'000	Total 2025 £'000	
Salaries, NI and pensions	-	214	214	178	Expenditure
Bank charges	-	2	2	2	Expenditure
Miscellaneous	-	192	192	194	Expenditure
Total	-	408	408	374	

Analysis of governance costs

	Raising funds £'000	Charitable activities £'000	Total Funds 2026 £'000	Total Funds 2025 £'000	
Salaries, NI and pensions	-	16	16	15	Expenditure
External audit	-	12	12	5	Expenditure
Total	-	28	28	20	

6 Board Member remuneration, benefits and expenses

In prior years members of SKylight board gave their time freely and received no remuneration for the work that they would undertake in relation to SKylight, however during 2025/26 this was changed to bring about consistency across the Group. Amounts paid to SKylight board members during the period totalled £8,398.05 (2025: £Nil), in addition no expenses were claimed in 2025/26 (2025: £Nil) relating to travel and subsistence:

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

Board member	Remuneration 2025/26	Remuneration 2024/25
	£	£
Priti Butler	1,307	0
Marie Gilluley	1,863	0
Nicola Firth	2,614	0
Tessa Wiley	2,614	0
Kathryn Hanna	0	0
Total	8,398	0

7 Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2026 £'000	2025 £'000
Salaries and wages	2,622	2,334
Social security costs	313	212
Employers pension contribution	192	163
	3,127	2,710

The average number of employees within 2025/26 was 87 (2025: 83)

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2025: none).

Key management personnel of the organisation comprise the Board Members, the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Finance and Resources, the Director of Property, and the Director of Customer Services. The services of the key management personnel of the organisation cost £28,360 (2025: £39,420) included within governance costs.

8 Auditors remuneration

The auditor's remuneration of £10,175 (2025: £5,335) related solely to the audit and £1,140 for additional work being undertaken (2025: £950).

9 Analysis of current debtors

Debtors under 1 year	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2026 £'000	2025 £'000
Prepayments	1	-	1	1
Accrued income	7	-	7	54
Other Debtors	17	-	17	16
Less: provision for bad debt	(11)	-	(11)	(12)
Trade debtors	54	-	54	47

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

Intercompany debtors	156	-	156	13
Amounts owed by SMBC and associated companies	36	-	36	28
Total	260	-	260	147

10 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Debtors under 1 year	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2026 £'000	2025 £'000
Cash in hand	2,299	71	2,370	1,981
Total	2,299	71	2,370	1,981

11 Analysis of Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2026 £'000	2025 £'000
Creditors falling due within 1 year				
Trade creditors	16	-	16	20
Accruals and deferred income	32	71	103	96
Taxation and social security	64	-	64	49
Other creditors	28	-	28	24
Intercompany creditors	-	-	-	42
Amounts owed to SMBC and associated companies	-	-	-	8
Total	140	71	211	239

12 Analysis of fund movements

Unrestricted Funds	Balance B/Fwd £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains & losses £'000	Balance C/Fwd £'000
General fund	1,889	4,547	(4,017)	-	-	2,419
Total	1,889	4,547	(4,017)	-	-	2,419

SKylight Proud to be part of SHG

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

Restricted Funds	Balance B/Fwd £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains & losses £'000	Balance C/Fwd £'000
General fund	-	121	(121)	-	-	-
Total	-	121	(121)	-	-	-

13 Related Parties Disclosure

SKylight is controlled by Stockport Homes Limited, who has the right to appoint or remove any or all Board Members. Stockport Homes Limited produces consolidated accounts which are available to members of the public from its registered office: Stockport Homes Limited, Cornerstone, 2 Edward Street, Stockport SK1 3NQ.

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council is the ultimate controlling party of the Company. Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council produces consolidated accounts which are available to members of the public from its registered office.

The following transactions took place between SKylight, Stockport Homes and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council during the year:

	2026 £'000	2025 £'000
Other income receivable - unrestricted - Stockport Homes	156	13
Other income receivable - unrestricted - SMBC	36	28
Net amounts owed to/(from) Stockport Homes	156	42
Net amounts owed to/(from) SMBC	36	20

Tessa Wiley is a Board Member of Groundwork Greater Manchester, a charity specialising in supporting the local community. SKylight made a payment to Groundwork Greater Manchester of £149,752 during the period (2025: £11,185).