



Growing
HOPE
maidstone

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Since Our Launch

Clinic Manager's Letter

Growing Hope Maidstone has seen a fruitful year of growth in 2025. In January, we recruited a Freelance Administrator Ann who helps with the day-to-day administrative running of the clinic. In May, Kim, our freelance Speech and Language Therapist joined the team, delivering therapy on Thursday afternoons. Our clinic assistant, Marion, has faithfully supported in clinic on Wednesdays and our second clinic assistant Bebe started in September.

We ran a successful When Dreams Change course in May, a course for parents of SEN children to help them process their experience of having a child with additional needs, as well as an equally successful 7-week Siblings Group which creates a safe space for siblings to explore some of their experiences and feelings.

We have seen the Lord provide in so many ways and I am incredibly thankful to Him, and to all our amazing trustees, staff and volunteers as well as St Luke's Maidstone who make this all possible.



Lorraine Ackroyd, Clinic Manager, Growing Hope Maidstone

Chair of Trustees' Letter

Growing Hope Maidstone opened its doors in September 2024, making this our inaugural year - and what a full and exciting year it has been. Our clinic manager, Lorraine, has led us superbly with enthusiasm, positivity, and hope.

We have been privileged to hear many moving stories of lives touched, with renewed vision and hope for both children and parents. We look forward to reaching many more families in the year ahead.

We are profoundly thankful for the financial support of individuals and grant funders. God has faithfully provided through so many. Thank you from all of us at Growing Hope Maidstone.



Hollie Butler & Tony Jones,
Co-Chairs of Trustees, Growing Hope Maidstone

Growing Hope National's CEO's Letter

At the start of 2025, we aimed for consolidation with steady growth, however, I am amazed to look back and see a year defined by unprecedented growth and unexpected momentum. We didn't just sustain our services - we doubled them. I'm deeply grateful for a team that embraced significant change with faith, creativity, and determination.

We opened four new clinics in Redbridge, Solent, York, and Farnham, bringing life-changing therapy to families who had been struggling alone. With plans for clinics in Ipswich and Tunbridge Wells progressing for 2026, we are firmly on track toward our goal of 20 clinics by 2030.

At the heart of everything are the families we serve. Through our clinics, we provided free therapy for 440 children and supported 445 families through groups and training, continuing to share hope in Jesus through prayer and community.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of many individuals, donors and partners along with the dedication of our staff and volunteers. It has been an honour to step into the role of CEO permanently this year. Together, we are not just providing therapy and support - we are bringing new hope to families across the UK.

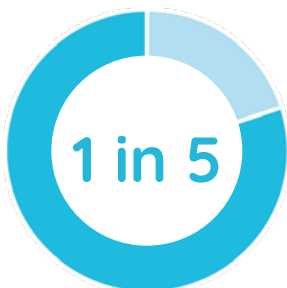


Vicki Smith, CEO, Growing Hope National

Trustees' Report

The Board of Trustees presents its report and financial statements for the period 16 September 2024 - 31 December 2025 together with the Independent Examiner's Report. Growing Hope Maidstone was registered with the charity commission as a CIO on 16 September 2024, charity number 1210062, and the period from then to the end of 2025 represents the first financial period of the charity. The current trustees are Hollie Butler (Co-Chair), Tony Jones (Co-Chair), Catherine Cooper, Marion Hanks, Katy Abson and Mandy Mileham. In September, Laura Evans stepped down as a trustee, and in December, Nikki Evans stepped down as a trustee. We would like to thank Laura and Nikki for their service and dedication to Growing Hope Maidstone.

We are confident that Growing Hope Maidstone has carried out its charitable objectives during the period and acted in the interests of the public benefit. We have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on reporting on public benefit when preparing this annual report.



of children in England have an additional need¹

28% of parent carers

of children with additional needs report probable clinical depression due to the challenges²

74% of siblings

of children with additional needs do not receive any help from school³

35 parents and carers

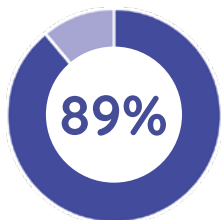
supported through therapy sessions and courses

30 children

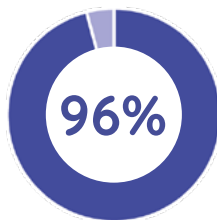
supported through direct therapy at Growing Hope Maidstone

1 Siblings Group courses run for brothers and sisters of children with additional needs

1 When Dreams Change course run for parents and carers



of GAS goals achieved by children and young people



of GAS goals achieved by parents, carers and siblings

We use a combination of non-standardised feedback forms and a standardised measure, the Goal Attainment Scale (GAS). GAS is an outcome measure that is commonly used in research to show the effectiveness of therapy services. GAS enabled us to set three goals for each child and young person in a conversation between themselves, their parents and the therapist.

Aims and Objectives

We are Growing Hope Maidstone. We champion accessibility and provide free therapy for children and young people with additional needs living in Maidstone, in partnership with St Luke's Church, Maidstone.



HOPE FOR CHILDREN

We bring hope to children through offering free therapy services.



HOPE FOR FAMILIES

We grow hope for families where hope has been lost due to isolation or rejection.



HOPE IN JESUS

We share hope in Jesus because He brings hope even in the most difficult situations.

In accordance with its charity constitution, Growing Hope Maidstone has sought to achieve the following aims and objectives in the period dated 16 September 2024 to 31 December 2025.

The advancement of health and wellbeing for the public benefit by the provision of a therapy clinic run in accordance with Christian principles for children and young people (0-18) with additional needs and their families living in Maidstone. In particular, but not exclusively by:

- registered healthcare professionals providing assessment, advice and intervention, and other services as the trustees see fit.
- provision of sibling, parent and carer support groups and courses, and other services as the trustees see fit.
- the advancement of the Christian faith for the public benefit through the opportunity to engage in conversation about faith and spiritual wellbeing and to receive prayer, and other such invitations as the trustees see fit.

This year the Growing Hope Maidstone team has grown and across the year we have been joined by five volunteers who have supported our work through administrative tasks, fundraising event activity and running courses for parents, carers and siblings.

Hope for Children

- 🍃 We have provided free Music Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy for children and young people in the St Luke's church building.
- 🍃 We have provided therapy for **30 children and young people**.
- 🍃 We have worked on individualised goals to support children and families in the areas of greatest need. Examples of goals have been emotional regulation, attention and listening, social skills, toileting, dressing and eating.
- 🍃 **89% of therapy goals have been achieved.**

Hope for Families

We have run:

- 🍃 **22 training sessions for parents and carers**, fortnightly sessions on a variety of topics, hosted by our therapists in partnership with Growing Hope Maidstone, King's Cross, High Wycombe, Brockley, Redbridge, York, Solent and York. **294 parents and carers** have attended these sessions.
- 🍃 **1 When Dreams Change course**, for a total of **5 parents and carers**. When Dreams Change is a four-week course that aims to help parents and carers reflect on their experience of having a child with additional needs, and to become more of the person they have been created to be.
- 🍃 **1 Siblings Group course**, for a total of **3 siblings**. The Siblings Group is a seven-week course that aims to enable brothers and sisters of children with additional needs to share their experiences of being a sibling and connect with other children with similar experiences.
- 🍃 **96% of goals** have been met within our courses.

Noah's Story

When Noah first came to a Growing Hope clinic for music therapy, social situations often felt overwhelming. Taking turns, sharing ideas and managing big emotions could be really difficult for him.

By taking turns in songs and musical play, Noah and his therapist, Lorraine, mirrored one another's ideas, helping him gently learn flexibility and cooperation. Music became a way to explore emotions, giving Noah opportunities to talk about how he was feeling and simple calming strategies.

By his final session, Noah was able to discuss a time he'd felt frustrated and recognise that it's alright to feel hard emotions as well as happy ones. He is now more confident in naming his feelings and has calming tools he can use at home with his parents.



Hope in Jesus

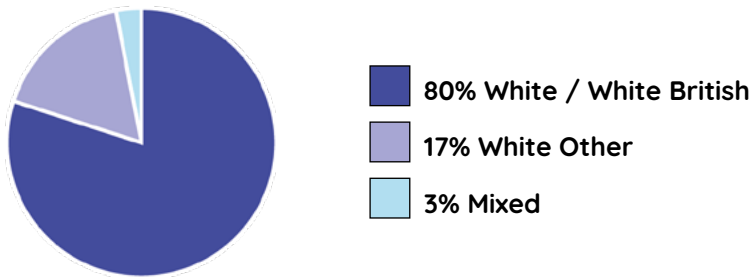
We believe Jesus brings hope even in the most difficult situations. We always offer to pray for families at the end of each therapy session, many families have taken up this offer and it has been a privilege to see answers to prayer. Our Clinic Manager Lorraine also works on a Sunday to support families to access church alongside an additional needs team that provide 1:1 support in children's groups at St Luke's and help families feel welcomed into church. We have had seven volunteers join our team throughout the year and are actively seeking to grow our team as we see increasing numbers of children and young people with additional needs come through our doors.

We have also been able to develop our strategy to make the main church service more accessible to people with additional needs, such as providing creative activities, fidget toys, headphones, visual timetables and calm zones. We have a Growing Hope area so families know where to come and find us if they are struggling and need extra support to be a part of the service. St. Luke's have been awarded the Growing Hope Gold Accessibility Award.

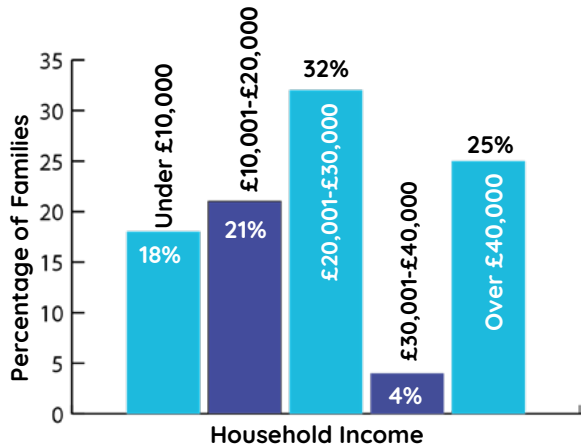
Growing Hope is open to individuals of all faiths and backgrounds and there is no pressure to participate in the faith aspects of our service.

Demographics*

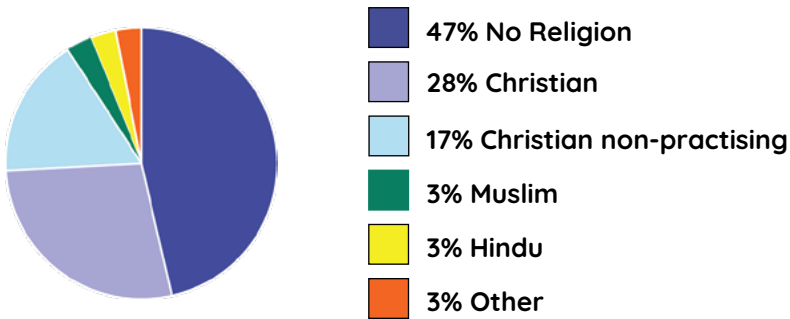
Ethnicity



Household income



Religion



*Demographic data for individuals referred to our service, from anonymous forms completed by parents and carers. Some parents/carers may have completed more than one form if they have attended multiple events.

Financial Review

The trustees present an overview of the charity’s finances for the period: 16 September 2024 - 31 December 2025. Growing Hope Maidstone currently runs with both restricted and unrestricted funding. Funds left in reserve at the end of the financial period: £14,745.

Management of Financial Risk

We aim to hold at least three months of our outgoings in reserve. We raise our income through regular giving, fundraising events and grants. We aim to increase regular giving in order to have further sustainable finances to enable us to provide our therapy services.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity’s governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. The full financial statements are found at the end of this report (p.14).

Income and Expenditure

We received an income of £73,780

- £39,022 from grants
- £7,863 from fundraising
- £1,986 from regular giving
- £1,343 from one-off gifts
- £907 from Gift Aid
- £6,490 from campaigns
- £16,170 donations from other organisations

We had an expenditure of £59,036

- £44,912 on salaries and HR
- £1,801 on fundraising
- £9,947 on clinic expenses
- £1,325 office and admin costs
- £1,500 Giving to Growing Hope National

Supporter Engagement and Fundraising

We raise money at key points in the year through the Big Give Christmas Challenge, community fundraising, a fundraising dinner and grants. We're grateful for all the support we have received from our generous supporters. More details are in the accounts.

Grants received:

- £16,750, Benefact Trust
- £10,000, Dorothy Kerin Trust
- £7,000, The Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust
- £2,500, The Cobtree Charity Trust Ltd
- £2,000, The Cole Charitable Trust
- £772, Maidstone Lions Club

We also received £2,250 of champion matched funding from an anonymous fund for the Big Give Christmas Challenge Campaign 2025.

Jacob's Story

Jacob* has a diagnosis of autism and came to music therapy sessions at Growing Hope Maidstone for help with managing his anger and to learn some calming strategies. Jacob's mum was feeling increasingly stressed and running out of ideas on how to help him.

Through playing improvised music and drawing, Jacob learned how to express a variety of feelings in an appropriate way and to reflect on positive emotions and what these felt like in his body in order to build resilience.

His mum shared, "Jacob has learned to be himself and express emotions which he really struggled to understand before. Therapy sessions have become a safe space. He doesn't often feel this. Playing music is something that Jacob really took to naturally and clearly enjoyed very much. Thank you for finding this new love for him."

*name changed.



Structure and Governance

Growing Hope Maidstone is a registered charity in England and Wales, charity number: 1210062, and is run in accordance with its charity constitution. Growing Hope Maidstone works in collaboration with St Luke's Maidstone and Growing Hope National. As a CIO, if Growing Hope Maidstone is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities. The trustees also hold Trustee Indemnity insurance of £100,000 for Executive Risks. Insurance is provided via Growing Hope National charity (policy number CC009584).

Lorraine Ackroyd attends Growing Hope Maidstone trustee meetings but is not party to any decisions regarding her salary or employment.

Growing Hope Maidstone trustees are members of the CIO and appointed by a resolution at trustee meetings. They are responsible for governance of Growing Hope Maidstone, ensuring it is meeting its charitable purposes.

Risk Management

The trustees take risk management seriously and have identified risks and put in place processes to mitigate them. We have policies in place to mitigate any risks in the following areas: financial risk, IT security and protection, safeguarding, health and safety and comprising Christian identity and values. All of these can be accessed on our website.

The Year Ahead

We plan to recruit a finance and a fundraising trustee, as well as employ a part-time freelance Partnerships and Supporter Engagement Coordinator to develop strong relationships with individuals, churches, businesses and schools which will drive growth and increase our resources, enabling us to reach more families.

References

1. Gov.UK. 2025. Special educational needs in England. [Online]. [09 March 2026]. Available from: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england/2024-25>
2. Family Fund, *The Cost of Caring*, 2025. [Online]. [09 March 2026]. Available from: https://www.familyfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/FF_Cost_of_Caring_Report_Eng_Apr25_1221_3.pdf
3. *If Only You Knew*, 2024. Sibs. [Online]. [09 March 2026]. Available from: <https://www.sibs.org.uk/supporting-young-siblings/foronly?>

Financial Report

Growing Hope Maidstone

Reference and administrative details

For the period 16 September 2024 – 31 December 2025

Trustees:

Hollie Georgina Butler, Chair, appointed 16 September 2024
Anthony Mason Jones, appointed 16 September 2024
Marion Hanks, appointed 16 September 2024
Katherine Abson, appointed 16 September 2024
Amanda Mary Mileham, appointed 16 September 2024
Catherine Sophie Cooper, appointed 16 September 2024
Laura Evans, appointed 16 September 2024, resignation date
5 September 2025
Nikki Evans, appointed 16 September 2024, resignation date 7
December 2025

Key Management Personnel:

Lorraine Ackroyd, Clinic Manager

Registered Principal Office:

St Luke's Church, Foley Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5BE

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) number:

1210062

Bankers:

NatWest 135 Bishopsgate London EC2M 3UR

Independent Examiner:

Andrew Paterson

Growing Hope Maidstone
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
For the period 16 September 2024 to 31 December 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period 16 September 2024 to 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 16-23.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

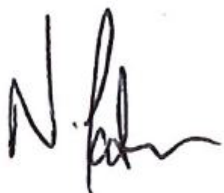
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Paterson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Neil Paterson MChem FCA
Edinburgh
Date: 27/07/26

Growing Hope Maidstone
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the period 16th September 2024 to 31st December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
		£	£	£
RECEIPTS:				
Voluntary Income		20,405	-	20,405
Grant Income	4	21,250	17,772	39,022
Activites for Generating funds		14,353	-	14,353
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2	56,008	17,772	73,780
PAYMENTS:				
Raising Funds		1,801	-	1,801
Charitable Activities		39,462	17,772	57,234
TOTAL PAYMENTS	3	41,264	17,772	59,036
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) BEFORE TRANSFER OF FUNDS		14,745	-	14,745
Gross transfer in funds out		-	-	-
Gross transfer in funds in		-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		14,745	-	14,745
Balances brought forward at 16th September 2024		-	-	-
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 December 2025		14,745	-	14,745

Growing Hope Maidstone
Statement of Balances as at 31st December 2025

	Note	
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances Brought forward		-
Surplus for the year		14,745
Bank Balances carried Forward		14,745
FUNDS		
Unrestricted		14,745
Restricted	6	-
Total Funds		14,745

Outstanding Amounts Relating to the Reporting Period

Although these accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, the trustees consider it helpful to disclose the following amounts relating to the reporting period that had not been settled by the year end:

Accruals

At 31 December 2025, the charity had accrued liabilities totalling £529.92, comprising:
£457.92 relating to the Salesforce subscription for services received during the year but payable after the year end; and
£72 relating to payroll services provided by D&A Hill for the period October to December 2025, which remained outstanding at the year end.

Prepayments

The charity held prepayments of £160, representing insurance costs paid in advance that relate to the subsequent financial period

Accrued Income

Accrued income at 31 December 2025 totalled £3,110, comprising:
£2,250 relating to income from the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2025, earned during the financial year but receivable after the year end and
£860 relating to proceeds from the 2025 Carol Concert in December and received in 2026.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on:

Approved by and signed on its behalf by


Tony Jones
Co Chair's of Trustees
27th July 2026


Hollie Butler

The notes on pages 18 to 23 form part of these financial statements

Growing Hope Maidstone
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period 16 September 2024 to 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Incorporation

Growing Hope Maidstone was registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission as a CIO Foundation on 16 September 2024. These financial statements are for the period 16 September 2024 to 31 December 2025.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, with income and expenditure being recognised as and when paid or received.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

Income

Income is recognised when it is received by the charity and is included in the Statement of Receipts and Payments in the period in which it is received.

Donated goods and services are not recognised in the Statement of Receipts and Payments unless they result in a receipt of cash or can be reliably measured and are considered material. Where appropriate, material donated goods or services may be disclosed separately in the notes to the accounts.

Expenditure

Direct charitable expenditure comprises all expenditure relating to the activities carried out to achieve the objectives.

Expenditure is allocated directly to the expenditure headings as far as practically possible to reflect the activities of the charity. Support costs have been allocated to the activities based on employee time spent on that activity.

Expenditure represents payments made during the reporting period and is recognised when cash is paid. Amounts are recorded inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT. Any unpaid liabilities or amounts relating to future accounting periods are not recognised in these receipts and payments accounts.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions imposed by the donor. These are accounted for separately from unrestricted funds. The movements on restricted funds in the period are shown in note 6 to the accounts.

Unrestricted funds are those which are not subject to restrictions, and any surpluses may be applied in furtherance of any of the charity's objectives.

Debtors, Creditors, Accruals and Prepayments

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. As such, income and expenditure are recognised when cash is received or paid. Any outstanding debtors, creditors, accrued income, accruals and prepayments at the reporting date are not included in the Statement of Receipts and Payments but are disclosed separately below the Statement of balances for information."

Pension

The charity operates a defined contribution stakeholder pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the charity.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no other judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

2. Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income	20,405	-	20,405
Regular Giving	1,986	-	1,986
One Off Giving	1,343	-	1,343
Gift Aid	907	-	907
Donations from other Organisations	16,170	-	16,170
Grants	21,250	17,772	39,022
Grants	21,250	17,772	39,022
Fundraising Income	14,353	-	14,353
Growing Hope Fundraising Night	3,069	-	3,069
Campaigns	6,490	-	6,490
Marathon	4,555	-	4,555
Consultancy	239	-	239
TOTAL INCOME	56,008	17,772	73,780

3. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Office and Administration Costs	1,325	-	1,325
Advertising/Promotion	74	-	74
Postage, Printing , Stationery	295	-	295
Travel	116	-	116
Phone	80	-	80
Office Expenses	760	-	760
Clinic Expenses	8,725	772	9,497
Assesment Tools/Clinic Equipment	7,552	772	8,324
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)	120		120
Insurance	239		239
Volunteer Hospitality	72		72
WDC and Sibling Group	743	-	743
Fundraising Costs	1,801	-	1,801
Cost of Fundraising	1,801	-	1,801
Contribution to Other charities	1,500	-	1,500
Donation to Growing Hope	1,500	-	1,500

Salaries and HR	27,912	17,000	44,912
Wages and Salaries	17,930	17,000	34,930
Employer Costs	1,747	-	1,747
Freelance	7,068	-	7,068
Finance and HR	1,168	-	1,168
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	41,264	17,772	59,036

	2025		
4. Grants Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Totals
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust		7,000	7,000
Benefact Trust	16,750		16,750
Maidstone Lions Club		772	772
The Dorothy Kerin Trust		10,000	10,000
Cole Charitable Trust	2,000		2,000
Cobtree Charity Trust Ltd	2,500		2,500
Total Grants			39,022

5. Staff

No employee was paid at the rate of more than £60,000

Average employees during the period 1

6. Restricted Funds

Funder	Item Funded	Balance as at 16th Sept 2025	Income	Expenditure	Balance as at 31 Dec 2025
		£	£	£	£
Maidstone Lions Club	Clinic Equipments	-	772	772	-
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	Salaries	-	7,000	7,000	-
The Dorothy Kerin Trust	Salaries	-	10,000	10,000	-
Total Values		-	17,772	17,772	-

7. Related Parties

Growing Hope Maidstone received a total of £2,220 unrestricted donations from five(5) trustees during the period.

No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in their capacity as a trustee during the year. Furthermore, no trustee entered into any contracts or other transactions with the charity during the reporting period.



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Registered charity number 1210062 (England & Wales)

growinghope.org.uk/maidstone

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