

FAVOR UK Annual Report **2025**



“If 2025 taught us anything, it’s that the United Kingdom is crying out for truth”

Annemarie Ward
CEO, Faces & Voices of Recovery UK

CEO’s Welcome Message

If 2025 taught us anything, it’s that the United Kingdom is crying out for truth. Not slogans. Not spin. Truth.

Addiction in Britain today is not a fringe issue. It is a national wound that cuts across class, community, faith, and family. Nearly 6,000 people in England and Wales lost their lives to drugs in the last year the highest number ever recorded. Scotland continues to battle the highest drug-death rate in Europe. Northern Ireland faces rising harm from benzodiazepines and synthetics. Wales carries the second-highest rate of drug deaths per head in the UK.

But behind every statistic is a human being desperate for hope, and behind every grieving family is a system that too often failed them long before the worst happened.

And yet, this is the part our movement understands, recovery is alive across the UK. You can feel it in community centres, churches, prisons, recovery cafés, mutual-aid rooms, and at kitchen tables where the battle for hope is often fought quietly, fiercely, and with love.

This year’s UK Recovery Walk in Wolverhampton showed that spirit in full voice. A city opened its doors, recovery organisations stood shoulder to shoulder, and thousands walked through the streets saying loudly what too many in authority whisper: people can and do recover, and every person deserves the chance.

At Faces & Voices of Recovery UK, our mission has never been modest. We want a UK where the poorest have the same right to treatment as the wealthiest. A UK where the treatment system adapts to people, not the other way round. A UK where recovery is

expected, not exceptional.

Our casework service has grown and not by accident. People don’t come to us because everything is going smoothly. They come because they are lost in a maze of assessments, gatekeeping, inconsistent funding, and a culture that has forgotten that recovery is supposed to restore a life, not manage a decline.

We fight for them because theirs and our dignity demands it, the inherent value of every person, the preferential option for the poor, and love expressed through service and truth-telling.

This report is honest. Some parts will make uncomfortable reading. They should. The UK is at a crossroads. We either recommit to genuine recovery, detox, rehab, aftercare, community, connection, purpose, or we continue drifting into a model that keeps people alive but never helps them live.

I know which road we will take.

To everyone who has walked with us, funded us, volunteered, partnered, challenged, supported, prayed, marched, emailed, shared, liked, cried, fought and celebrated with us thank you. This movement runs on courage and community.

Recovery is real.
Recovery is possible.
And recovery is a right worth fighting for.

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Executive Summary

*2025 was a pivotal year for
Faces & Voices of Recovery UK
(FAVOR UK).*

Across the United Kingdom we saw rising drug deaths, growing mental-health need, and treatment systems struggling to meet the realities of modern addiction. Yet we also witnessed extraordinary resilience, community leadership and a deepening national commitment to recovery.

This report sets out the truth of where we are as a country and the hope of where we can go.





Since 2009 in the UK, recovered people have taken significant strides in 'putting a face on Recovery'.

It's now time to hear our voices too.

Faces and Voices of Recovery UK is part of a world wide policy advocacy movement that is taking on issues of discrimination, social justice and service access.

Our community is organising and mobilising to work for changes that will benefit the social, emotional, financial and physical needs of **people, families and allies of recovery.**

Individuals and organisations are signing up every day, please join us at www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/membership-registration

www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org

@FAVORUK

www.facebook.com/FAVORUK

SC003024



A UK in Need of Recovery

- England & Wales recorded 5,565 drug-related deaths the highest on record.
- Scotland continued to have the highest drug-death rate in Europe.
- Wales and the North East of England saw crisis-level harm from benzos, cocaine and synthetics.
- Across the UK, access to residential rehabilitation remains among the worst in Europe.

Modern addiction is increasingly poly-drug, trauma-driven and mentally complex, yet our systems remain built for a previous era of heroin dependence. There is no evidence base for substituting cocaine, crack, ketamine or benzodiazepines yet many people are pushed through maintenance-first systems that cannot deliver recovery.

The result is predictable: stagnation where there should be hope.

A Movement of Hope

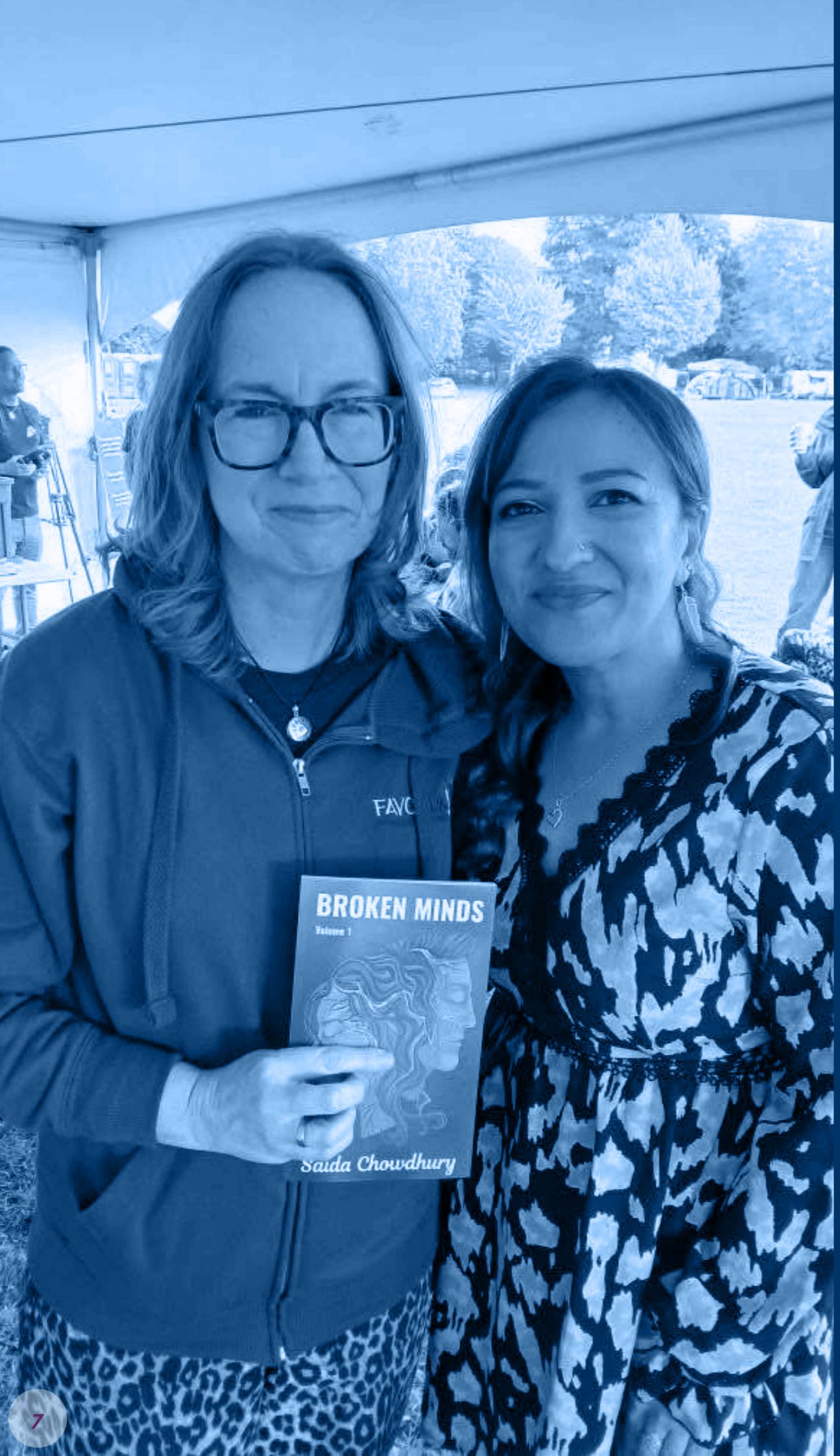
Despite the challenges, 2025 was a landmark year for recovery.

The UK Recovery Walk & Conference in Wolverhampton brought thousands together in solidarity, celebration and truth. The city embraced the movement with pride, hosting Europe's largest recovery event and demonstrating what can be achieved when communities lead with courage.

Our digital reach grew dramatically, with nearly 4 million impressions across platforms, ensuring recovery stayed visible and often framed the national conversation year-round.

Our Advocacy Casework Service supported individuals and families lost in fragmented systems, securing treatment, rehousing vulnerable people and navigating complex cases that bureaucracy alone could not solve. Not one person on our caseload died, a testament to persistence, accompaniment and trauma-aware support





The Moral & Policy Imperative

The UK must return to recovery as the central goal of treatment. Maintenance has a place, but it cannot be the endpoint for most people.

A fair system would offer:

- national access to detox and residential rehabilitation
- person-centred pathways that match need, not postcode
- trauma-responsive care not just informed.
- integrated mental-health and addiction support
- outcome-based commissioning
- community-led recovery support
- truthful reporting and transparent funding

In Scotland, the failure of the National Mission and the blocking & deliberate sabotaging of the Right to Recovery Bill highlight the dangers of systems that protect themselves more than the people they serve. FAVOR UK will continue to campaign for a legally enforceable right to detox, rehab and aftercare and every other evidence based care that people currently have difficulty accessing.

Our Vision for 2026 and Beyond

We are building a UK where recovery is visible, valued and expected.

- UK Recovery Walk 2026 Bradford on Sat 12th Sept 2026. & we are now accepting bids for the UK National Recovery Walk 2027.
- Expansion of national advocacy and lived-experience leadership
- Recovery-Friendly Workplace Accreditation
- Stronger research, policy and public engagement
- A call for a fair, UK-wide treatment system that offers every chance to recover

This work is grounded in the dignity of every human person, the preferential option for the poor, and the belief that compassion means helping people live, not merely survive.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

This year has been one of grit, gratitude, and growth for Faces & Voices of Recovery UK (FAVOR UK).

For me personally, being given the opportunity to step into the role of Chair is a genuine honour. I am humbled and inspired by the courage of those FAVOR UK serve and the huge commitment of the volunteers and employees who make our mission possible.

FAVOR UK has never been a charity to recite buzzwords or hide behind bureaucracy, and we have again demonstrated that in 2025. We meet people where they are, tell the truth without varnish, and fight for the kind of recovery-focused system that everyone in this country deserves. This year, we strengthened that resolve. I am proud of what we achieve through our national advocacy service and the huge amount of work which has been put into advancing the Right to Recovery Bill to the finish line. I'm proud that we inspire and empower others as a result of our training programmes and, of course, the amazing UK Recovery Walk - held in wonderful Wolverhampton this year - and now we can include the growing Recovery Friendly Workplace movement. Each strand of our work has carried the same message: recovery is possible, community matters, and no one should be left behind.

I am also proud that FAVOUR UK's voice is growing louder and clearer. We have challenged poor policy with compassion and backbone. We have stood with families navigating the darkest chapters of their lives, and we have continued to model what dignity, solidarity and hope look like in practice.

To our trustees, thank you for your support, guidance and willingness to have the brave conversations. To our staff team, you are the very heartbeat of this charity; your professionalism and humanity shine through everything you do. And to our Chief Executive Officer, Annemarie Ward, thank you for leading with tenacity, humour and your continuous, fierce commitment to recovery. Each of you is proof that long-term recovery is more than an inspiration; it is a reminder of what is possible when

people are backed, believed and given real choices.

As we look to the coming year, we do so with humility about the challenges ahead, but also with confidence. The landscape is shifting, and FAVOR UK will continue to help shape it, always guided by the voices of lived and living experience and the simple belief that every life has value.

Thank you to everyone who has walked with us, supported us and trusted us. The work continues, and I am proud to serve alongside you.

Justine MacArthur
Chair of Trustees



Photo by Stefano Cavallini

2025 A Year in Review

Growth. Courage. National influence.



1

A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF RECOVERY

Wolverhampton hosted the UK Recovery Walk for the first time a historic moment for the Black Country and a powerful statement about hope in communities often overlooked. Thousands marched, sang, laughed, cried, held signs, held hands and showed that recovery is not theory. It is lived.

2

A CONFERENCE THAT RAISED THE BAR

Held at Molineux Stadium, the 2025 UK Recovery Conference brought together experts, lived-experience leaders, academics and families to explore the theme "I Can't, We Can". From Ed Day to Base25, from Good Shepherd to SUIT this was recovery leadership in action.

3

ADVOCACY THAT CHANGED LIVES

Our casework service supported individuals across the UK caught between trauma, complex needs and systems that simply do not work for them. We saw people who had been stuck for years finally enter rehab. Families found support. Lives stabilised. Futures opened.

4

A LOUD, NATIONAL VOICE FOR CHANGE

Through Substack, media commentary, public events and our reporting, FAVOR UK became one of the strongest recovery voices in the UK. We challenged harmful narratives, confronted political complacency and defended the truth about recovery.

5

DIGITAL GROWTH BEYOND EXPECTATION

Nearly 4 million impressions, 22,498 followers and significant growth on every platform. Advocacy content, data-driven posts and recovery stories reached millions many of whom had never heard a message of hope before.

6

ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHENING

New trustees, improved governance, strengthened finance systems and deepened partnerships set the foundation for the coming year.

7

BUILDING FOR BRADFORD 2026

As Wolverhampton showed the country what recovery looks like, Bradford stepped forward. Planning is already underway.



2025 marked a historic moment for the UK Recovery Movement: the Walk came to Wolverhampton for the first time ever. The Black Country embraced the movement with pride, dignity and a fierce sense of community.

THE WALK

More than a parade, this was a public declaration of hope. A two-mile route beginning and ending in West Park, with an accessible adapted route for those with mobility needs. The Walk passed iconic landmarks including Lady Wulfruna, Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Molineux Stadium.

What mattered most was not the geography it was the witness. People walked for their families, their communities, their loved ones lost and for those still struggling.

THE RECOVERY VILLAGE

West Park came alive with music, poetry, art, performance, dance, recovery storytelling and community stalls. From Dhol drummers to Fallen Angel Dance Theatre, from mutual-aid meetings to family activities, it was a living picture of recovery in motion.

ART IN RECOVERY

Supporting the Walk, the Good Shepherd Art Group showcased extraordinary work funded by Arts Council England, including exhibitions at Wolverhampton Arts Centre and a pop-up gallery on the day of the Walk. Art became a gateway to connection, healing and pride.

A SPIRITUAL BEGINNING

St Peter's Collegiate Church opened its doors for a recovery service to honour those we have lost and celebrate those returning to life. It welcomed people of any faith or none, united in grief, gratitude and hope.

THE CONFERENCE

"I can't, WE can"

Held at Molineux Stadium, the conference brought together world-leading clinicians, researchers, frontline staff, people in recovery and lived-experience leaders.

Speakers included:

- Dr Ed Day, UK Recovery Champion
- Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP
- Good Shepherd
- SUIT Wolverhampton
- University of Wolverhampton
- University of Lincoln
- Base25
- Expert witnesses from the recovery community

It was a day grounded in truth: recovery happens in community, not isolation.

A CITY THAT OPENED ITS HEART

Thanks to the leadership of the *Good Shepherd*, *SUIT*, *Recovery Near You* and the *City of Wolverhampton Council*, the city did not just host the Walk it owned it. Flyers covered lamp-posts, community groups mobilised their networks and thousands of local people voted to bring the Walk home.

When the result was announced, Wolverhampton did not just win, it roared.

THE LEGACY

The 2025 Walk and Conference did more than showcase recovery in Wolverhampton, it reignited belief across the UK. It showed that recovery is not niche. It is national.

It belongs to every community willing to lead with courage.

NEXT STOP

Bradford 2026 Sept 12th

SAVE THE DATE!



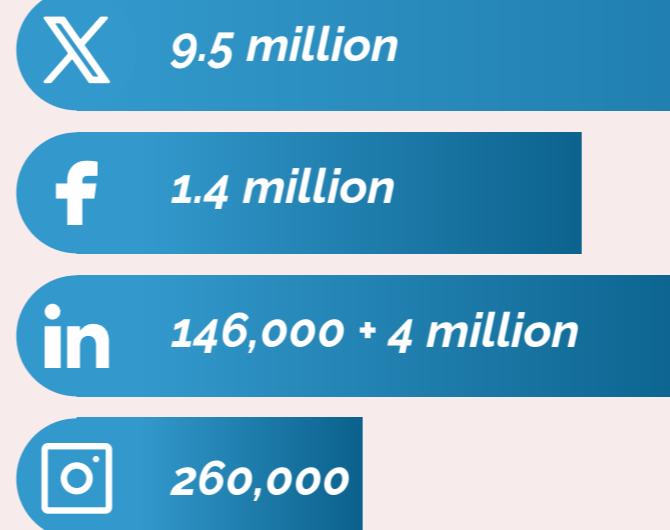
Our UK Wide Reach

Digital, Community & Public Voice

"In 2025 we reached more people than in any year since our founding"



Platform Breakdown



Overall Reach

Total followers across all platforms: 23,000

Total combined reach and views: 11.3 million

This includes the substantial impact of Annemarie's personal account, which has increasingly become a major recovery voice in UK public debate.

Digital Impact Summary – 2025

Our digital presence continued to grow across every platform this year. Consistent advocacy, clear data storytelling and a strong public voice meant recovery stayed in the national bloodstream all year.

Total impressions: 9.5 million

- 950,000 via the FAVOR UK account
- 8.5 million via Annemarie's personal account
- Up 1.4 million year-on-year
- ~1,500 new followers
- Media-view analytics discontinued by the platform



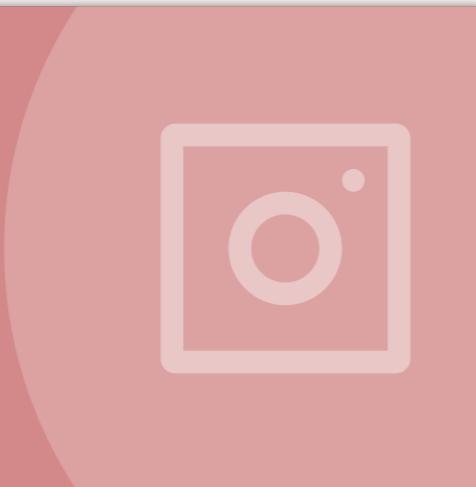
Engagement up 96.5 percent

- 13,054 followers
- 1.4 million views (up from 1.2 million)
- +784 new followers
- Strongest audience: UK, ages 45–54



Up from 240,000 last year

- 1,699 followers
- Estimated 260,000 reach for the year
- Advocacy posts performed extremely well in discovery
- Best times: Monday to Thursday, 9am–12pm



Increase of 112,000 from last year

- 1,745 followers
- 146,000 impressions (all organic)
- 2,462 reactions, 427 comments, 86 reposts
- Annemarie's commentary received nearly 4 million organic views



**“We do not just
'raise awareness',
we shape national
conversations”**

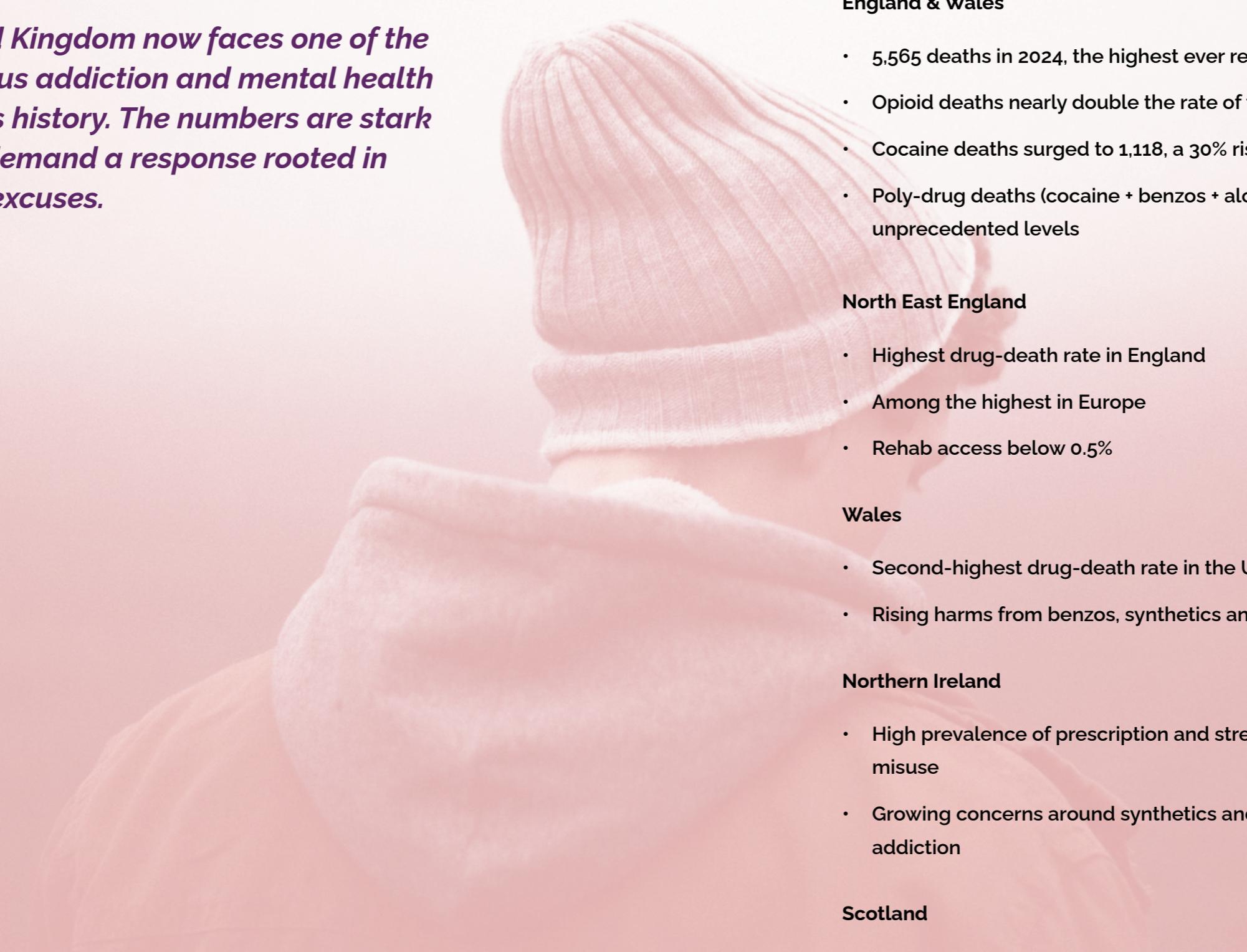
Our commentary has influenced

- UK and Scottish political debates -
- Treatment reform conversations -
- Academic and clinical dialogue -
- Media narratives -
- Public understanding of addiction and recovery -

The Walk is the beating heart of our visibility, but the digital voice ensures recovery stays in the national bloodstream all year round.

The UK Addiction Landscape in 2025: A System Under Strain

The United Kingdom now faces one of the most serious addiction and mental health crises in its history. The numbers are stark and they demand a response rooted in truth, not excuses.



Drug-Related Deaths at Record High

England & Wales

- 5,565 deaths in 2024, the highest ever recorded
- Opioid deaths nearly double the rate of ten years ago
- Cocaine deaths surged to 1,118, a 30% rise
- Poly-drug deaths (cocaine + benzos + alcohol) at unprecedented levels

North East England

- Highest drug-death rate in England
- Among the highest in Europe
- Rehab access below 0.5%

Wales

- Second-highest drug-death rate in the UK
- Rising harms from benzos, synthetics and poly-use

Northern Ireland

- High prevalence of prescription and street benzodiazepine misuse
- Growing concerns around synthetics and trauma-led addiction

Scotland

- Still the worst drug-death rate in Europe
- Residential rehab access around 2%, far below European norms

Treatment System Gaps: A UK-Wide Pattern

The UK treatment system succeeds in engagement but fails in outcomes.

- Only around 46% of people leaving treatment in England do so successfully
- 4,166 people died while in treatment
- Residential rehab is significantly under-used across all four nations
- Disconnection between mental health services and addiction services
- Over-reliance on medication and stability rather than transformation
- Massive regional variation in access to detox and rehab
- No consistent national standards for rehab pathways

A Mental Health Crisis Driving Addiction

Poly-drug use is increasingly tied to trauma, anxiety, depression and unresolved grief. Residential treatment is often the first place a person feels safe enough to address these issues, but access remains rare.

For Too Many Families, the System Is the Crisis

What we hear from every nation is the same:

- "No beds available."
- "You do not meet criteria."
- "Try again in six months."
- "Your area does not fund that."
- "We do not commission that type of rehab."
- "This is not a priority."

The result?

People deteriorate, families break, A&E fills up and the cycle continues.

The UK Needs a Recovery System, Not a Maintenance System

This is the single biggest message we bring to the UK policy conversation:

We cannot manage our way out of an addiction crisis.
We must help people recover out of it.

Reforming UK Drug Treatment: From Maintenance to Recovery

Across the United Kingdom, addiction services have been shaped for 30 years by a model built to respond to heroin dependency: substitution prescribing and long-term maintenance. It was never designed for the reality we face today. The drugs have changed. The harms have changed. The people seeking help have changed. The system has not.

Yet thousands of people are pushed through services that can only prescribe, monitor or “engage” because they lack the tools for genuine recovery

A System Designed for Yesterday's Crisis

Most of the UK's drug-treatment architecture was built around the idea that methadone or buprenorphine could stabilise opioid use long enough for people to rebuild their lives. For some, this remains true and lifesaving.

But this model has been stretched far beyond its evidence base and is now applied to people presenting with:

- poly-drug dependence
- cocaine and crack
- benzodiazepines
- pregabalin
- ketamine
- synthetic cannabinoids
- alcohol dependence with trauma
- complex mental health crises

Here is the truth the UK system has avoided:

There is no evidence base for substituting cocaine, crack, ketamine, benzos, pregabalin or poly-drug use. None.

No NICE guidance.
No international trials.
No successful long-term models.

Yet thousands of people are pushed through services that can only prescribe, monitor or “engage” because they lack the tools for genuine recovery.

The Human Cost of a Mismatched System

When you put the wrong tools to the wrong problem, you do not get stable lives you get stagnation.

We see the consequences everywhere across the UK:

- endless prescribing without progress
- "engagement" without change
- growing numbers stuck in treatment for 5–10, even 25 years
- people discharged for "non-compliance" rather than unmet need
- mental health deterioration masked as "chaotic presentation"
- housing and social care systems overwhelmed
- more emergency admissions
- families burnt out
- lives shrinking rather than expanding

People do not fail treatment. Treatment fails to meet the need.

The Evidence for Recovery-Oriented Systems

Across Europe, countries that invest proportionately in detox, inpatient treatment and long-term recovery-support structures achieve far better outcomes. They measure success not in outputs of scripts or needles issued, but in:

- abstinence
- improved mental health
- employment
- education
- stable housing
- reduced criminal involvement
- stronger families

This is what transformation looks like.

Across Europe, countries that invest proportionately in detox, inpatient treatment and long-term recovery-support structures achieve far better outcomes

The UK Needs a Recovery Renaissance

We must return to a balanced model where maintenance is a bridge, not a destination. The UK needs:

- structured detox pathways
- residential rehabilitation as a core offer
- recovery housing
- mutual-aid integration
- trauma-responsive care (not just informed)
- family support
- peer recovery leaders
- outcome-based commissioning
- national standards for rehab access
- data systems that measure reality, not just prescriptions

This is not ideology, it is evidence and ethics.

Ending the UK's Postcode Lottery: The Case for Fair Access to Residential Rehab

Residential rehabilitation is one of the most effective interventions for people whose addiction is complex, trauma-linked or life-threatening. It provides safety, structure, connection and the space for mental health to stabilise. It is often the first time a person has felt safe enough to breathe, think and heal.

Yet across the UK, access to rehab is defined far more by geography than need.

Rehab Access Across Europe

- Scotland: ~2%
- Portugal: 7%
- European average: 11%
- England (many regions): below 0.5%
- Wales likely under 2% (access to residential rehab remains highly inconsistent)

The UK's lowest-access regions represent the worst rehab accessibility in Europe.

Those are not statistics they are moral indictments.

It Is Not a Bed Shortage It Is a System Failure

Residential beds exist across the UK. The issue is the system around them:

- inconsistent local commissioning
- chronic underfunding
- risk-averse decision-making
- confusing referral pathways
- no national standards
- professional stigma
- fear of "budget exposure"
- regions that simply will not fund rehab
- community teams without a rehab mindset
- "criteria" designed to exclude the very people who need rehab

People are not denied because they cannot be helped.
They are denied because the system has forgotten that freedom from addiction is the goal.

Mental Health and Addiction: A Combined Crisis

By 2025, 85% of rehab residents in UK services reported that mental health was their primary motivation for seeking recovery. Ten years ago, it was 45%.

People understand their own needs.

The system has not adapted.

The Revolving Door

When people cannot access rehab, they spiral through:

- A&E
- police stations
- crisis teams
- psychiatric wards
- unsafe housing
- repeat detox attempts
- relapse
- despair

A survey of rehab residents found:

- 63% attended A&E in the months before rehab
- 40% attended A&E six to ten times each

They were the lucky ones. They actually got in.

Towards a Fair UK System

A genuinely fair system would:

- provide rehab when clinically and personally indicated
- ensure national, ring-fenced funding
- create clear pathways from courts, prisons, hospitals and community teams
- adopt trauma-responsive models
- ensure specialist rehab options for women, families and people with complex needs
- integrate mental health and addiction treatment
- measure outcomes, not just engagement
- end the postcode lottery once and for all

Residential care saves lives. But it could save far more if we stopped rationing it.

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Scotland: The Right to Recovery Bill & The National Mission

This section focuses specifically on Scotland because this is where FAVOR UK's policy leadership has been most visible and where the need for reform is most urgent.





The National Mission That Lost Its Soul

Five ministers.
£250 million.
Dozens of reports.
Mountains of rhetoric.

And Scotland still has the highest drug-death rate in Europe.

The so-called National Mission was not a mission, it was a management exercise. A PR programme with invoices attached. A political shield that delivered the appearance of action while the underlying system stayed exactly the same.

Systemic Problems We Documented

- “Rehab” redefined to include detox, stabilisation and medicated beds
- Stabilisation centres with zero international evidence
- Methadone implicated in nearly half of drug deaths
- DAISy failing to capture up to 40% of people
- Millions spent on “knowledge exchange” while beds went unfunded
- MAT Standards that increased bureaucracy, not outcomes
- A Taskforce dominated by the same voices that built the failing system
- £100m allocated for rehab, but only £38m spent
- No transparency about where that £38m actually went

Scotland did not run out of compassion. It ran out of moral clarity.

The Right to Recovery Bill

The Bill was simple:

If you need detox, rehab or aftercare you have a legal right to it.

Not a favour. Not a maybe. Not a postcode-dependent gamble. A right.

It was supported by families, communities, recovery groups and people with lived experience.

It was opposed fiercely by state-funded bodies with conflicts of interest and by a quango class terrified of accountability.

The Bill was voted down not for lack of merit, but because it would have forced a system designed for maintenance to support recovery.

Why FAVOR UK Will Not Let This Go

Because the poorest people in Scotland are denied what those with means can buy privately.

Because rights belong to people, not providers.

Because you cannot manage your way out of a crisis of despair you must help people live. Because families deserve more than condolences and paperwork.

Because recovery is not just possible it is a fundamental right.

And because those who develop the system cannot be allowed to bury its failures.

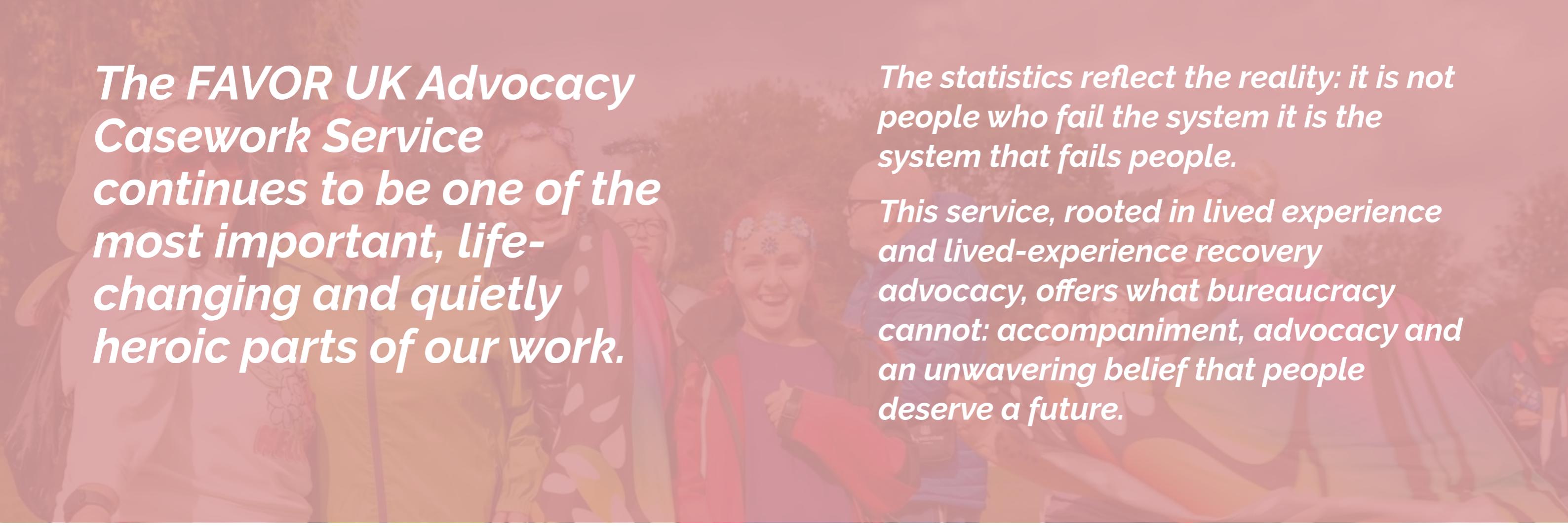
Our Call

Scotland must return to the Right to Recovery Bill and the UK must follow. Recovery is not an ideology. It is a lifeline.



Advocacy Casework Service

Real Lives, Real Outcomes



The FAVOR UK Advocacy Casework Service continues to be one of the most important, life-changing and quietly heroic parts of our work.

The statistics reflect the reality: it is not people who fail the system it is the system that fails people.

This service, rooted in lived experience and lived-experience recovery advocacy, offers what bureaucracy cannot: accompaniment, advocacy and an unwavering belief that people deserve a future.

Advocacy is Crucial

It exists for one reason: to ensure every person has a fair chance of accessing treatment, regardless of postcode, background or complexity.

In the last year we supported people from across Scotland and the wider UK who were trapped in systems that simply did not meet their needs. Many had been asking for help for years and were met with closed doors, inconsistent advice or bureaucratic delays that would break anyone's spirit.

Our team stepped in with persistence, compassion and a refusal to accept "no" when "yes" was possible.

Key Outcomes This Year

- Heart icon People who were stuck for years finally accessed residential rehabilitation.
- Heart icon Complex cases involving homelessness, benefits and mental health were resolved.
- Heart icon Families received support navigating a system they found overwhelming.
- Heart icon Multiple individuals were brought back into safe services within 24–48 hours.
- Heart icon Lives were stabilised, hope was restored and, critically, again no one on our caseload died. That is four years running none of our clients have died.

E - 55, Dunbartonshire

E was overwhelmed, isolated and uncertain where to turn. Within 24 hours of contacting us, he was linked with his local addiction service, connected to a recovery café and supported to resolve a benefits crisis that was crippling him.

He is now preparing for rehab and has begun rebuilding social connections that had been lost for years.

G - 37, Glasgow

G sought advice about a historic complaint. We supported him to submit it to the Care Inspectorate, but time limits prevented a formal investigation. Still determined to enter rehab, he faced over a year of stagnation with no movement.

Following our intervention and a formal complaint to his service, his funding was approved within two months. G entered his preferred rehab and regained hope.

Homeless, heartbroken and stuck in community treatment for six months with no progress, S had almost given up on the idea of rehab.

Over four months we attended meetings, advocated consistently and eventually secured funding for a residential placement. After completing treatment, S stabilised quickly and secured private rental accommodation a fresh start, long overdue.

S, 42 - Dundee

Referred by his local team, C needed help understanding treatment options due to mental-health-related processing difficulties.

We accompanied him to appointments, advocated in meetings and connected him to community groups where he felt comfortable and respected. He now feels more confident about recovery than he has in years.

C - 49, Edinburgh

L - 22, Ayrshire

L struggled with alcohol dependency, anxiety and depression. Although approved for rehab, he felt intimidated and unsafe in the unit he visited. His mother was doing everything she could to keep him afloat.

We negotiated on his behalf and secured a placement in a rehab better suited to his needs. He is now engaging and making progress he could not have made otherwise.

T's Story - Two Years On

We first supported T back in 2021, in a long, heart-breaking fight to get her into rehab. She entered treatment in 2023 and transformed her life.

Two years later, she is still clean and sober, thriving in her community, rebuilding family relationships and, incredibly, accepted into college to study Health and Social Care.

Her words say it best:

"I think back to May 2023 when I was broken. Two years on, I am still clean, I am laughing again after 30 years, I am going out with friends, and I am starting my qualification. Maybe one day I will do the kind of work FAVOR UK did for me."

Financial Review

The financial year ending 2025 reflects a period of stability, integrity and prudent stewardship for FAVOR UK. We remain a lean organisation with a focused purpose: delivering the UK Recovery Walk, supporting our advocacy service and advancing national recovery advocacy.

Income

Income was drawn from a combination of:

- UK Recovery Walk sponsorship
- Conference fees and partnerships
- Grants and charitable donations
- Training income
- Community fundraising

We remain deeply grateful to every sponsor, donor and partner who supported our mission.

Expenditure

Expenditure was primarily allocated to:

- UK Recovery Walk delivery (logistics, safety, staging production)
- Conference venue, speakers and materials
- Advocacy casework and support services
- Communications and digital engagement
- Staff costs (kept deliberately modest)
- Professional services and governance
- Essential overheads

Investments & Reserves

We do not hold investment assets.

Our reserves remain small but stable, consistent with the nature of a national charity running large civic events and community programmes.

Financial Transparency

FAVOR UK is committed to transparency. We account publicly for every donation and sponsorship and maintain strong internal financial controls. As a charity founded and led by people in recovery, integrity is central to our identity and everything we do.

Value for Money

Every pound spent delivers real-world impact.

Our model is efficient, community-centred and built on partnerships. The UK Recovery Walk and Conference continue to provide exceptional value to participants, sponsors and communities.

Governance & Trustees

FAVOR UK is a national, member-led charity registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Our governance is grounded in accountability, transparency and the active participation of people in long-term recovery.

Board of Trustees

Our board provides strategic leadership, oversight and support across all areas of our work. Trustees bring a range of experience including recovery, public service, finance, community development, mental health, academia and lived experience.

The trustees' responsibilities include:

- Ensuring good governance
- Oversight of finances
- Safeguarding the charity's reputation
- Compliance with all regulatory requirements
- Ensuring activities align with our mission
- Supporting the CEO and staff team
- Promoting ethical practice and the dignity of the person

Safeguarding & Risk Management

We maintain robust safeguarding procedures and risk-management frameworks appropriate to a charity working with vulnerable individuals and large-scale public events.

Independent Examination

Our accounts have been independently examined in accordance with OSCR requirements.

Commitment to Ethical Leadership

At FAVOR UK, governance is more than compliance. It is an expression of our values. We stand against conflicts of interest, against the quango culture of self-justification and for transparency, fairness and service.

Our Vision for 2026 and Beyond

Building a UK where recovery is visible, valued, and expected

GOAL 1: UK RECOVERY

WALK 2026 BRADFORD

Bradford is ready. The city has a proud history of activism, diversity, community strength and lived-experience leadership. 2026 will be a defining year for the Walk, with the city centre hosting the route, a major arts programme and a recovery village that reflects Bradford's cultural richness.

1

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GOAL 2: EXPANSION OF THE ADVOCACY CASEWORK SERVICE

Our next goal is to expand our advocacy support across the UK, ensuring that individuals struggling to access detox, rehab or mental health support can get the representation they deserve regardless of postcode. This includes: more volunteer advocates, formalised escalation pathways, national training, UK-wide partnerships, stronger integration with families, churches, community groups and mutual aid.

GOAL 3: RECOVERY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE ACCREDITATION

The Recovery-Friendly Workplace Programme will grow to include: accreditation levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold), workplace training, employer ambassadors, union partnerships, national recognition awards. Our aim is simple: to make the UK a country where recovery is welcomed, not whispered.

3

4

GOAL 4: EVIDENCE, RESEARCH AND TRUTH-TELLING

We will continue to lead with honesty, data and experience. Through reports, Substack publications, public commentary and academic collaboration, FAVOR UK will remain a fearless voice for: outcome-based commissioning, fair access to rehab, reform of broken systems, transparency in public spending, truth in public communication, the moral case for recovery.

GOAL 5: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

We will support more grassroots groups with: micro-grants, training, toolkits, partnerships, digital support, shared resources. Recovery does not thrive in isolation; it thrives in community.

5

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GOAL 6: A UK-WIDE CALL FOR JUSTICE

We will continue to push for equal access to treatment across all four nations, ending the postcode lottery that currently defines the UK's addiction landscape.

GOAL 7: SCOTLAND: RENEWING THE RIGHT TO RECOVERY BILL

Our commitment remains unwavering: the poorest communities deserve what the wealthiest can buy access to detox, rehab and aftercare. We will work with partners to return the Bill to Parliament, strengthened by evidence, by lived experience and by the failures of the National Mission.

7

8

GOAL 8: FAITH, HOPE AND THE HUMAN PERSON

Grounded in social justice, our vision is for a country where: the poor are prioritised, the vulnerable are protected, the truth is told, systems serve people, hope is not theory, but practice.

2026 will not be easy but it will be hopeful. We will lead with courage. We will speak with clarity. We will act with love. And we will remain, as ever, a movement of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Acknowledgements

FAVOR UK is not an organisation it is a community. This work is only possible because of the thousands of people, partners, families and allies who stand with us in solidarity and hope. We owe deep gratitude to:

Our Walk & Conference Partners

Good Shepherd
SUIT Wolverhampton
Recovery Near You
City of Wolverhampton Council
Base25
Wolves Foundation
Wolverhampton Arts Centre
University of Wolverhampton
University of Lincoln

And every community group, café, church, charity and volunteer who lifted the city up with love.

Our Sponsors

To every sponsor whether Grand, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Copper or Recovery Supporter thank you for believing in recovery and investing in people's lives.

Your support funds real change: detox placements, advocacy, the Walk, the conference and the quiet, unseen acts of hope that transform families.

Our Volunteers

From marshals to stewards, from café teams to Walk leaders, from digital volunteers to storytellers you are the backbone of this movement. You show the country what service looks like.

Our Trustees

Thank you for your guidance, oversight and deep commitment to ethics, integrity and transparency.

Our Staff & Casework Team

Your courage in facing broken systems, your compassion for people in crisis and your refusal to give up on anyone is nothing short of heroic.

Our Recovery Communities

Across the UK in towns, cities, prisons, churches, mosques, cafés, parks, mutual-aid rooms and living rooms you represent the beating heart of recovery.

You show the world that new life is possible.

Our Families

Your love, endurance and hope are the moral engine of this work.
We see you. We honour you.

And to every person in recovery

Thank you for your courage.
Thank you for your honesty.
Thank you for your hope.
Thank you for walking with us.

Recovery is not easy, but
it is glorious and you
show us why this fight
matters



Faces & Voices of Recovery UK
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Faces & Voices of Recovery UK

Charity No. SC043961

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

30 April 2025

The Trustees present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity No. SC043961

Registered Office

3 Kelvininside Grove
Glasgow
G20 6PL

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:

Jon Royle	Resigned 4 February 2025
Paul Bowley	Resigned 16 September 2024
John Elford	Resigned 12 December 2024
Calliese Conner	
Justine McCarhter	
Andrew Ryan	Appointed 13 December 2024
Muntazir Hadadi	Appointed 4 February 2025
James Hadfield Smith	Appointed 4 February 2025
Calton Brick	Appointed 4 February 2025

Accountants

GN Accounting Services Ltd
48 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 1BP

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal purpose of the charity in the year under review was to promote the advancement of education, the advancement of health, the saving of lives, the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability and financial hardship or other disadvantage

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity was registered on 24 April 2013 as UK Recovery Walk Charity. The name of the charity was changed to Faces & Voices of Recovery UK on 1 May 2015. The charity became active on 24 April 2013.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board

Andrew Ryan
Trustee
20 August 2025



Faces & Voices of Recovery UK
Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Faces & Voices of Recovery UK

I report on the accounts of Faces & Voices of Recovery UK for the year ended 30 April 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.

As examiner it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under s.44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Natasha Cassidy
 NGL Accounting Ltd
 Suite G.06
 Red Tree Magenta
 270 Glasgow Road
 Glasgow
 G73 1UZ
 20 August 2025


 signed on 24/08/2025, 21:20:18 BST

Faces & Voices of Recovery UK
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 30 April 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
		2025	2025	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations					
	4	7,455	-	7,455	6,899
Investments					
	5	455	-	455	365
Other					
	6	111,880	77,500	189,380	165,340
Total					
		119,790	77,500	197,290	172,604
Expenditure on:					
Other					
	7	136,854	77,500	214,354	153,946
Total					
		(17,064)	-	(17,064)	18,658
Net gains on investments					
		-	-	-	-
Net income					
	8	(17,064)	-	(17,064)	18,658
Transfers between funds					
		-	-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)					
		(17,064)	-	(17,064)	18,658
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward					
		103,764		103,764	85,106
Total funds carried forward					
		86,700		86,700	103,764

Faces & Voices of Recovery UK
Summary Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30 April 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income	196,835	172,239
Interest	455	135
Gross income for the year	197,290	172,604
Expenditure	214,354	153,946
Total expenditure for the year	214,354	153,946
Net income before tax for the year	(17,064)	18,658
Net income for the year	(17,064)	18,658

Faces & Voices of Recovery UK

Balance Sheet

at 30 April 2025

Charity No.	SC043961	Notes	2025	2024
			£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets				
			-	-
			-	-
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand				
			86,700	103,764
			86,700	103,764
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year				
Net current assets				
			86,700	103,764
Total assets less current liabilities				
			86,700	103,764
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability				
			86,700	103,764
Total net assets				
			86,700	103,764
The funds of the charity				
Restricted funds				
Unrestricted funds				
General funds				
			10	
			86,700	103,764
			86,700	103,764
Reserves				
			12	
Total funds				
			103,764	103,764

The trustees have prepared the accounts in accordance with section 44 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act.

Approved by the board on 20 August 2025
And signed on its behalf by:

Andrew Ryan
Trustee
20 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with receipts and Payments Accounts under section 44 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand.

2 Charitable status

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), governed by a constitution.

3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	2024	2024
	£	£
Income and endowments from:		
Donations	6,899	6,899
Charitable activities	-	-
Investments	365	365
Other	165,340	165,340
Total	<u>172,604</u>	<u>172,604</u>
Expenditure on:		
Other	153,946	153,946
Total	<u>18,658</u>	<u>18,658</u>
Net income	<u>18,658</u>	<u>18,658</u>
Net income before other gains/(losses)	<u>18,658</u>	<u>18,658</u>
Other gains and losses:		
Net movement in funds	<u>18,658</u>	<u>18,658</u>
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total funds brought forward	85,106	85,106
Total funds carried forward	<u>103,764</u>	<u>103,764</u>

4 Income from donations

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	2025	2024	
	£	£	£
Donations	7,455	7,455	6,899
	<u>7,455</u>	<u>7,455</u>	<u>6,899</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	455	-	455	365
	455	-	455	365

6 Other income

	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Sponsorship	111,880	-	111,880	96,340
Grants	-	77,500	77,500	69,000
	111,880	77,500	189,300	165,340

7 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Employee costs	21,865	75,500	97,365	96,639
Motor and travel costs	10,355	-	10,355	7,697
Premise Costs	-	-	-	1,319
General administrative costs	12,940	-	12,940	9,363
Legal and professional costs	93,694	-	93,694	38,928
	138,854	75,500	214,354	153,946

8 Staff costs

	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Salaries and wages	21,865	75,500	97,365	96,639
	21,865	75,500	97,365	96,639

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	2	3

9 Movement in funds

	At 1 May 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gross transfers	At 30 April 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	103,764	197,290	(214,354)	-	88,700
Total funds	103,764	197,290	(214,354)	-	88,700

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Net current assets	88,700		88,700
	88,700		88,700

11 Reconciliation of net debt

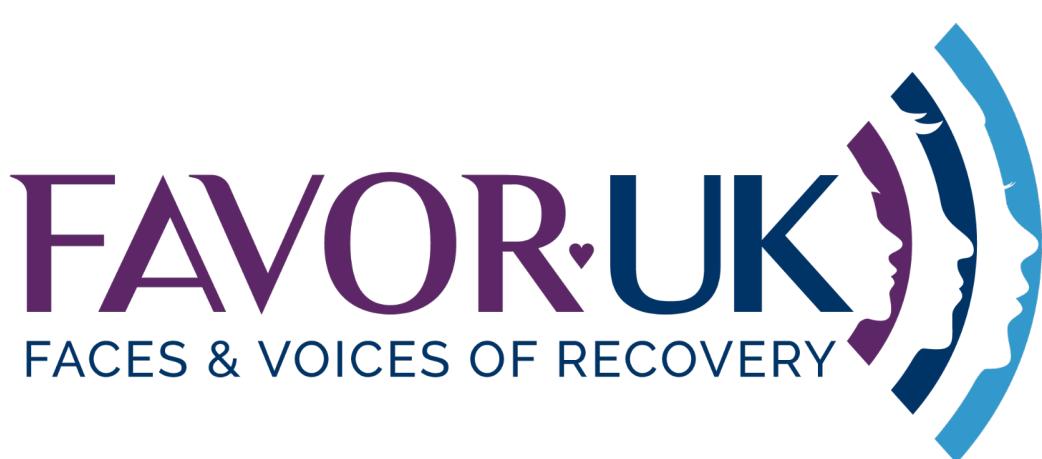
	New			
	At 1 May	2024	HP/Finance	At 30 April
		£	leases	2025
Cash and cash equivalents	103,764	(17,064)		86,700
	103,764	(17,064)	-	86,700
Net Debt	103,764	(17,064)	-	86,700

for the year ended 30 April 2025

	Funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies			
Donations	7,455	7,455	6,899
	7,455	7,455	6,899
Investments			
Bank Interest	455	455	365
	455	455	365
Other			
Sponsorship	111,880	111,880	96,3400
Grants	77,500	77,500	69,000
	189,380	189,380	165,340
Total income and endowments	197,290	197,290	172,604
Expenditure on:			
Employee costs			
Salaries/wages	97,365	97,365	96,639
	97,365	97,365	96,639
Motor and travel costs			
Travel and subsistence	10,355	10,355	7,697
	10,355	10,355	7,697
Premises costs			
Premises Repairs	-	-	1,319
	-	-	1,319
General administrative costs,			
Bank charges	48	48	650
Software, IT support and telephone cost	2,412	2,412	2,552
Stationery and printing	8,778	8,778	4,017
Insurances	745	745	869
Sundry expenses	957	957	1,275
	12,940	12,940	9,363

	Funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Legal and professional costs			
Accountancy and bookkeeping	948	948	948
Consultancy and event fees	92,746	92,746	37,980
	93,694	93,694	38,928
Total of expenditure of other costs	214,354	214,354	153,946
Total expenditure	214,354	214,354	153,946
Net gains on investments	-	-	-
Net income	(17,064)	(17,064)	18,658
Net income before other gains/(losses)	(17,064)	(17,064)	18,658
Other Gains	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(17,064)	(17,064)	18,658
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward			
Total funds carried forward	86,700	86,700	103,764

*Join us in Bradford
September 12th for the
18th UK Recovery Walk*



Find us here:

www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org

x.com/FAVORUK

facebook.com/FAVORUK

linkedin.com/company/favoruk

instagram.com/facesvoicesofrecovery



Scan the QR code to donate to FAVOR UK
An addiction charity promoting recovery
UK Registered Charity No SC043961

SCAN ME