

# Annual Report 2025



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LONDON  
GYPSIES &  
TRAVELLERS

Challenging perceptions, changing lives

# A message from the Chair

**This year has been an important one for London Gypsies and Travellers. It has been a time to pause, listen and think carefully about where we are going and how we want to work in the years ahead.**

LGT works alongside Gypsy and Traveller communities across London, supporting people to deal with everyday pressures while also pushing for longer-term change.

Much of the year's work has been about making sure we are set up to do that well – now and into the future. A key focus has been creating our new Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2029. This was a practical and collaborative process, shaped by conversations with community members, staff and trustees. As Chair, I found it both challenging and encouraging. It helped us be clear about our priorities and honest about where LGT can have the greatest impact. The plan gives us a strong and shared direction.



I am especially proud of our work with young people through Bright Futures. We are seeing young Gypsies and Travellers grow in confidence, build skills and take steps towards education, training and work. Supporting young people matters deeply to me, because they are central to the future of our communities and to the change we want to see.

None of this happens in isolation. I want to thank the community members who work alongside us, the staff and trustees for their commitment and the partners and funders who support and challenge us. As we move forward, we do so with a clear plan, strong relationships and real belief in the strength of our communities – especially our young people.

**Helena Kiely-Savin**  
**Chair, London Gypsies and Travellers**

# About this Annual Report

During 2025, London Gypsies and Travellers embarked on a six-month journey of reflection about its values, vision, mission, ambitions and goals. It was grounded in the organisation's longstanding relationships with the community and enriched by the knowledge, experience and insights of staff and trustees. The result is our Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2029.

The plan provides the strategic priorities that will shape our ambitions and goals for the years ahead. It is centred on four main strategic ambitions:

- Organisational resilience
- Homes
- Community power
- Equity and inclusion

We have used the same structure for this Annual Report, summarising our work during 2025 under each ambition and illustrating how we are already working towards them.

Our long-term ambitions for each strategic theme



You can download our full strategic plan by scanning the QR code on the right.



# 2025

# Funders

AB Charitable Trust

BBC Children in Need

Garfield Weston Foundation

Greater London Authority –  
Propel New Deal for Young People Fund

Henry Smith Charity

Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Lloyds Bank Foundation

London Borough of Hackney

London Borough of Islington

Trust for London



SUPPORTED BY  
MAYOR OF LONDON



Pr\*pel

H Hackney

The  
Henry Smith  
Charity  
founded in 1628

ISLINGTON



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme  
An Roinn Goineadh Eacbhra  
Department of Foreign Affairs

Trust for London  
Tackling poverty and inequality

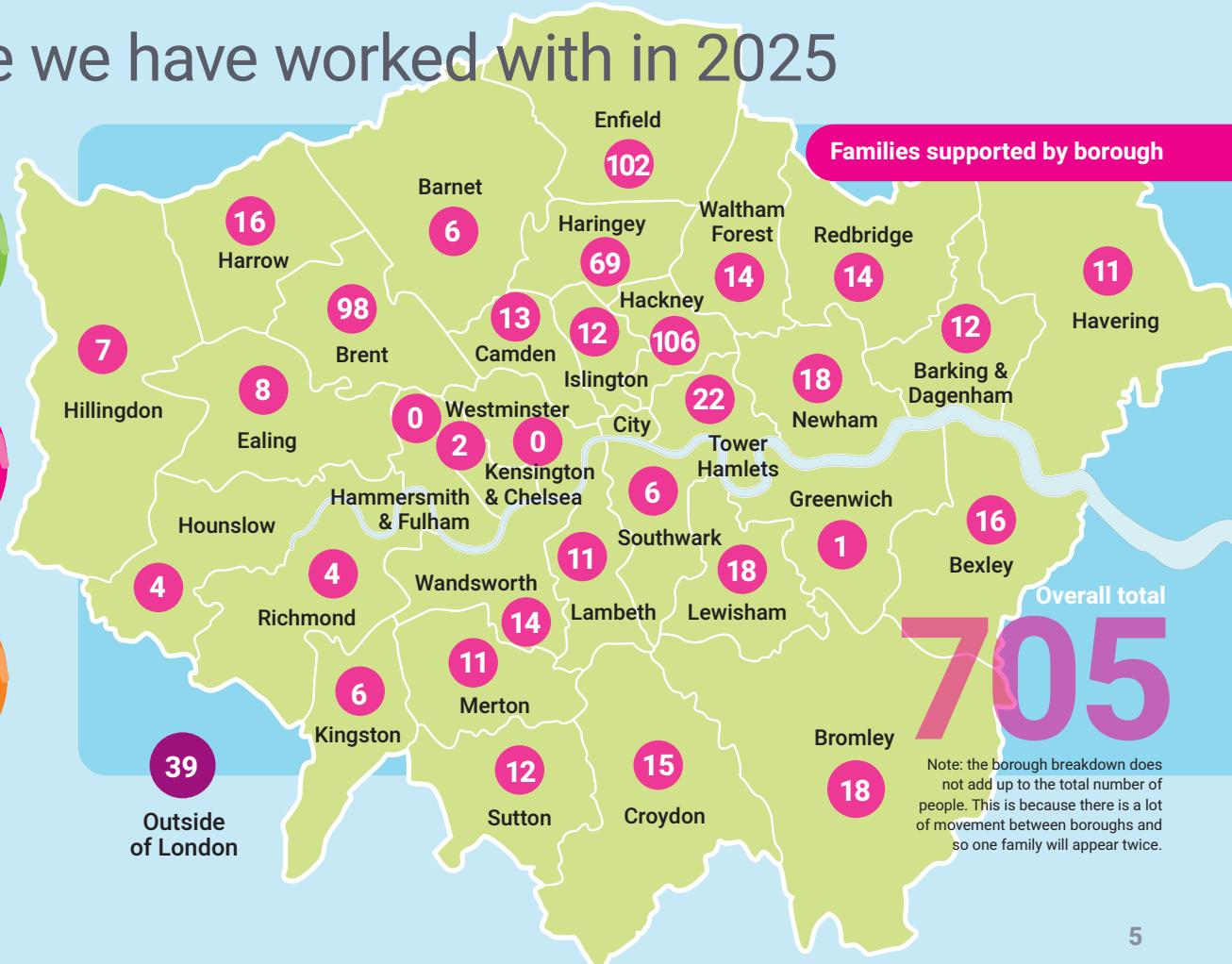
# People we have worked with in 2025

Young people (Bright futures)  
**68**

Advice & advocacy  
**313**

Community development  
**144**

Total: 521

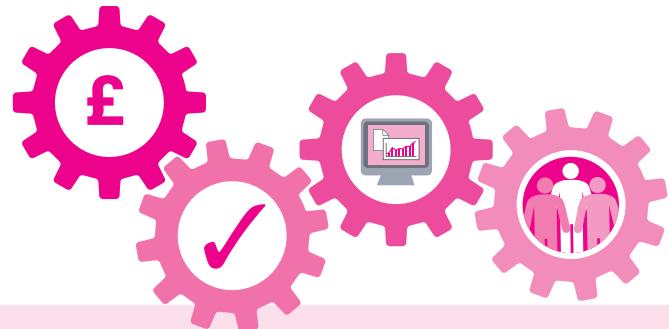


# Organisational resilience

Alongside its work programme working with and for members of the community, LGT looked to its own future. Continuing the organisational resilience project begun in 2024, it reflected on the challenges facing the organisation and how to build strong foundations for resilience and effectiveness in the years to come.

In LGT's new strategic plan, organisational resilience was identified as one of the four main strategic priorities. In the coming years, LGT's resilience work will be focused on:

- Increasing LGT's income from providing professional services such as training and advice. This work will be rooted in the voice of the community and its lived experiences.
- Supporting staff – prioritising wellbeing, encouraging development and strengthening diversity and Gypsy and Traveller leadership.
- Improving data systems, strengthening knowledge management and streamlining operations.
- Increasing LGT's reach and profile through online communication channels and the wider media.



## Strategic ambition

A thriving organisation with long-term financial sustainability and operational excellence

To achieve this we will diversify our income and develop the core organisational functions that support us to deliver our strategic ambitions effectively and efficiently

## Exploring how we change systems

Early in 2025 as LGT began to review its strategic plan, researchers from the Institute of Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) facilitated a day's workshop with LGT staff and trustees to explore our systems change journey.

We explored the root causes of discrimination and barriers that Gypsy and Traveller communities face, our experience

of how inequalities and failures in different systems intersect, and our role in bringing long-term, impactful change for these communities.

Experienced IVAR researchers were able to extract key learning points from our experience. These included the need to:

- invest in relationships and collaboration
- pursue both soft and robust influencing tactics
- develop a shared agenda with the communities we serve
- prioritise ongoing learning and reflection.

For LGT, this was a valuable opportunity to reflect on progress to date, our long-term strategic ambitions and how our work fits into a bigger picture. There were benefits for IVAR too, as they build evidence and learning points from working with different community-led social change

***"We as a community can respond and take ownership to work together and change things for future generations."***

Participant at the IVAR workshop

### **Gypsy and Traveller leadership**

LGT is shaped and guided by Gypsies and Travellers and their lived experience at every level.

We aim to keep strengthening that leadership so that community members remain at the centre of decision-making.

organisations. As a result, LGTs work was featured as a case study for Propel, a major funder for community organisations working towards systems change.



# Homes

## Campaigning on temporary accommodation

The year has seen a sharp increase in the number of Gypsy and Traveller families placed in temporary accommodation as the supply of affordable social housing and dedicated sites continues to diminish. With fewer pathways into stable, long-term housing, many families are left in unsuitable or precarious conditions for long periods. LGT has dedicated itself to helping these families – advocating for safer placements, addressing poor conditions and ensuring that households understand their rights and options.

As a member of the Better Temporary Accommodation for Londoners initiative, supported by Trust for London, LGT joined with other organisations and promoted its Fix the Five Basics campaign. The campaign urges boroughs to guarantee five basic necessities every time someone is placed in temporary accommodation.

A lack of clear information remains one of the most significant barriers for many Gypsy and Traveller families. LGT has worked to ensure guidance is provided in formats people can use and trust.

## Strategic ambition

### Decent living conditions for Gypsies and Travellers in London

To achieve this ambition, we will campaign for culturally suitable accommodation and support those who are most impacted by the housing crisis



*"No family should be pushed into homelessness because of unaffordable council rents or poor communication."*  
Geraldine Lindsay,  
LGT's Head of Family Services

## The basic necessities

1. Cooking facilities
2. Laundry access
3. Wi-Fi
4. Secure storage
5. Clear information

## Unaffordable housing in Enfield

London Gypsies and Travellers released a new report exposing the deepening housing crisis faced by Gypsy, Traveller and low-income families in Enfield. It is based on casework and research by LGT's Accommodation Advice Service team during 2024 and 2025 when, with funding from Trust for London, it supported 92 Enfield families affected by council policies.

The "A Triple Housing Crisis" report highlights how council-owned companies increased rents to unaffordable levels – leaving many households trapped in temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness. At LGT's launch event for the report, community members talked about their experiences of homelessness and being threatened with eviction. They appealed directly to London Assembly and local authority representatives present to solve their cases. LGT has been following up on these and more than 30 other cases in Enfield.



## Tailored advice on accommodation and welfare

LGT has continued to support Gypsy and Traveller families as they navigate increasingly challenging accommodation and welfare systems.

Community members remain disproportionately affected by the transfer to Universal Credit, with system failures, delayed payments and shrinking eligibility for Council Tax support deepening insecurity for those already facing structural disadvantage. LGT has helped individuals understand their benefit entitlements, challenge incorrect decisions and overcome digital and bureaucratic barriers.

# Community power

## Building community power in Brent

When Brent Council threatened to evict families on the Lynton Close site in May, site residents and LGT's community development team came together to fight back.

Following decades of neglect by Brent Council, Lynton Close had become overcrowded and fallen into disrepair. For two years, LGT and residents had petitioned Brent Council to improve fire safety on the site, but now Brent wanted to address the problem by evicting 74 families, including over 100 children, into bricks and mortar housing.

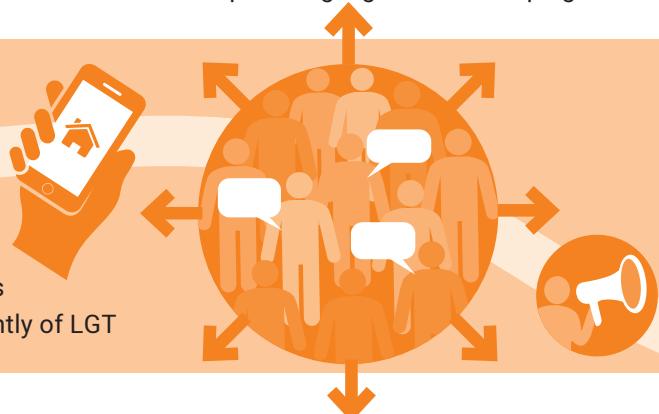
## Strategic ambition

Strong Gypsy and Traveller communities in London, able to shape the decisions that affect their lives

To achieve this ambition we will invest in the skills, confidence and capacity of Gypsies and Travellers in London to access opportunities and influence decisions that affect them – both with and independently of LGT



Building relationships with local allies, LGT worked with the community to strengthen its voice and oppose the evictions, improve conditions and push for new sites in Brent. Local and national press highlighted the campaign.





**NEWS**

Home | In Depth | Israel-Gaza war | War in Ukraine | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Culture

England | Local News | London

**We're going to make a stand, say Brent Travellers**

**“We’re not just going to get up and leave, we’re going to make a stand”**

**Bernie Corcoran, Lynton Close resident, speaking to the BBC**

Bernie Corcoran said residents were not going to “get up and leave”

LGT supported residents to access legal representation to safeguard their rights. LGT's Accommodation Advice Service team stepped in to support residents with their tenancies and finances. Local MP Dawn Butler accepted an invitation to visit Lynton Close, where she spoke to residents and then raised her own concerns with the council. Community members also made collective representations at council cabinet meetings.

Evictions are now off the table. Interim fire safety measures have been introduced and Brent Council is searching for land for new sites to ease overcrowding.

## Young people forging their own futures

Building on the momentum of 2024, Bright Futures has strengthened its role as a dedicated mentoring and employability programme for Gypsy and Traveller young people aged 15 to 25. The programme expanded its reach and deepened its impact, fostering confidence, wellbeing and stronger community connections.

Over the year, Bright Futures engaged with over 90 young people. Around 50 received guidance and support. Six mentees progressed into college courses on subjects such as plumbing, art and design, hair and beauty and fashion



and clothing. Others completed vocational qualifications in English and Maths Functional Skills, Design Engineer Construct! and the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). Mentees and their families played a pivotal role by referring siblings and peers.

Engagement with young women has grown significantly, with nearly half of the young people in the programme being female – a reflection of the programme's success in building trust and relevance.



*"I feel good knowing I can do something for my future, which is not how it felt before. Bright Futures has helped open up options for things to do for me, and I am enjoying college now."*

Bright Futures mentee, aged 16

*"My mentor has helped me do the course I wanted to do... it helped me improve my confidence and talk to people. I would not be on this journey without them."*

Bright Futures mentee, aged 18

The Bright Futures team has grown to four staff members, enabling greater outreach and personalised support. Community engagement has strengthened through site visits, social media and workshops.

### Bright Futures partnerships

Partnerships were central to the programme's progress. We delivered a Young Health Champion



*"I see a big difference in his confidence... I am happy with what you have done for him and trust you to support him."*

Parent of mentee

course pilot in collaboration with Friends, Families and Travellers, who developed the course with the Royal Society of Public Health. Nine young people completed the course, leading to a GCSE-equivalent qualification. This marked an important collaboration between two organisations for Gypsies and Travellers at the youth service level.



### Bright Futures: learning and evaluation

LGT entered a learning partnership with the Mantle consultancy to reflect on Bright Futures' progress and shape a framework for effective mentoring. In two interactive workshops, staff and trustees explored values, mapped experiences and aligned programme delivery with organisational strategy. Insights from these sessions will inform the development of tools and guidance in the future.

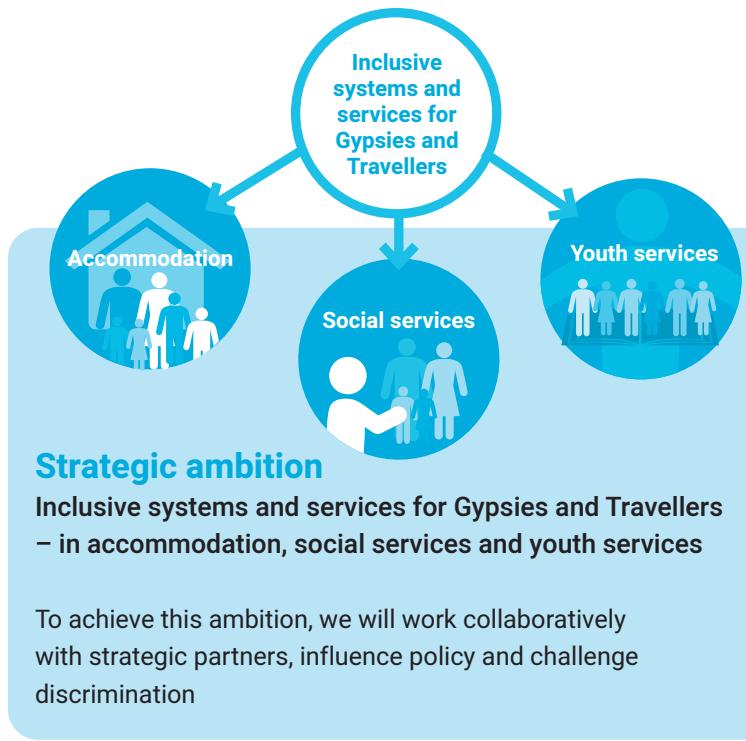
# Equity and inclusion

## Campaigning for fair accommodation planning

Since 2022, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, commissioned by the Greater London Authority (GLA), has been evaluating the need for pitches and other adequate accommodation for Gypsies, Roma, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the capital.

In 2025, it presented the data on which it would base the assessment of need. However, London Gypsies and Travellers and other community organisations contested the accuracy of the data and called for urgent corrections to be made. LGT pointed out that errors in the research and analysis had resulted in the number of pitches and other accommodation required being underestimated by more than half.

By LGT's estimate, the assessment's proposal that London needs 861 additional pitches would barely cover the deficit that has accumulated over the past 30 years, when no new sites were built. To make up for that historical deficit, to allow people who are stuck in unsuitable housing



to move back into sites and to plan for new households in the next ten years, London actually needs more than 2,000 new pitches.

With partner organisations, LGT wrote to the Greater London Authority's officers, Deputy Mayors and others involved in the



assessment a total of seven times about the issue in 2025. Representatives met with City Hall decision-makers four times. For all this, mistakes remain in the assessment. LGT hopes these will be corrected before the London Plan 2031 goes to the government's planning inspector.

### Not everyone counts, Forum finds

What research would support accommodation planning for an inclusive and diverse London? This was the question discussed by community members from six boroughs, with London Assembly members and local council officers, at the London Gypsy and Traveller London meeting in November (pictured above). Feedback from the community had revealed that many families across the London boroughs had not been involved in, or were not aware of,

the survey assessing need for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. Therefore, their needs were not counted.

LGT pointed out that the first step of a good accommodation needs assessment should be to count all the Gypsies and Travellers who live in an area – without relying on Census statistics which are known to undercount by as much as half.

### Supporting inclusion in social services

LGT provided support and advocacy to 10 families, helping them navigate social services to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes. In five of the six cases where children had been placed in care, the children have now been reunited with their families.



## Equity and inclusion work in the boroughs

LGT has continued to work with many boroughs to support appropriate accommodation, site delivery and improved living conditions.

### Camden

Community members stood up for their right to live in culturally suitable accommodation, despite a local campaign opposing a small new site. LGT supported community members who wanted to speak up in the local press.

### Hackney

LGT supported members of the Hackney Traveller Action Group, attending a council cabinet meeting to voice concerns over delays in finding suitable land for new sites (pictured right). The Council had identified the need for 92 new pitches, but delays have resulted in £2 million funding for site delivery being lost.

### Richmond

LGT challenged the council's injunction against "persons unknown" in the High Court. The judge said in February that the court took very seriously the

*"These injunctions disproportionately affect Gypsies and Travellers, and particularly Gypsy and Traveller children, who are some of the most vulnerable in the entire country."*

Dexter Dias, High Court judge

rights of Travelling families, especially children, who should not suffer the effects of the evictions that come with such injunctions. The judge asked Richmond council to provide additional evidence that it really needed the injunction.



## Ealing

LGT contributed to the public examination of the local plan in June and December. The plan was subsequently improved, with the commitment to building Gypsy and Traveller pitches growing from six pitches in June to 43 at the end of the year.

## Enfield

LGT supported a public meeting consulting on plans for three new sites, explaining to settled residents who objected to the plans that all parties wanted the same thing: harmonious neighbourhoods that meet everyone's needs.

## Islington

LGT worked with Traveller residents and the council planning department to find more than 250 potential parcels of land that could be used for communal sites. The council found that nine were suitable and deliverable – up from three identified locations a few years ago.

## Lewisham

LGT helped local community members start a new collaboration with the Lewisham Irish Centre – which hosted meetings with council officials about proposals for a new site.



## Professional training and awareness raising

LGT continued sharing its expertise with professionals at local authorities and public services. A total of 95 staff at five councils and organisations received our structured training and presentations. The LGT team has engaged with many more in the course of its casework and advocacy support.





## Our team

### STAFF

**Debby Kennett,**  
Chief Executive

**Tom Margetson,**  
Community Development  
and Campaigns Lead (until  
Feb 2025)

**Rhianna Ketley,**  
Community Development  
and Campaigns Lead (from  
Feb 2025)

**Nancy Hawker,**  
Policy and Research Officer

**Mena Mongan,**  
Community Engagement  
Officer

**Padmini Ravi,**  
BF Programme Lead

**Teyha Hadley,**  
BF Project Worker/Youth  
Mentor (until July 2025)

**Ryekar Faraj,** BF Youth  
Mentor (from May 2025)

**Sarah McDonagh,** BF Youth  
Engagement Worker/  
Mentor (from March 2025)

**James Watt,**  
BF Project Worker/Youth  
Mentor (from Sept 2025)

**Geraldine Lindsay,**  
Head of Family Services  
Olli Wells, Accommodation  
Advice Triage Worker

**Joe Clark,** Accommodation  
Advice Admin Assistant

**Orlando Phipps,**  
Accommodation Advice  
and Advocacy Worker

**Richard Lush,**  
Admin and Operations

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Helena Kiely-Savin,** Chair  
(until Sept)

**Tessa Buchanan,** Chair  
(from Sept)

**Richard Bennett,** Treasurer  
**Marian Mahoney,** Vice Chair

**Sally Barter**

**Sarah Edwards**

**Felix Lynn** (from Sept)

**Chelsea Mac Donnchadha**

**Tunji Makanju**

**Giorgio Mariani**

### FREELANCE SUPPORT

**Adam Gardner,**  
Resilience strategy

**Zemichael Abhra,** Finance

**Fran Ferris-Ockwell,**  
Fundraising

**Simon Crompton,**  
Communications  
**Hils Tranter,** Graphic design

# Accounts

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31st March 2025.

## LONDON GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations	2	66,447	335,491	401,938	459,777
Investment income	3	7,034	-	7,034	4,948
Other income	4	5,900	-	5,900	7,563
<b>Total</b>		<b>79,381</b>	<b>335,491</b>	<b>414,872</b>	<b>472,288</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Charitable activities					
Policy/ Strategic Development		25,078	85,390	110,468	104,689
Youth		18,284	54,391	72,675	60,698
Community Development		59,358	216,243	275,601	240,614
<b>Total</b>		<b>102,720</b>	<b>356,024</b>	<b>458,744</b>	<b>406,001</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(23,339)</b>	<b>(20,533)</b>	<b>(43,872)</b>	<b>66,287</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		167,645	119,942	287,587	221,300
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>144,306</b>	<b>99,409</b>	<b>243,715</b>	<b>287,587</b>

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LONDON  
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