



People First Forum
Annual report and accounts for
April 2023 – March 2024

Our Vision:

Our vision is a world where people with learning disabilities are treated as equals, living safe and happy lives.



Our Mission:

Our mission is to give people with learning disabilities the support and opportunities to live the lives they choose.



Our committee



Our Management Committee have been amazing at helping us get our services right for people with learning disabilities.

We will talk more about the Committee later.

Our Staff



We had a team of 8 learning disabled staff and 8 non-disabled staff.

Our volunteers and members



People (including a lot of our members) have **volunteered 2,376 hours** over the year. That is over 1000 more hours than the year before.

We have 795 members.

That is 18 more members than last year.

A special thanks to our many volunteers that help with lots of things from training to running stalls. A particular shout out goes to:

- Dan Murray
- Shaun Hayward
- Todd Brooks
- Mark Dyde
- Natalie Wilson
- Russell Knipe
- Dan Short



Members



374 are from Bournemouth

292 are from Poole

22 are from Christchurch

The rest are from other areas, or they have left their area blank on their membership form.

We are still trying to get more members from Christchurch by:



- Having a speaking up group at Christchurch Connect
- Having a speaking up group at a café in Christchurch
- Working with volunteers, parents and carers



- Being part of the Christchurch Conversation
- Doing regular poster drops in Christchurch
- And more!

But if anyone else has any ideas of how to reach people then please let us know!





What did we do
to help members?

Information, Advice and Advocacy



We have supported 893 people with information, advice and advocacy in the year.

That is 106 more people than last year.



Our top 5 enquiries were about:

1. Emotional wellbeing
2. Our groups and events
3. Speaking up
4. Keeping Safe
5. Day opportunities



We also raised 25 welfare and safeguarding alerts in the last year.

Safe Places



We have 122 Safe Places:

51 Poole,
69 Bournemouth,
2 Christchurch.

What is a Safe Place?

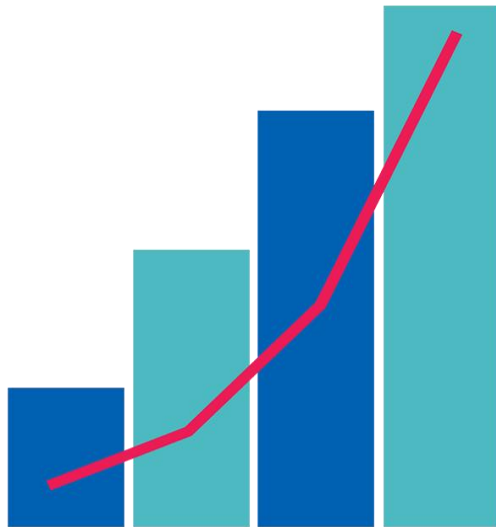


A Safe Place is where people with learning disabilities can go if they are being bullied, harassed, become ill or get lost.

Witness Support, Preparation, and Profiling Service



The service gives support for victims and witnesses of crime with learning disabilities.



April 2023 - March 2024

The service has worked with 40 people with 84 referrals over the last year.



Often there is more than 1 referral for the same person.



For example: 1 person may have been a victim of an assault and a theft. That would be 2 referrals.



Out of those 84 referrals
(supporting 40 people)

65 referrals were completed
resulting in:

- 33 “Guilty” verdicts/pleas
- 4 “not guilty” verdicts
- 1 hung jury
- 18 were dropped or dismissed
- 3 resulted in a “Community Resolution”
- 6 other outcomes





facebook

Go Live on Facebook

We have Facebook Live videos once a month, sometimes with guest speakers.

"Always have
time for you
guys"

"Love being
part of your
community"

"Keep up the
amazing
work"

"You were
fantastic, thank
you for such a
great night" "You
were fabulous" "So
proud of you
Shaun"

"Hi gang, lovely
photos and
pottery keep up
the good work
and having fun"

Friends Forum



We have Friends Forum online, with lots of topics and guests including:

- County Lines presentation by charity Escapeline
- Right Care and Support
- Planning future topics
- Having A Good Life



In August, Friends Forum members got together to have a picnic in the park.

It was lovely to see everyone.

Big Lottery fund



We are on year 2 of our **Big Lottery Funded** project called **On The Move**.

As part of the project we had...





Social groups



Speaking up groups



Van visits



Camp Festival



We were invited back to perform at Camp Festival in 2023.



The DJ's even met Sam Ryder!

DJ workshops



We got some money from BCP's Cultural Development Small Grants Fund.

We focused on making our DJ group more diverse by training 5 people (women, people from the LGBTQ+ and minority groups) to be DJ's.



Our current DJ's had workshops to think about the future and how they might go digital.

We have had 2 more Big Nights Out With Suttles this year.



“It was a great night and a fantastic team of DJs thank you for letting me come”

“Well done to you all. You all a fantastic team”

“Well done to People First Forum, you are doing an absolutely amazing job!!! :)”

“You guys are just so wonderful. Keep doing what you do. It's amazing. 😊”

“Congratulations to you all super star DJs. Great night”

We want to thank all our DJ's for giving their time at our events.

A special thank you to Shaun, Kelly and Trey who are DJing for us today – thank you!





**What did we do
to help services?**



The Learning Disability Partnership Board is a meeting with:

- people with learning disabilities
- health services
- social services
- advocacy services
- carers
- support providers



Action Groups



Keeping safe



Staying healthy



Where I live

We also support people with learning disabilities to take part in the Partnership Board Action Groups:

- Keeping Safe
- Staying Healthy
- Where I Live
- Task and Finish groups

Working with NHS Dorset



We have been working with NHS Dorset on a lot of things including redesigning the Yellow Health Book.

Easy Read Information



We made lots of easy read information for services.

Training



We have continued BCP Council training for the Care Certificate.



We are also Oliver McGowan trainers for the Dorset-wide area.

We have also trained other charities including Sailability.

Thank you, the experts by lived experience were very brave and open and honest about difficulties they have encountered.

Excellent presenters, thank you for sharing your stories

It was all absolutely valuable to the work I do.

All the speakers were excellent. Clearly very passionate about the training and it made the day very enjoyable

Well done to our training team for 2023 to 2024 who have worked so hard to build on our training and make it even better.



BCP Council Day Opportunities



We are part of the BCP Council Day Opportunities Co-production Group.

We have helped people to speak up about the day service consultation, including filling in forms and speaking up at council meetings.



**Dorset HealthCare
University**
NHS Foundation Trust

We are part of an **Engagement Forum** to support Dorset Healthcare in co-production with people with learning disabilities.



As well as Dorset Healthcare's Easy Read group to help make easy read information better.

We continue to be members of the **LeDer Steering Group.**

LeDer is about looking at the early deaths of people with learning disabilities and how we can make things better.





Your Voice Network Meeting

We are part of the regional self advocacy network which works together to make things better for people with learning disabilities around health.





Our money for last year



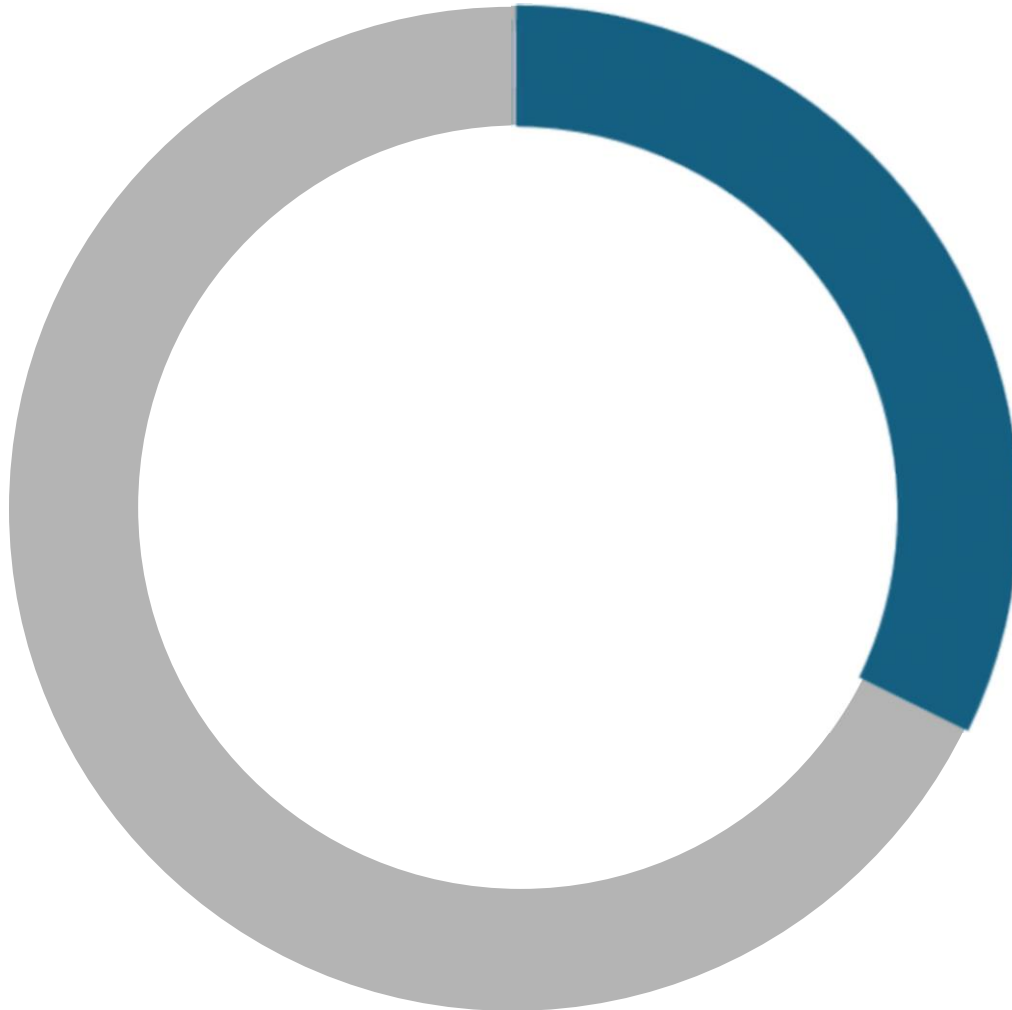
We will tell you about the money we got given for last year (income).

April 2023 – March 2024

BCP Council and NHS Dorset



Dorset



£100,940

BCP Council and NHS Dorset



Most of our money comes from BCP Council and NHS Dorset.

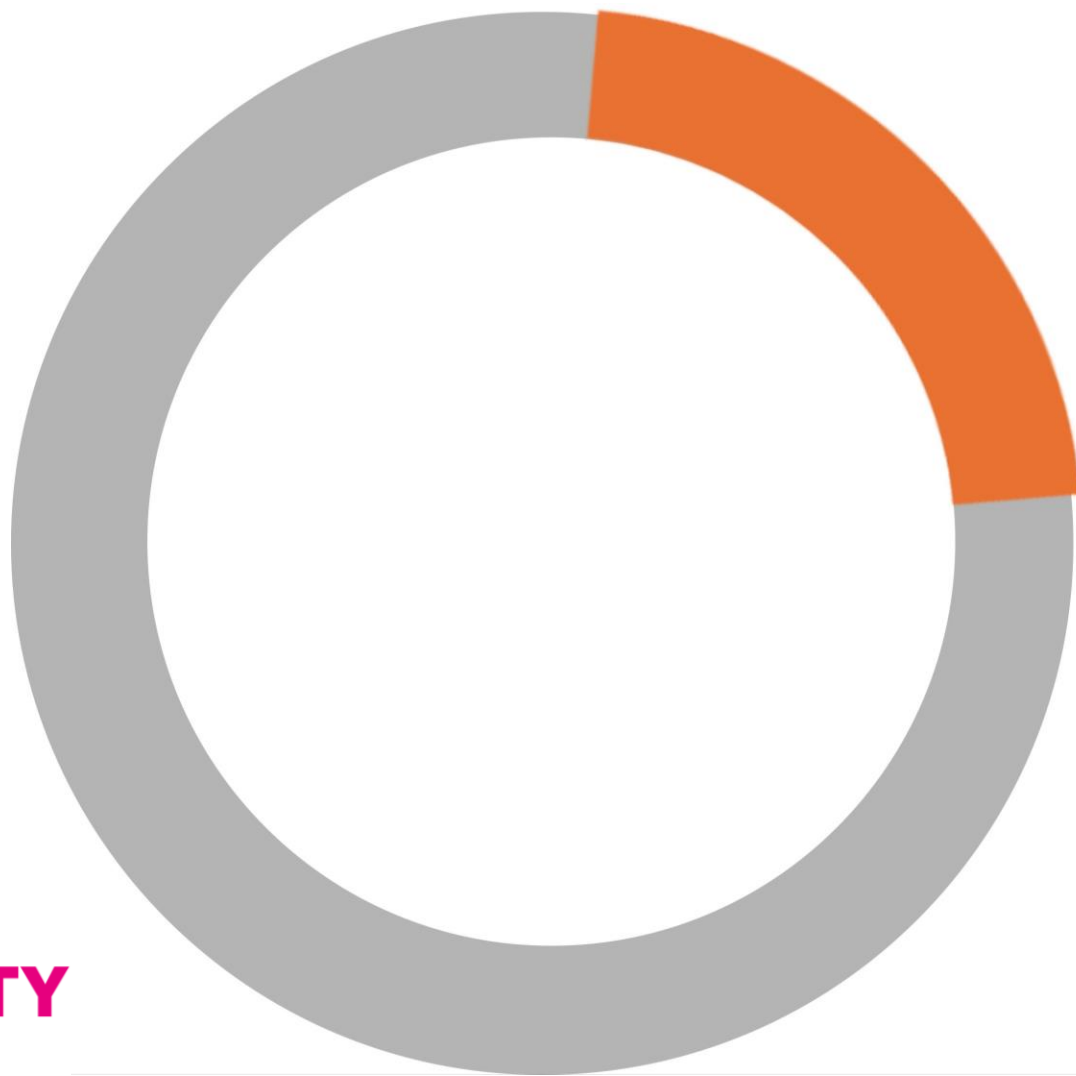


BCP Council gave us £80,340
NHS Dorset gave us £20,600.

This pays for us to speak up,
give advice and take part in
the Partnership Board.

The National Lottery Community Fund

£69,734



The National Lottery Community Fund



We carried on running our 5 year project called On The Move.

We finished the first year of the project and started the second year.



Witness Preparation and Profiling

£49,949



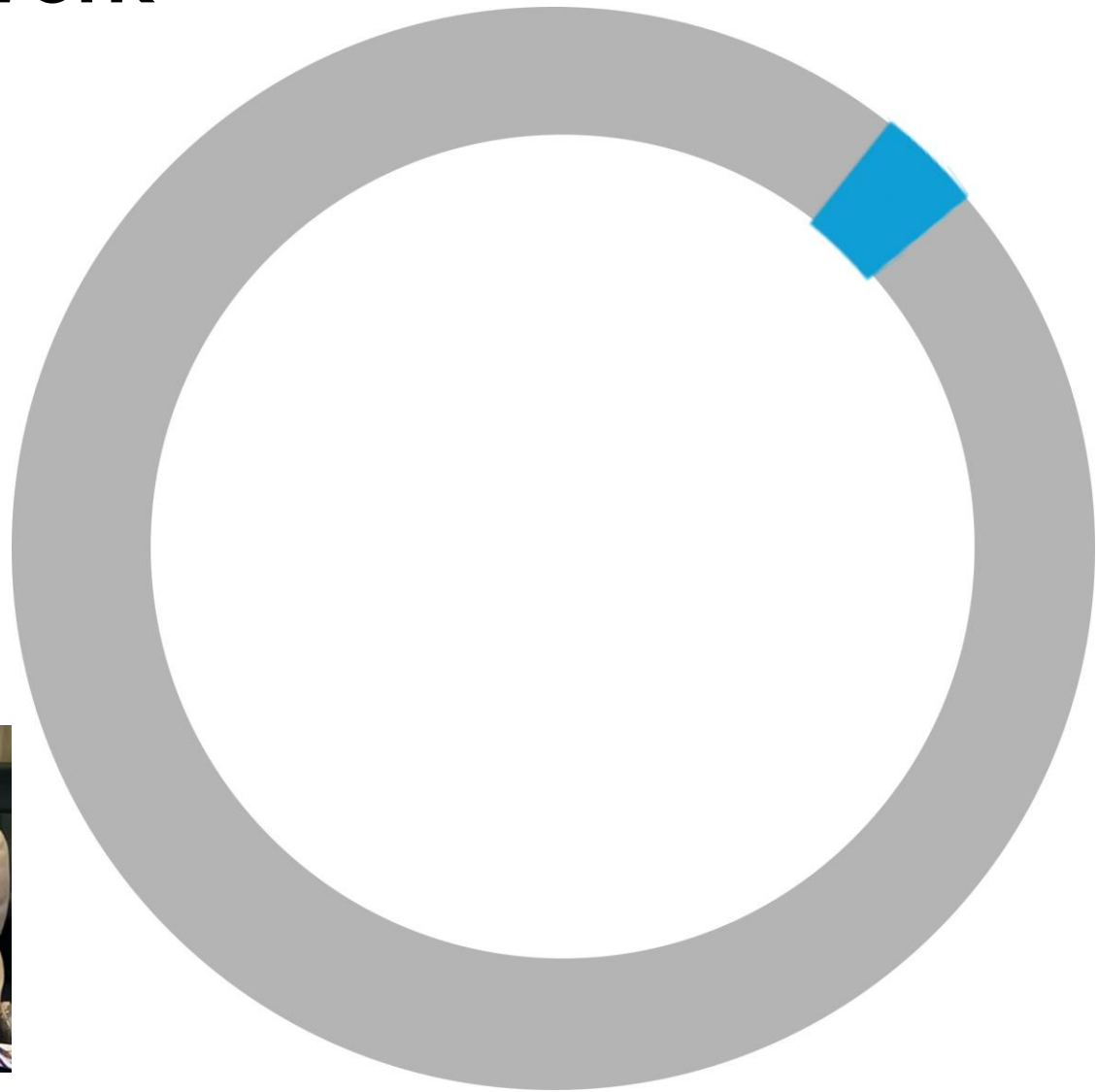
Witness Preparation and Profiling



£21,949 was given to us to by Dorset Police Crime Commissioner and £28,000 from BCP Council to pay for this service.

Access to Work

£10,478



Access to Work



Department
for Work &
Pensions

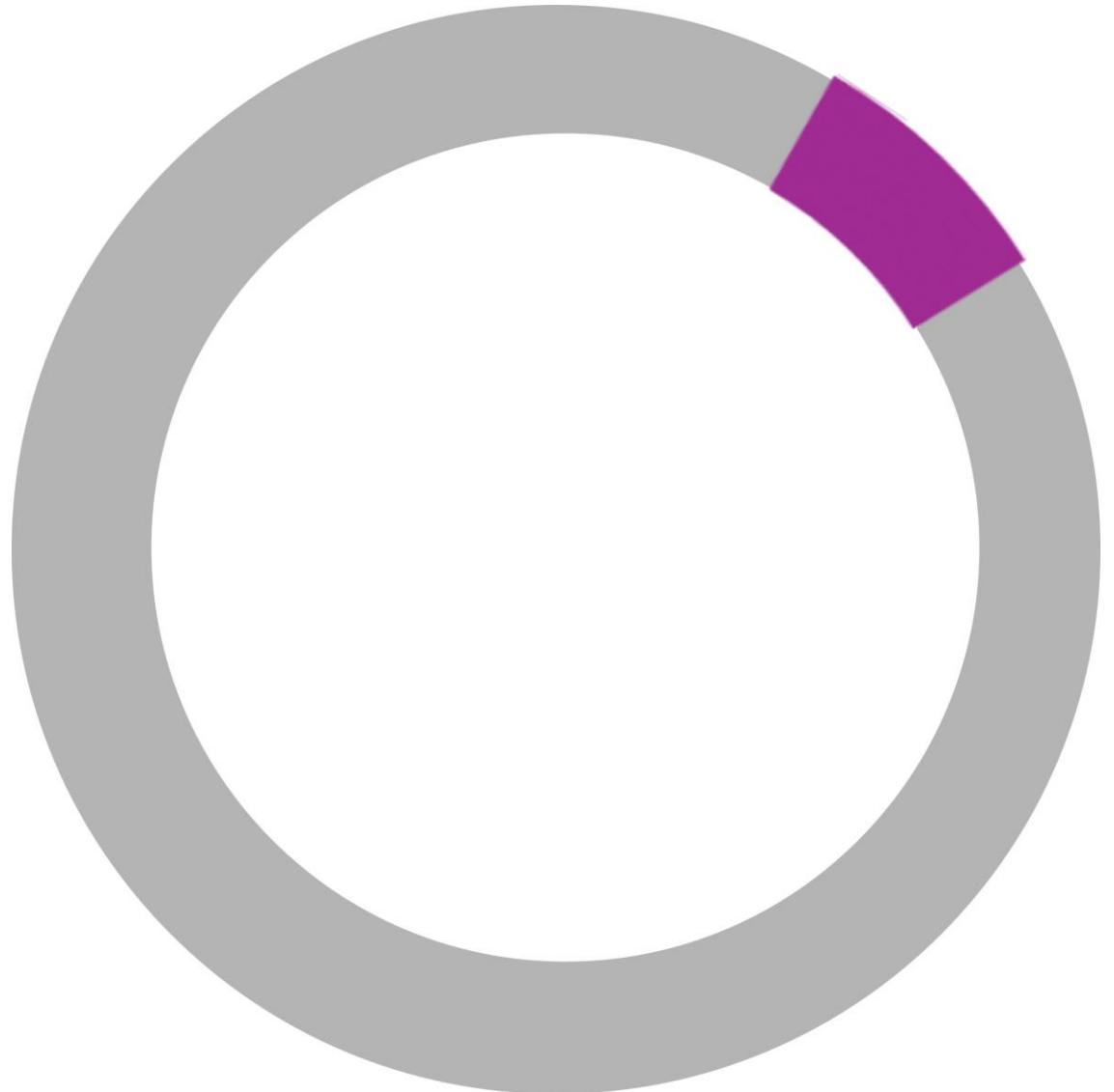


Access to Work is from the Department of Work and Pension.

It gives us money so that Amanda Frost and John Cotton can have support with some of the tasks in their jobs.

Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales

£25,000



**LLOYDS BANK
FOUNDATION**
England & Wales

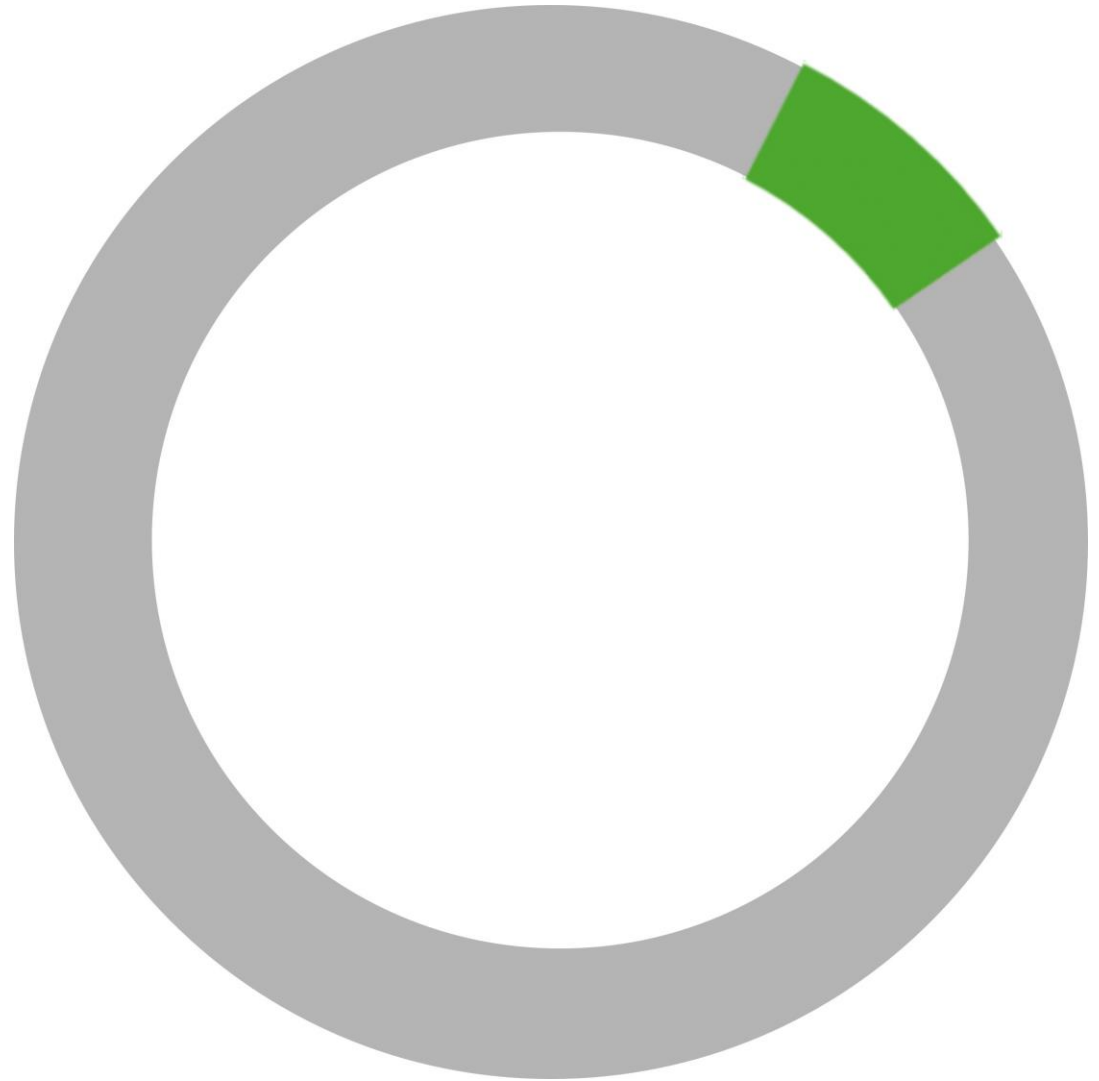
Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales



The Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales gave us £25,000 to help us keep up our good work and to help people speak up.

The Postcode Lottery

£25,000



■ PEOPLE'S ■
POSTCODE
■ LOTTERY ■

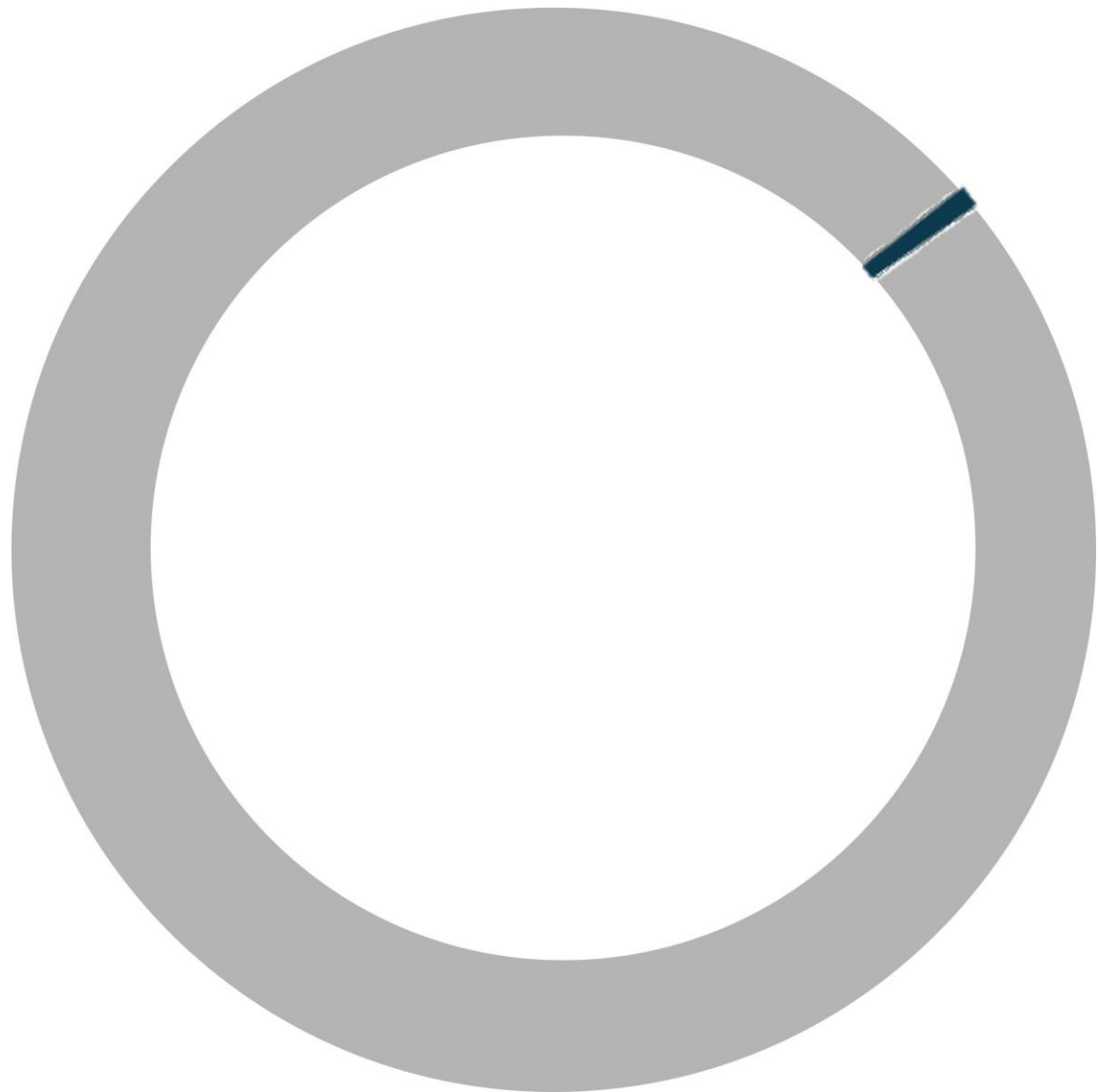
The Postcode Lottery



The Postcode Lottery gave us £25,000 to help us carry on supporting people with learning disabilities in all that we do.

Easy Read Information

£2,580



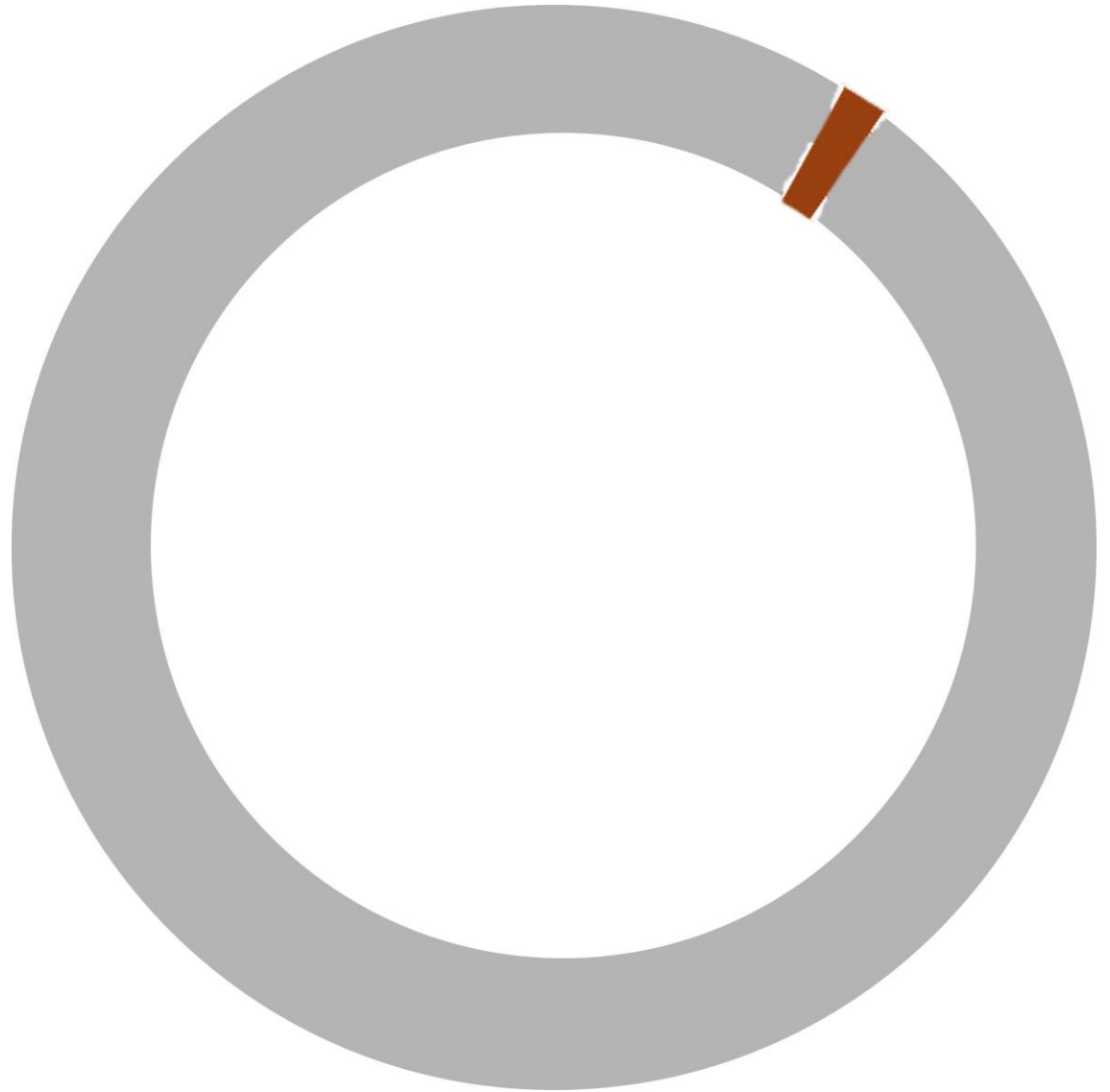
Easy Read Information



We made £2,580
making easy read
information.

Big Night Out With Suttles

£4,809



Big Night Out With Suttles

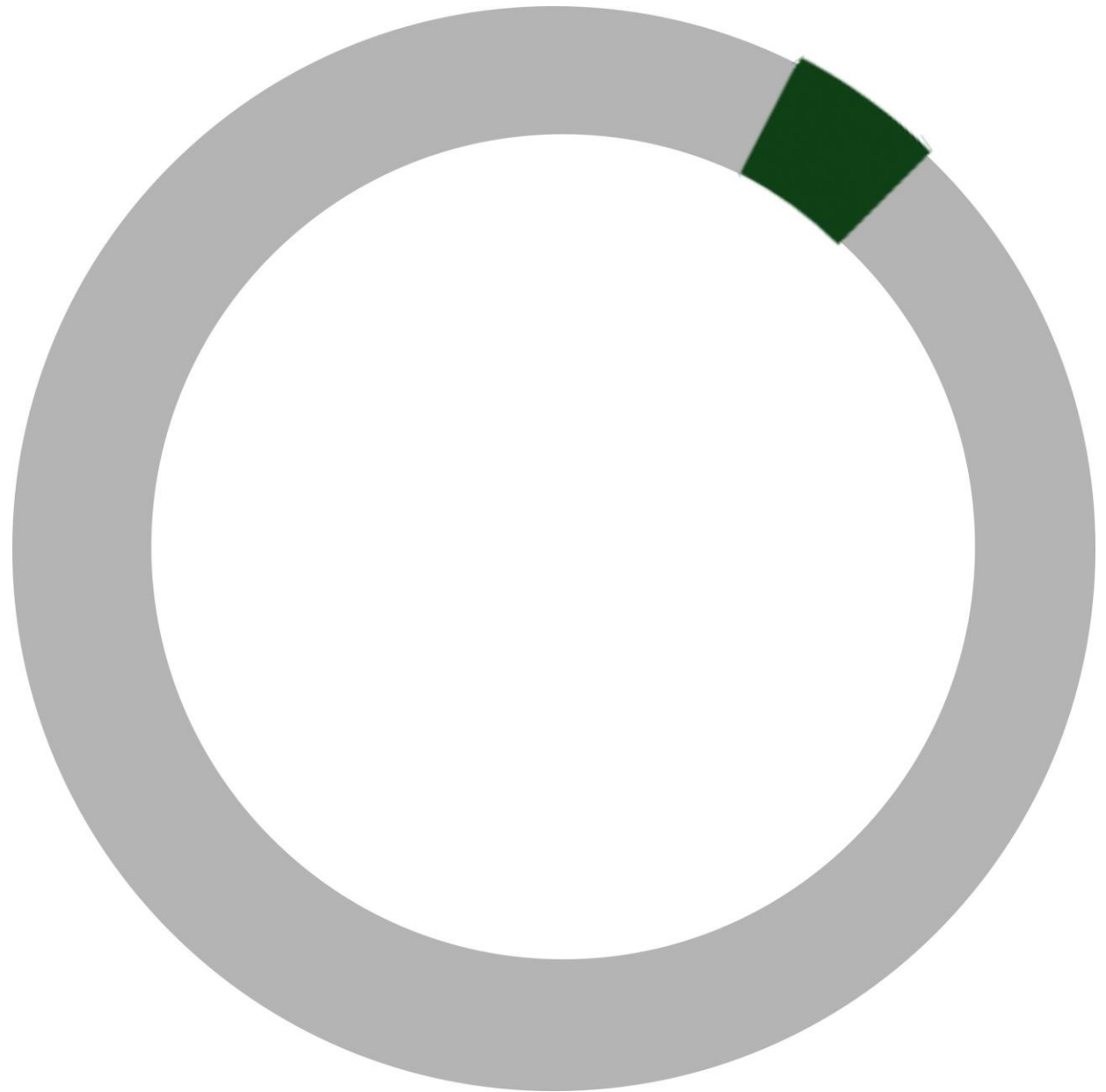


We got some money from Suttles which helped pay for the Big Night's Out With Suttles.



Training

£15,411



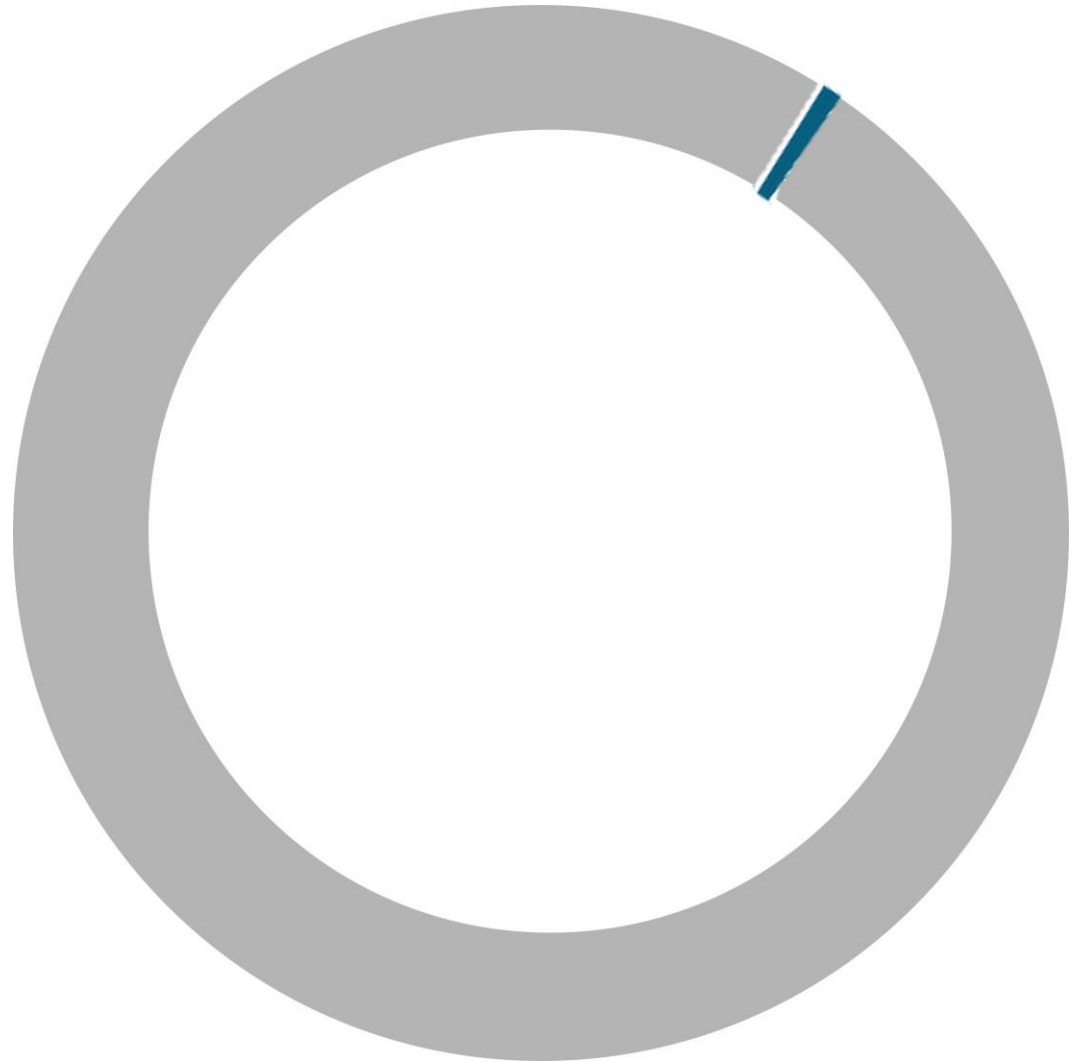
Training



We got money
delivering learning
disability and autism
awareness training.

Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust

£2,500



Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

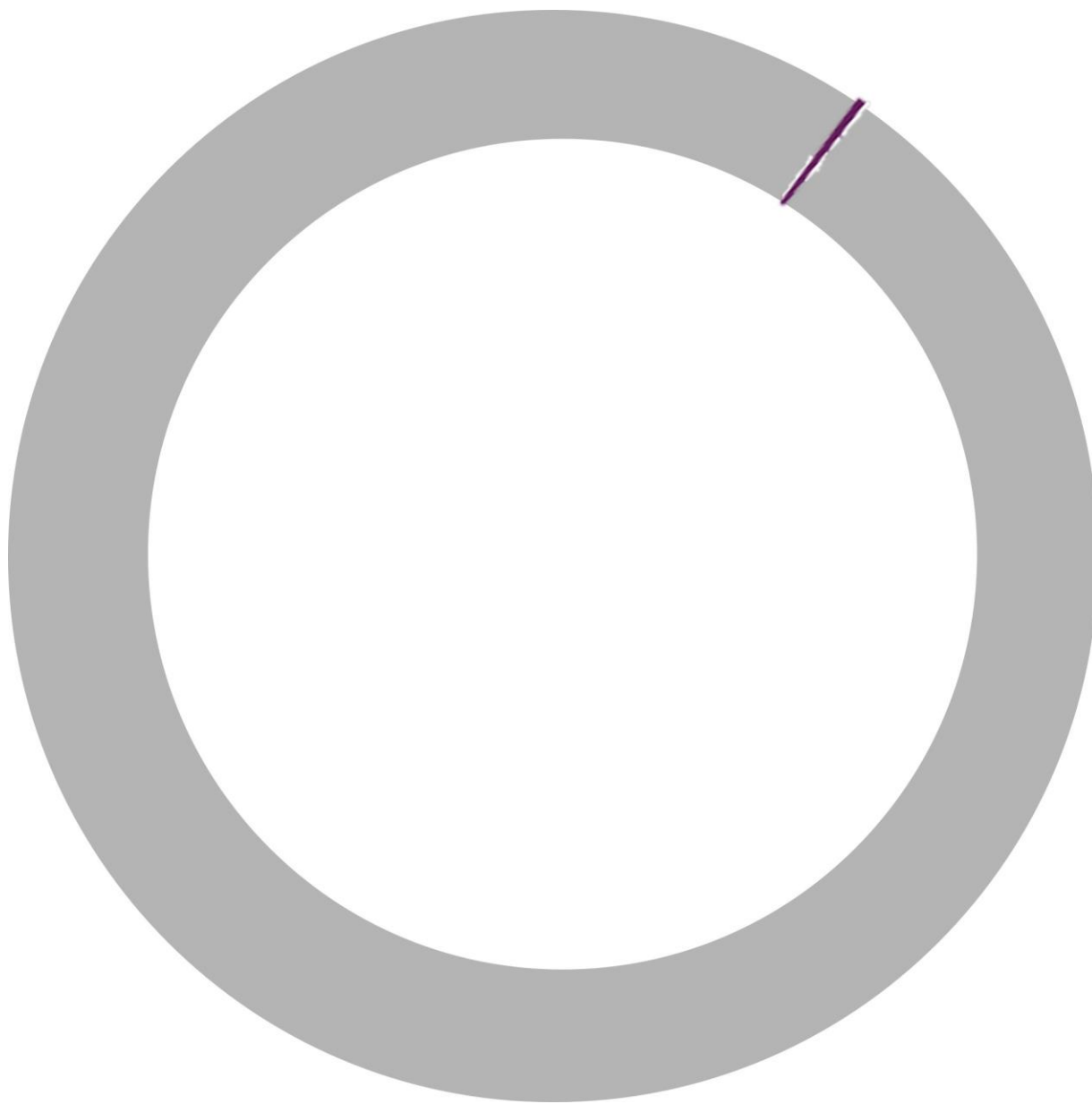
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust



We got money for going to Engagement Forum meetings. These meetings help Dorset Healthcare with co-production.

DJ Funding

£1,350



DJ Funding

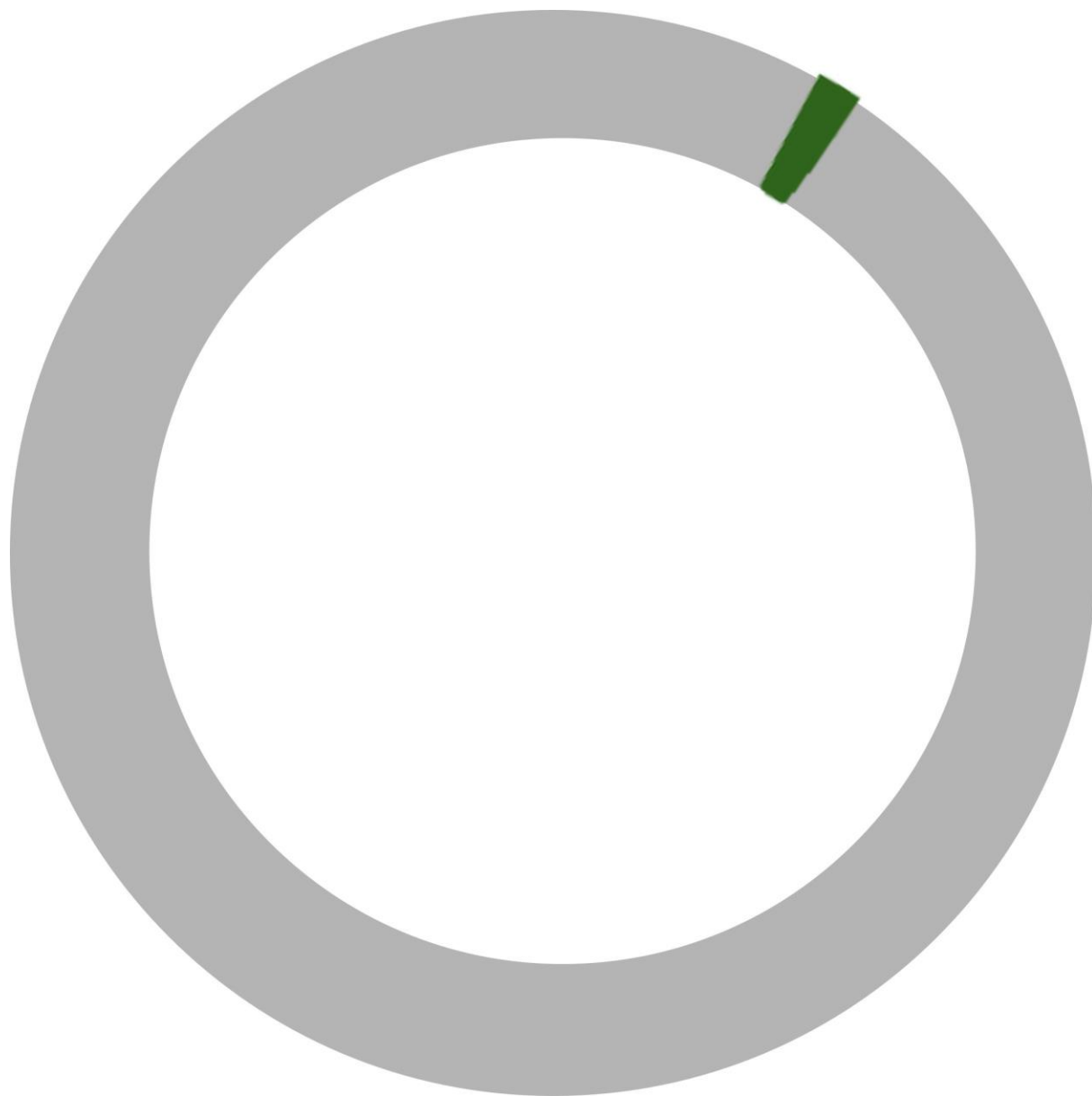


We got funding to train some new DJ's.

Our original DJ's also tried out DJing on digital decks.

Other

£4,886



Other



We got money from helping with other small bits of work, interest and donations.

As we have had more money in the bank this year, it means we have had more interest.

Interest went up from £585 to £3,277.



The total money that we got was **£312,637**.

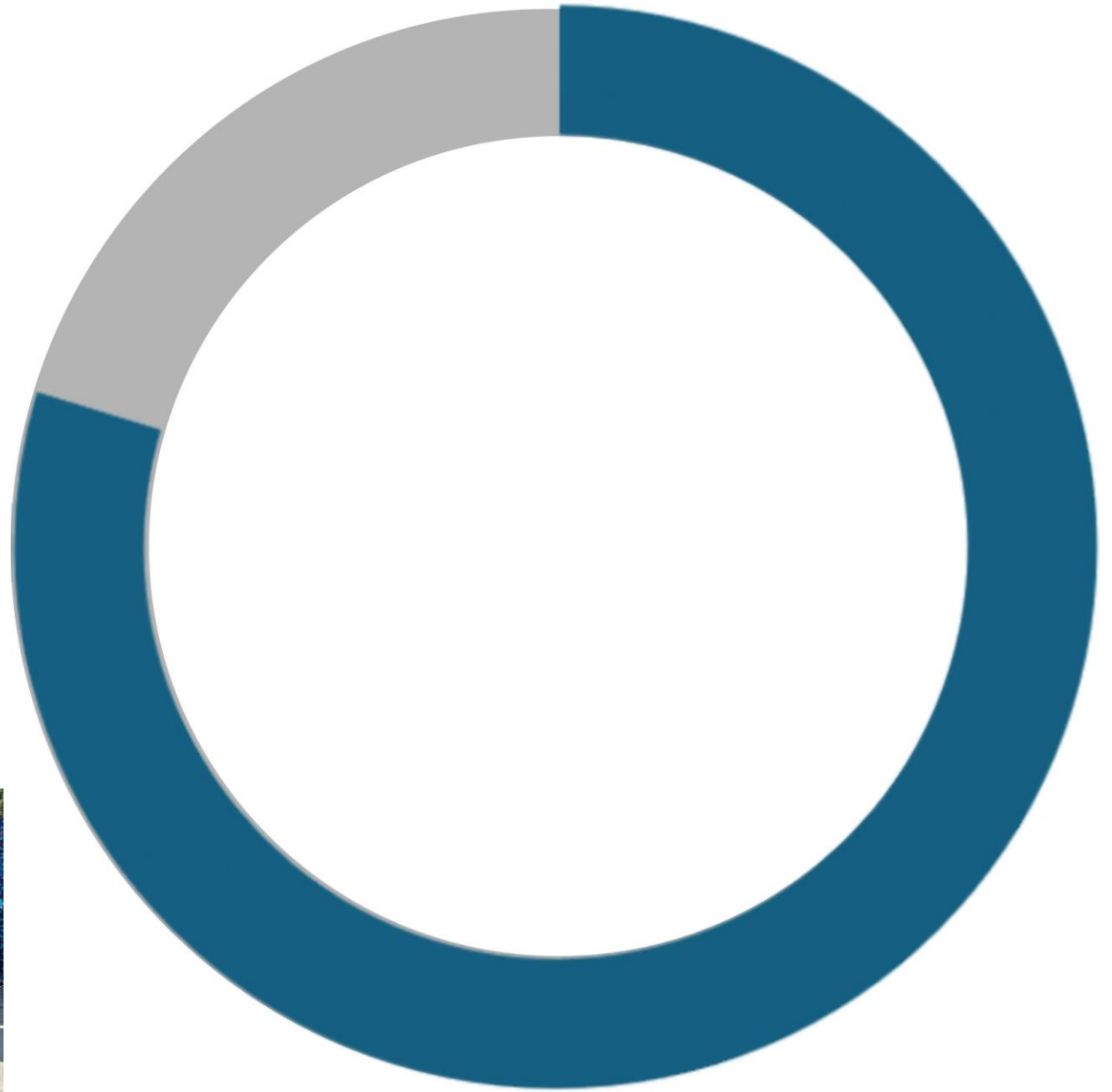
That is £70,710 more than last year.



We will tell you about the money we spent (expenditure).

Staff

£194,046



Staff

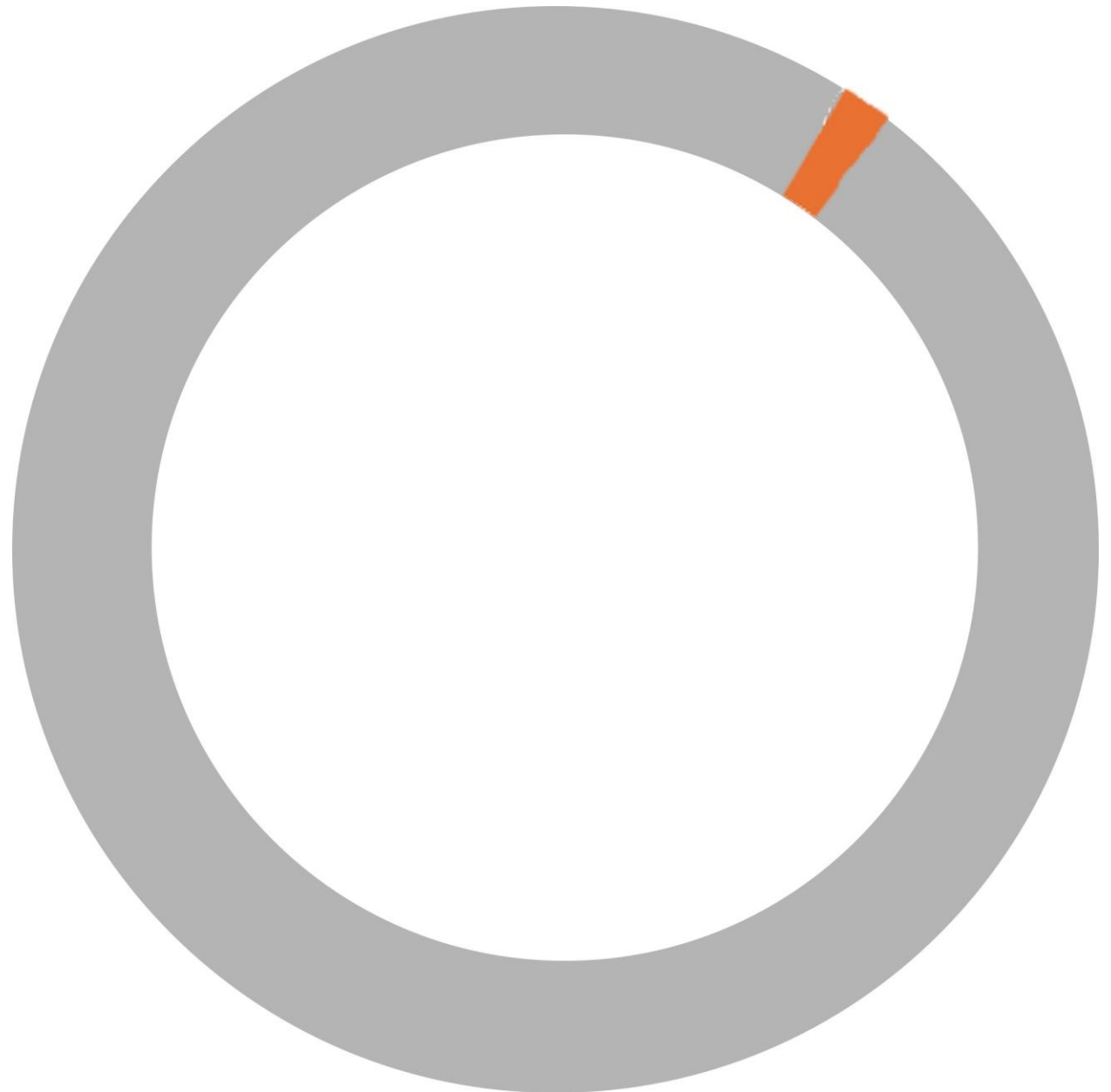


Our biggest cost is the Staff.

This includes staff wages, National Insurance contributions and pensions.

Premises

£4,484



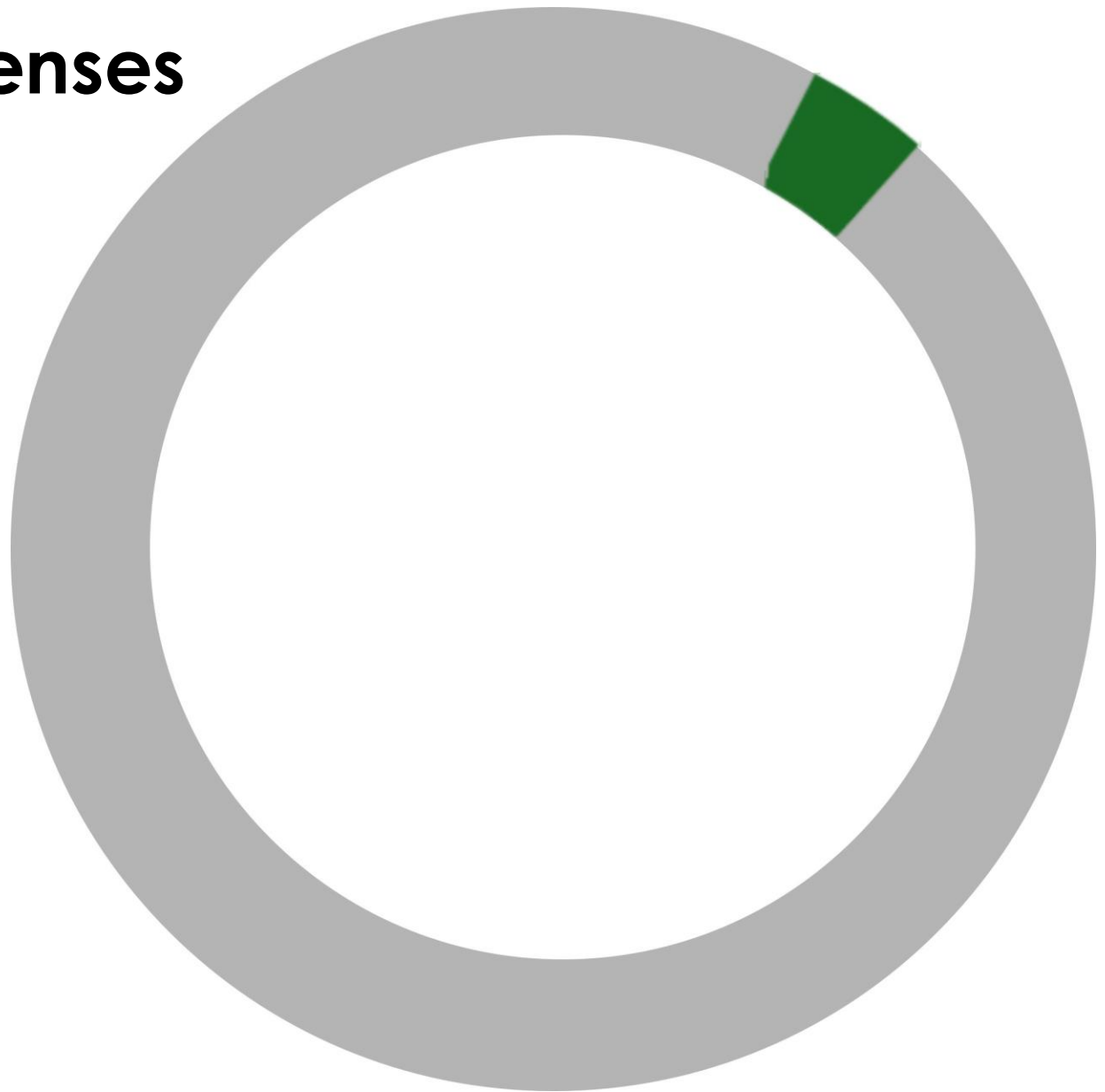
Premises



Our office costs
have stayed the
same as last year.

Office Expenses

£9,918



Office Expenses

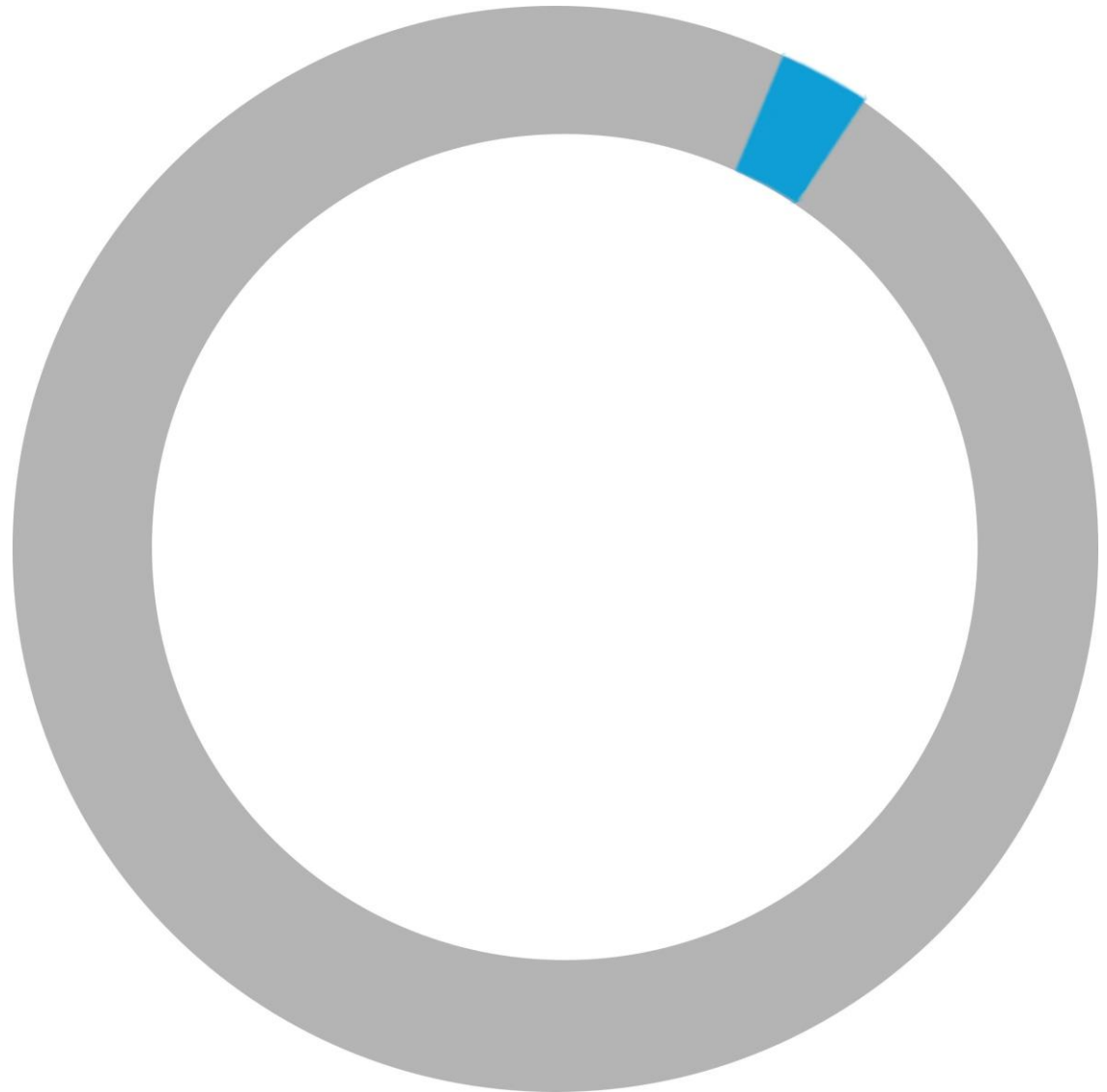


We spent this on:

- Stationery
- Printing costs
- IT and computers

Marketing and Publicity

£7,463



Marketing and Publicity

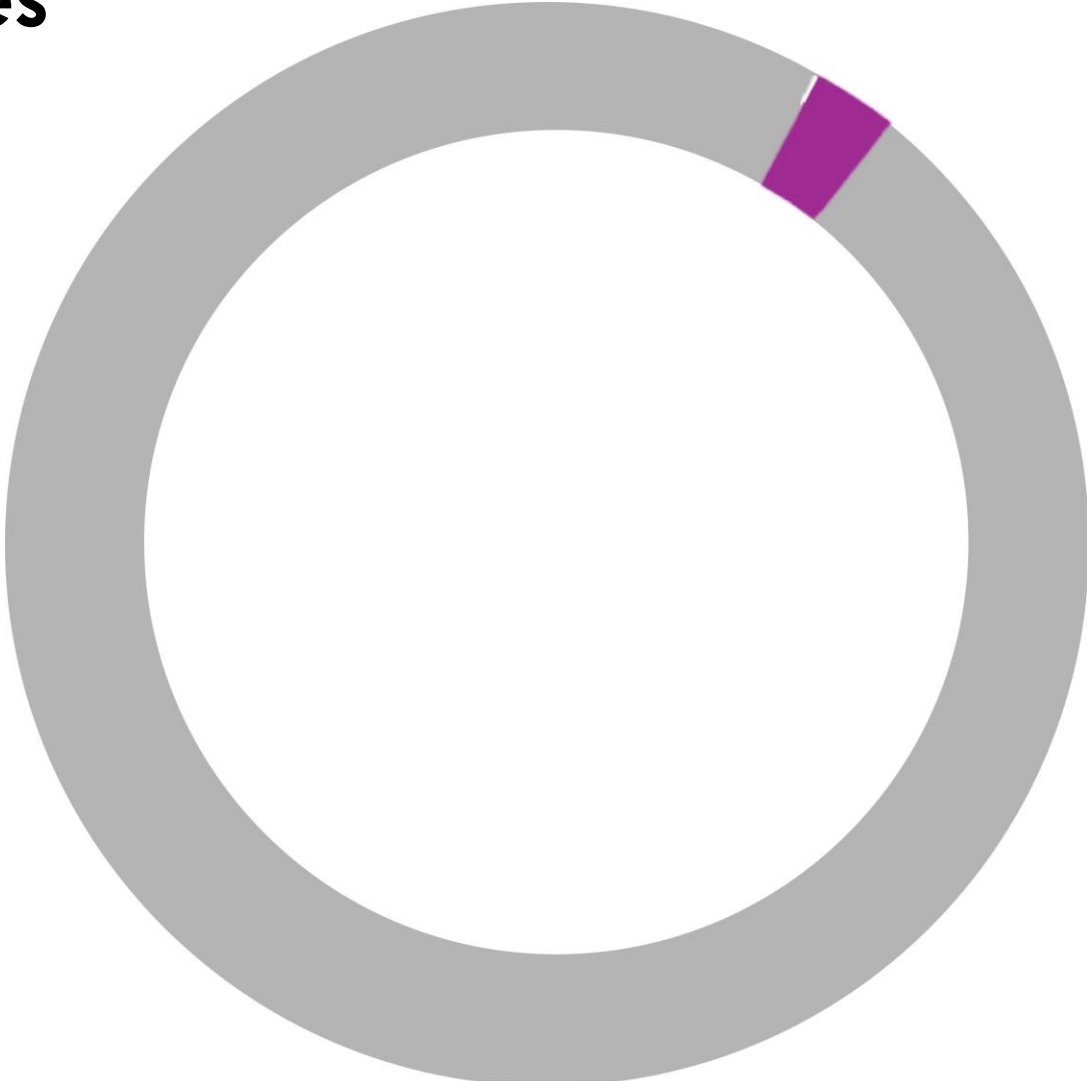
We spent this on printing things like:



- Posters
- Newsletters

Insurance, communication and payroll fees

£6,968



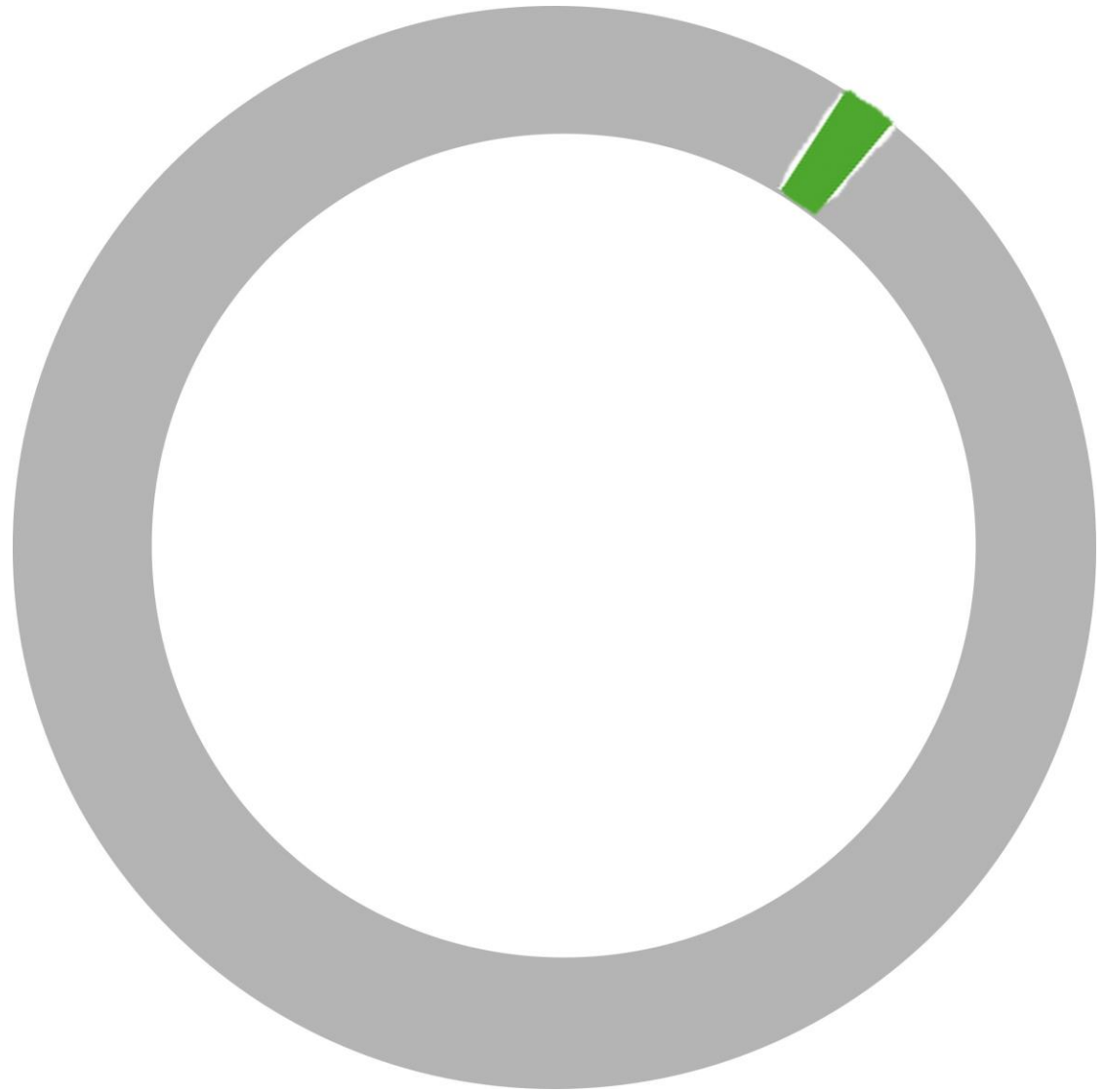
Insurance, communication and payroll fees



We spent this on having insurance (including van insurance), paying payroll fees and things like our work mobile phones.

Travel and training

£4,766



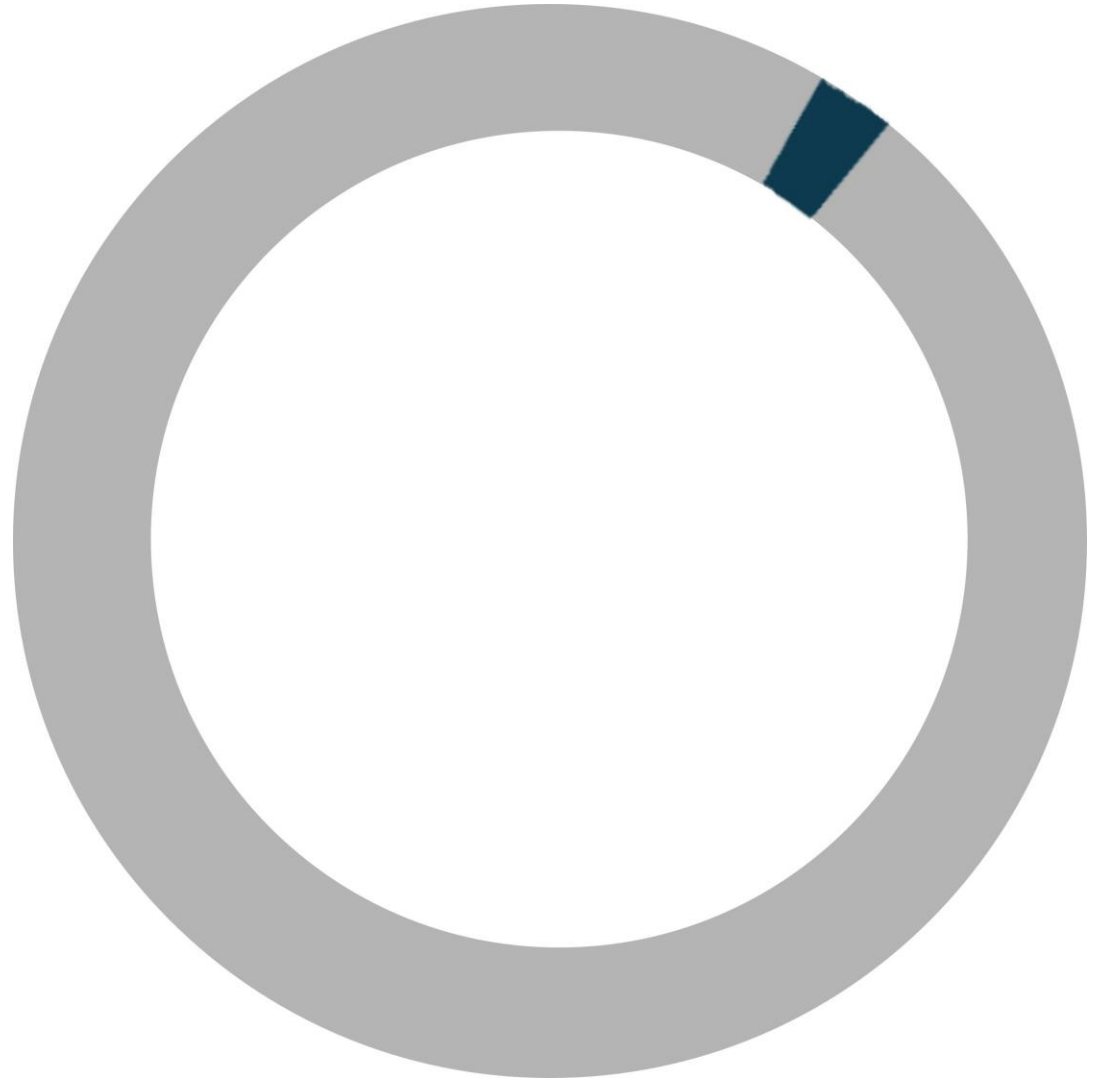
Travel and training



Our staff and volunteers need to travel to different places sometimes and also need training to help them do their jobs well.

Van and computer 'depreciation'

£6,622



Van



Any vehicle goes down in value over time. That is called 'depreciation'. We have lost £6,622 on depreciation of the van and computers.

Other

£9,140



Other

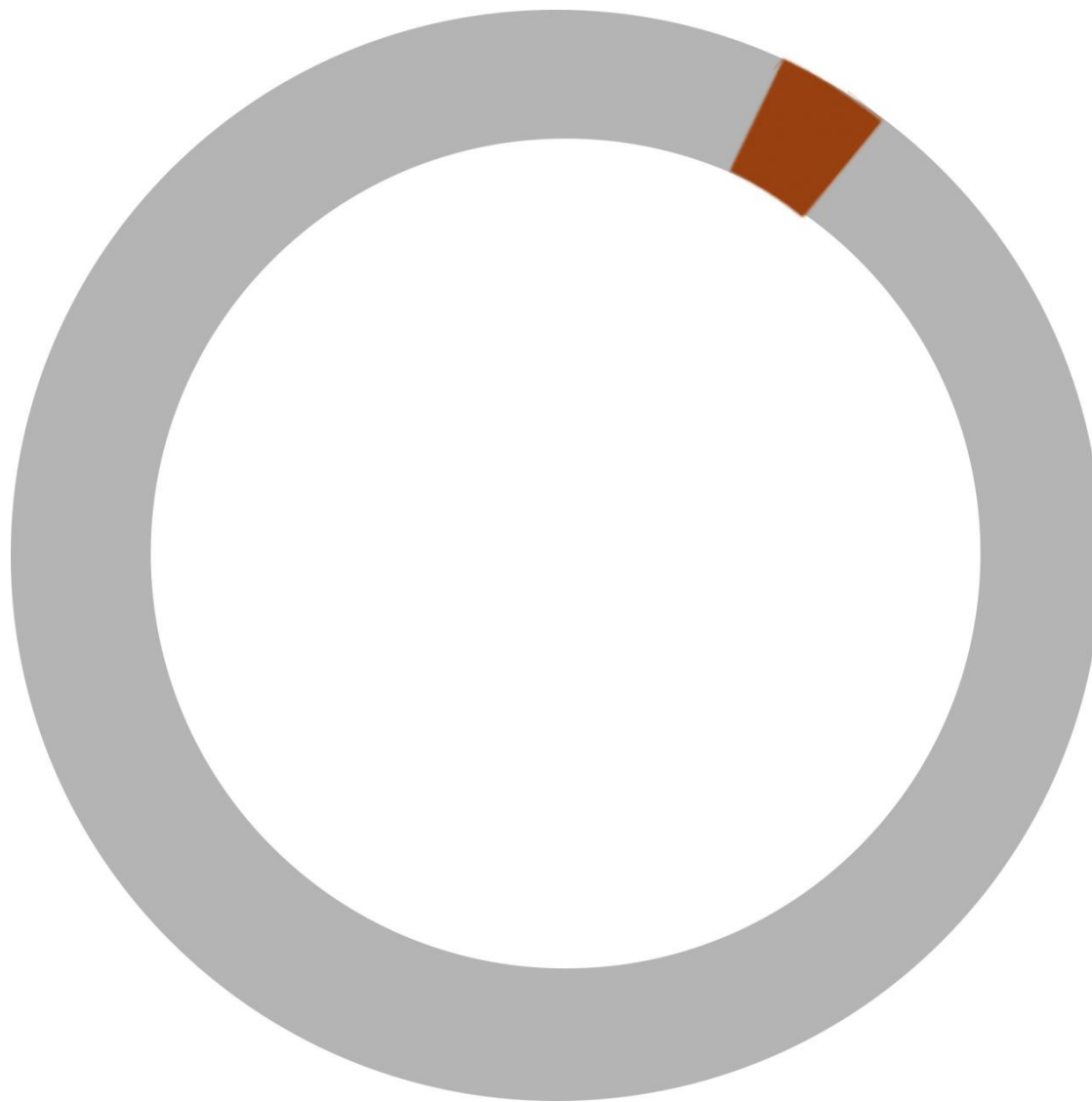


We spent this on other things including:

- Bank Charges
- Subscriptions
- Gift/donations

Governance

£5,862



Governance



We spent this on things we have to do, to keep to the law, for example:

- Our accountants
- Legal fees
- Annual General Meeting



The total money that we spent was **£249,269**.

This is **£38,754** more than the year before.

Money we were given (income) and money we spent (expenditure)



The total money that we got was **£312,637**.



The total money that we spent was **£249,269**.



This leaves £63,368, added to what was left over in the previous year gives us a total of **£168,578**.

Money left



People First Forum has
£168,578 left over.

£18,379 of this is restricted for
On The Move project and
Witness profiling.

£50,000 has been agreed to
be kept for emergencies. This
is called reserves which is like
a savings account.



Trustees

Our Trustees



We had 13 Trustees.



The Trustees help to make decisions about People First Forum. This includes looking at how our money is spent.



The Trustees make sure that People First Forum keeps to the law.



Sadly, one of our Trustees Charlie Sheldrick passed away this year.

Charlie worked hard for People First Forum and will be greatly missed.



Lisa Selby stepped down earlier in the year, so she could become a paid trainer.



Ian Gavin has decided to step down from being a Trustee.

Thank you for working with us Ian.