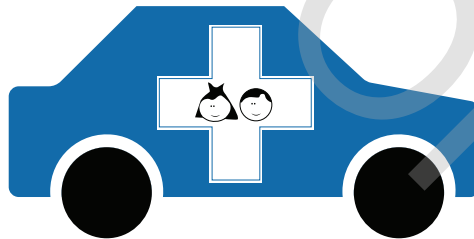


Annual Report 2025 - 2026



TRANSPORT FOR SICK CHILDREN

**A volunteer driver scheme helping transport
children to hospital and clinic appointments**

Transport for Sick Children Limited
Registered Charity No. 1110618 Registered Company No. 5454582

Transport for Sick Children Ltd.
Registered Office:
Suite 338
Stockport Business & Innovation Centre
Broadstone Mill
Broadstone Road
Reddish, Stockport
SK5 7DL

Telephone 0161 443 4122
E-mail: to@transportforsickchildren.org
Web: www.transportforsickchildren.org
Facebook [@TransportForSickChildren](https://www.facebook.com/TransportForSickChildren)
Twitter [@TransportFSC](https://twitter.com/TransportFSC)
LinkedIn : www.linkedin.com
You Tube : www.youtube.com/results?search_query=transport+for+sick+children

Directors

Chair George Stenson

Treasurer Angela Chan

Company Secretary Pauline Cope

Gaynor Kershaw

Eric Houghton (until December 2025)

Julie Baum

Alice Carroll

Staff

Charity Manager

Laura Carter (formerly Chidgey)

Communications & Fundraising Co-ordinator

Marie-Anne Eckersall

Transport Organisers

Linda Yates

Genine Austin

Julie Livesey (left July 2025)

Atlanta Elliott (joined July 2025)

Chairman's Report



I am delighted to report on another successful year for Transport for Sick Children and to reflect on the contribution made by our volunteers, staff and trustees.

Our volunteer drivers continue to demonstrate remarkable generosity and community spirit. During the year, they helped 639 children attend essential healthcare appointments, completing 4,024 journeys and covering 77,095 miles. Behind every journey is a child receiving the care they need and a family being supported at a difficult time.

Our role within the Greater Manchester health and care system remains vital. We help children and families, particularly those facing financial hardship, access essential healthcare when transport would otherwise be a barrier.

The need for our service continues to grow. Research shows that child poverty remains a significant challenge across Greater Manchester, with more than 40% of children living in poverty in some communities. For many families, the cost and practical challenges of accessing healthcare can be significant, making our

service more important than ever.

Thanks to the commitment of our volunteers, staff, trustees, supporters and donors, we continue to make a meaningful difference across Greater Manchester.

During the year, we were delighted to welcome thirteen new volunteer drivers to the organisation. Funding from Stagecoach enabled us to increase our volunteer recruitment advertising, strengthening our capacity, particularly in North Manchester, and allowing us to support more children and families.

Hospital parking continues to be a challenge for our volunteer drivers. We raised this issue with Sir Richard Leese CBE, Chair of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board, and were encouraged by the response received. We will continue to seek solutions that support our volunteers.

I am also delighted to welcome Alice Carroll to the Board. Alice brings valuable experience to our work and has a special connection to the charity. Her mother, Sally Sweeney-Carroll MBE, founded Transport for Sick Children almost 50 years ago, and it is particularly pleasing to see the family's commitment to our mission continuing through Alice's involvement as a trustee.

This year we said a fond farewell to Julie Livesey, who retired after more than eleven years of dedicated service. We thank Julie for her commitment to the charity and wish her a long and happy retirement. We were also pleased to welcome Atlanta Elliott to the office team, where she has quickly become a valued colleague.

Since the year end, we have been saddened by the loss of former Chairman John Sagar and former Treasurer John Adams, both of whom passed away in April 2026. Through their dedication, leadership and commitment over many years, they played a major role in the charity's development, financial stability and long-term sustainability. Their contribution to Transport for Sick Children was immense, and they will be greatly missed.

On behalf of my fellow trustees, I extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved with Transport for Sick Children. Together, you help ensure that children and families receive the support they need at some of the most challenging times in their lives.

George Stenson

Chair of Trustees

Who we are and what we do

Transport for Sick Children (TfSC) is a Manchester-based charity which operates a volunteer driver scheme. Our dedicated team of volunteer drivers give their time and use their own cars to transport accompanied children safely and reliably to hospitals, clinics, and specialist services across Greater Manchester and neighbouring cities.

At Transport for Sick Children, we believe no child should miss out on the healthcare they need due to transport barriers. Since our founding in 1977, our mission is to provide transport to sick children and their families, reduce stress, and make healthcare more accessible despite any financial or social barriers they are experiencing.

Over the past 10 years we have proudly helped more than 10,000 children, completed 60,000 trips and driven over 1.2 million miles. Each trip making a difference to a child and their family.

Our wonderful volunteer drivers, all carefully checked for their suitability to work with children, use their own cars to pick up a child and their carer and drive them to their medical appointment. The driver then waits or returns once the appointment has finished and takes them safely home. Some drivers are out on the road most days and others give their time a few times a month, every contribution makes a huge impact. We supply child car seats and drivers are reimbursed for petrol costs monthly.

Behind the scenes, making the vital link between families, referrers and volunteer drivers is a friendly team in the office. The Support team assigns drivers to appointments and co-ordinates communication between drivers and carers to ensure trips run as smoothly as possible.

What do people say about us...

“Transport for Sick Children has been an enormous and essential source of support for our service users. Many of whom are traumatised and find travelling on public transport difficult as well as parents with financial difficulties and inability to travel to our service location. Providing such a reliable and kind service has enabled service users to attend face to face appointments at St Mary’s enhancing our quality of service and overcoming barriers to the service. Transport for Sick Children is a very efficient, organised and friendly service, their booking and approval procedure is user friendly and notifications are sent expediently. I wouldn’t hesitate to use the service going forward.”

Liam Bardsley, Counsellor for SARC.

What is it like being a volunteer?

“I am so glad I found the charity TfSC. Since volunteering for them I have discovered how much we are appreciated by the people we support. Meeting so many different families and listening to their stories can be truly inspirational and often very humbling.

The charity itself takes such good care of the drivers - I feel valued, appreciated and supported at all times - almost like I am now part of a small community. Trips for me are always flexible and arranged to fit around my lifestyle. The great communication between the team and myself is always friendly and helpful. I would recommend anyone looking for something different to give the office a call and find out if it would be as rewarding for them as it has been for me”.

Suzanne Partington, Tyldesley



Staff and volunteer changes



Judith Oxley

This year brought several changes to our staff team, including the retirements of two much-valued, long-standing Transport Organisers, Judith Oxley and Julie Livesey.

We are incredibly grateful for their hard work, dedication and years of service to the charity: Judith gave an outstanding 25 years, and Julie contributed 11 years.



Julie Livesey



Genine Austin

We are delighted to welcome Genine Austin and Atlanta Elliott as our new Transport Organisers. Both have quickly become valued members of the team.



Atlanta Elliott



Bill Mitchell

We wished a very happy second retirement to our longest-serving driver, Bill Mitchell, who retired in the summer after an incredible 25 years with us.

Thanks to Eric Houghton for his service as a driver and driver representative and welcome to John Molyneux and Peter Roberts who are now our driver representatives and Trustees.



Eric Houghton



John Molyneux



Peter Roberts



Also welcome to Alice Carroll who has now joined us as a Trustee. As mentioned in the Chairmans report Alice brings great public and private company experience and a personal connection to the charity. Alice grew up watching her mother and many dedicated volunteers and trustees grow the charity from humble beginnings on the dining table at home to its first transport organiser and offices in the grounds of Stepping Hill and to where it is now with an excellent team, wonderful volunteers and a strong and vibrant future.

In remembrance of



Sadly, this year we lost two former trustees who made a lasting contribution to the charity. John Adams, our former Treasurer and Chairman, played a vital role in helping the charity become a limited company, bringing both experience and enthusiasm to the process. John Sagar, also a former Chairman, was instrumental in developing the charity from a small office into the organisation it is today. In 2012, he was awarded the Order of Mercy in recognition



of his many years of service to the voluntary sector.

Also remembering volunteer drivers
Denis Edgar and Tony Moore.

Volunteer Update

Welcome to our new drivers who have joined us this year:

Neil Greenwood: Neil covers Rochdale, North, West and Central Manchester trips.

Simon Collins: Simon covers the North and East Manchester trips.

Brian Stewart: Covers our North area, Bolton, Wigan and North Manchester trips.

Colin Clare: Covers our Wigan and North Manchester trips.

Raymond Madanhi: Covers Stockport and central Manchester trips.

Abidur Rahman: Covers North and East Manchester trips.

Chris Waldon: Covers South and Central Manchester trips.

Mike Allen: Covers, Oldham, North, East and West Manchester trips.

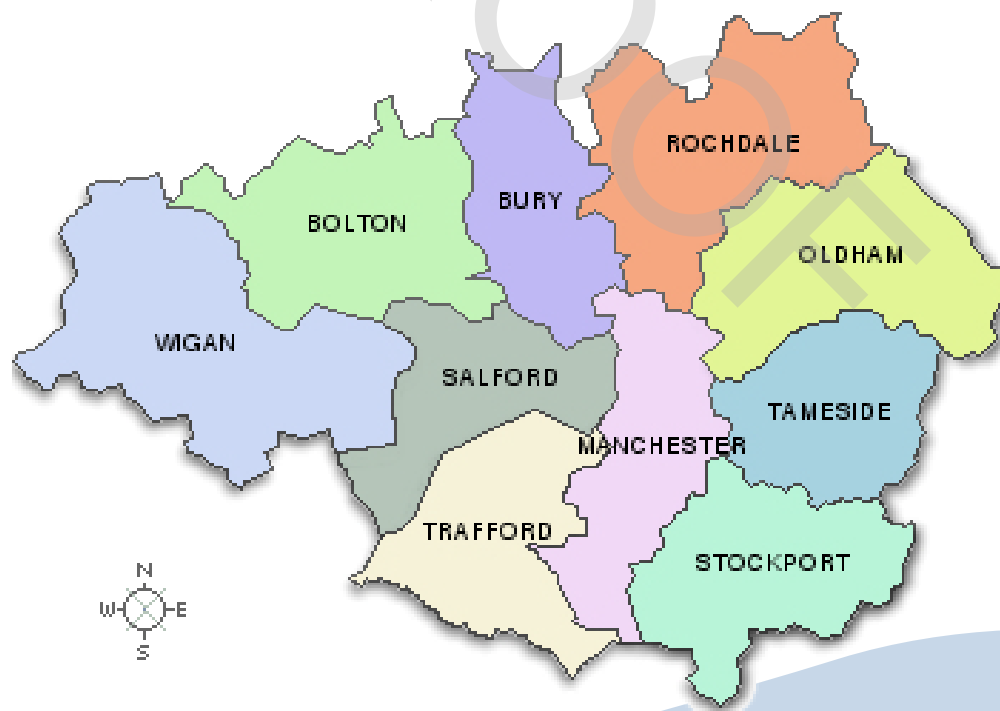
Chris Harrap: Covers Trafford, West and Central Manchester trips.

Kevin Spiller: Covers Stockport and Central Manchester trips.

Colin Pimley: Covers Stockport and Central Manchester trips.

Jim Hibbert: Covers North and East Manchester trips.

John Kelly: Covers Rochdale, North and West Manchester trips.



Events & Fundraising



Thanks to Stagecoach for their generous donation to enable us to fund a large driver recruitment campaign in January. We look forward to partnering with them again in the future.

Photographed: Stagecoach MD Rob Jones, Charity Manager Laura Carter and new driver Simon Collins.

Well done and thank you to Alice, Marie-Anne, Geraldine, Paula, Mike and Freddie for raising a huge £2,470 doing the Tatton park 5k and 10k runs whilst being dressed as cars!

Photographed: Alice, Marie-Anne, Geraldine & Paula.



Thanks to Stockport Business & Innovation Centre for their support with our second Macmillan coffee morning in the centre where we raised £209.04 which was split equally between Transport for Sick Children and Macmillan Charities.

Royal Nawaab evening

A huge thank you to the wonderful team at Royal Nawaab Pyramid in Stockport for giving ten of our families, volunteer drivers and staff team such a special evening during the summer holidays.

Set within the iconic Stockport Pyramid, Royal Nawaab is a truly spectacular venue, a beautiful space where families, celebrations and communities can come together. Their generosity goes far beyond their wonderful Indian and Pakistani cuisine; they have also shown a genuine commitment to supporting local communities and charitable causes. After reaching out to the charity directly, they kindly offered to host a memorable evening for the children and their families.

For our families, the evening meant so much more than a meal. It gave them a chance to relax, enjoy precious time together and, most importantly, watch the children have fun and create special memories.

We are incredibly grateful to Royal Nawaab for their kindness, generosity and warm welcome. Their support means so much to our families, and we cannot thank the whole team enough for making the evening so memorable.



Treasurer's report



The Charity's incoming resources totalled **£177,750** for the year ended **31 March 2026** (2025: **£160,723**).

Income continued to be derived primarily from **NHS ICB funding (92.52%)**, with additional income from **donations and fundraising (2.85%)** and **bank interest (4.30%)**.

Donations and fundraising income totalled **£5,078** during the year, including **£2,765** raised through participation in the Tatton 5k and 10k events.

The Charity continued to benefit from interest earned on cash reserves, generating **£7,639** during the year. While interest rates reduced during the financial year, the Charity's policy of maintaining adequate cash reserves ensured a continued return on funds held. The Charity's need to retain liquidity limits opportunities for longer-term investment, as funds must remain readily available to support ongoing operations and to manage uncertainty associated with future healthcare funding arrangements.

Expenditure continued to be carefully controlled and is reviewed regularly by the Board.

Key expenditure movements

Item	2026 £	2025 £	+/- £
Employment Costs	93,631	88,097	+5,534
Drivers' Mileage	39,641	48,397	-8,756
Rent & Rates	20,244	19,795	+449
Governance Costs	2,756	2,398	+358
Telephone	959	1,121	-162

The Charity recorded a deficit of **£14,758** for the year, compared with a deficit of **£24,190** in the previous year. This represents a significant improvement and reflects increased income together with continued prudent financial management.

Employment costs increased in line with the NHS Agenda for Change pay awards applied to staff salaries. The Charity also continued to invest in publicity and promotion to support the recruitment of volunteer drivers. This investment was particularly important given the ongoing challenges of volunteer recruitment and has contributed to increasing the Charity's capacity to meet demand for its services.

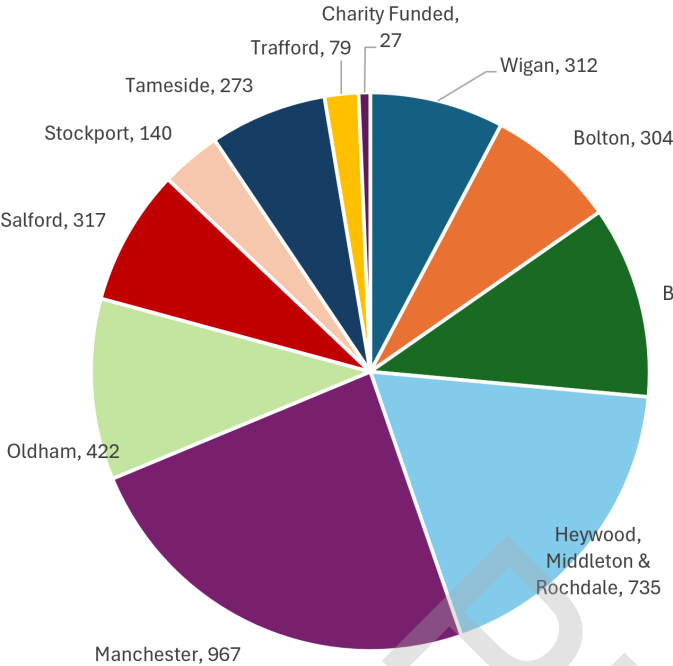
The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that the Charity's resources are managed effectively and continue to be directed towards supporting children and families across Greater Manchester. Looking ahead, the Charity will be exploring opportunities for sustainable growth and expansion, building on the progress made this year and increasing our capacity to support more children and families across the region.

Angela Chan

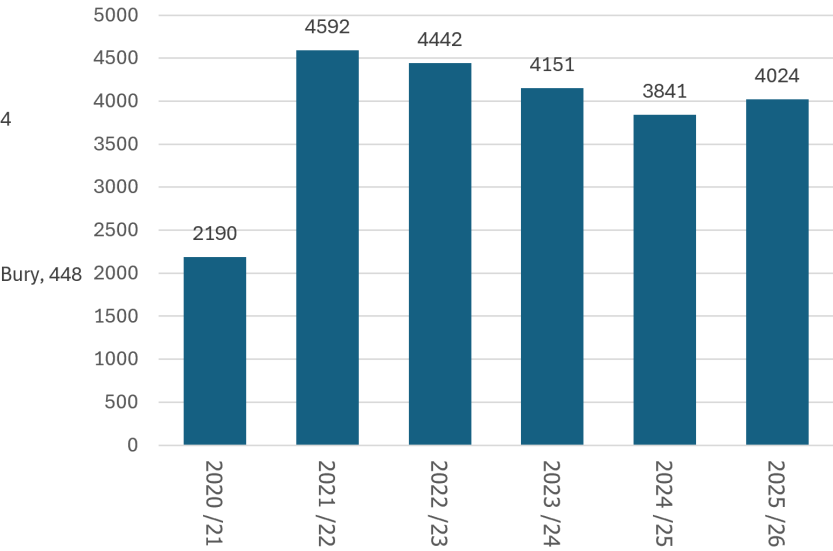
Treasurer

Activity Statistics

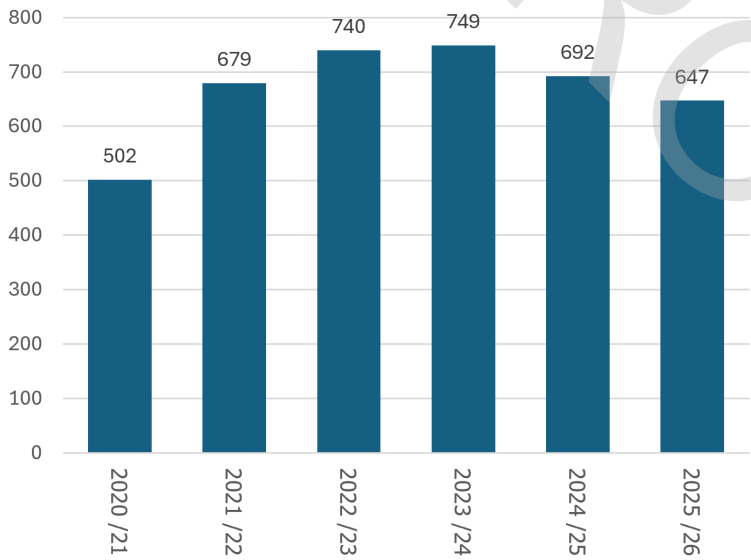
Number of Trips by Locality



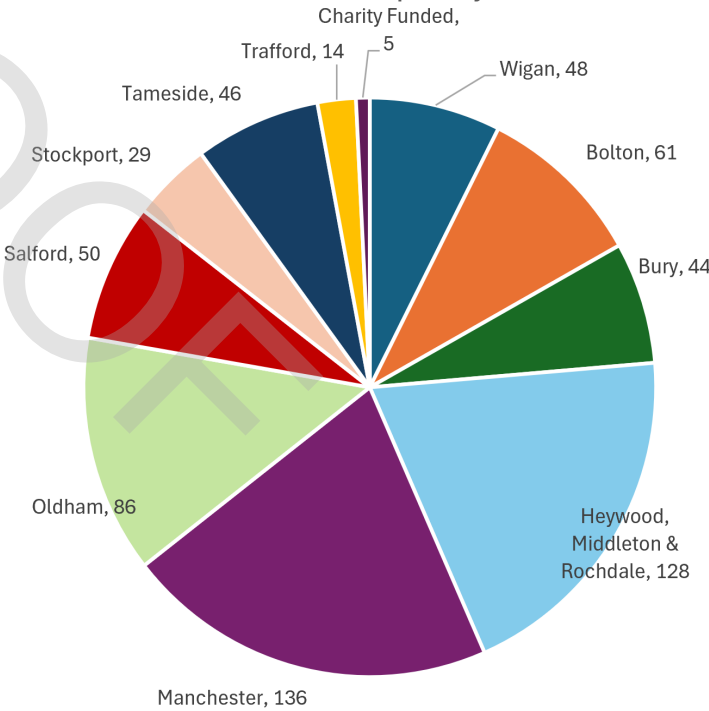
Number of Trips



Number of Children Helped



Children Helped by District



Our Thanks To

Volunteer drivers

Wig Allan
Mike Allen
Julie Baum
Christine Brown
Suzi Brown
Daniel Caldon
John Capstick
Colin Clare
Simon Collins
Michelle Connolly
Ursula Cross
Norman Dale
Keith Edwards
Tony Gaffney
Chris Gatley
Andy Gorman
Neil Greenwood
Brian Harman
Chris Harrap
Jim Hibbert
Paul Horrocks
Eric Houghton
Steve Hyde
Catherine Iddin
John Kelly
Brian Lindon
John Ling
Raymond Madanhi
Harold Mather
Bill Mitchell
John Molyneux
Suzanne Partington
Colin Pimley
Abidur Rahman
Peter Roberts
Helen Slater
David Smithers
Ali Soleimaninezhad
Kevin Spiller
Brian Stewart
Chris Waldon
Maurice Ward
Mike Warner
Stuart Wilson
Bill Wood

Trustee Volunteers

George Stenson
Gaynor Kershaw
Pauline Cope
Eric Houghton
Julie Baum
Angela Chan
Alice Carroll

Domestic volunteer

Brian Ridgway

Donors

Daniel Snape - Convenzis
Matthew Jenkinson
Rachael Ntongo
Alice Carroll
Sally Sweeney-Carroll
Alice Wells- Bradley
Maizeeah Wajid
Wig Allan
Adele Litchfield - Oliver
Levi Rhodes
Dawood & Ziyad Mohammed
Ava-Marie Laurie-McHugh
Ruby Kelly
Oscar Payne
Harry Platt
Brody Lee Allen
Faith Cocker
Hashim
Mohammed Huzifa
Antonia Voidoc
John & Irene Sagar
Stagecoach
Stockport Business and Innovation Centre
BCM Law
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Donors via Enthuse