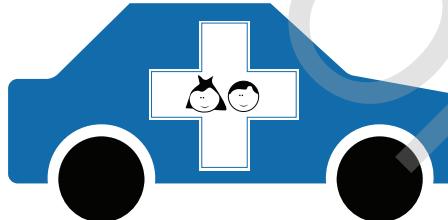


# Annual Report 2024 - 2025



## 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.  
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Web: [www.transportforsickchildren.org](http://www.transportforsickchildren.org)

Facebook @TransportForSickChildren

Twitter @TransportFSC

LinkedIn : [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

You Tube : [www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=transport+for+sick+children](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=transport+for+sick+children)

## Directors

**Chair** George Stenson

**Acting Treasurer** Gaynor Kershaw

**Company Secretary** Pauline Cope

Eric Houghton

Julie Baum (joined November 2024)

Angela Chan (joined November 2024)

## Staff

### Charity Manager

Laura Chidgey

### Communications & Fundraising Co-ordinator

Marie-Anne Eckersall

### Transport Organisers

Judith Oxley (left March 2025)

Julie Livesey

Linda Yates

Genine Austin (joined March 2025)

## Chairman's Report



This year our remarkable volunteer drivers have once again shown the power of kindness and community. Together they have helped 692 children by completing 3,841 journeys to health appointments covering 76,552 miles. Thank you, and well done to all of you.

Transport for Sick Children's role within the Greater Manchester Integrated Health Board is to help children and families access the healthcare they deserve, particularly those with the greatest challenges and living in deprived areas. By making these journeys possible, we are not only supporting children's immediate health needs but also giving them the opportunity for brighter futures and better life chances as they grow and thrive.

We know the need for our work is greater than ever. Research from Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty Coalition shows that Manchester has the third-highest rate of child poverty in the UK, with as many as 37% of children in some parts of Greater Manchester living in poverty. That means 11 children in every classroom of 30 are growing up in difficult circumstances.

Our charity is here to stand alongside those families, removing barriers to healthcare and helping ensure that no child misses out on essential treatment because of transport difficulties.

Thanks to the commitment of our volunteers, the support of our staff, and the generosity of our partners and donors, we continue to make a real difference in the lives of children and families across Greater Manchester.

The current climate means that recruiting volunteers is becoming more challenging each year, with many people working longer and retiring later. We are therefore especially fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers, staff and trustees who give their time and energy so generously.

This year we were delighted to welcome much-needed new volunteers Chris Gatley, Andy Gorman, Wig Allan, Michelle Connolly, Harold Mather, Catherine Iddin and Tony Gaffney. We also warmly welcome our new trustees Angela Chan and Julie Baum, who bring valuable experience and insight to our board.

At the same time, we said a fond farewell to our longest-serving staff member Judith Oxley, who retired in March after more than 25 years of outstanding service. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and commitment over the decades, and we wish her a long and happy retirement. We are also pleased to welcome Genine Austin to the office team, who joined us in March and has quickly become a valued member of the team.

On behalf of my fellow trustees, I wish to thank every single person involved in another successful year for Transport for Sick Children, our volunteers, our staff and our trustees. Your contributions make a lasting difference to the lives of children and families across Greater Manchester, and we are truly grateful.

George Stenson

Chairman

# 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...

'As an Early Support Key Worker, I work with families with children with complex needs. These children can have numerous appointments a week, which not only takes a lot of planning and organisation for families but can be very expensive having to use public transport or taxis.'

Therefore, The Transport for Sick Children Charity, has a significant impact on these family's lives. The charity is extremely flexible and understanding, often arranging transport at the last minute for urgent appointments, and the families always complement the drivers for their kindness and attitude to go above and beyond.

In a very busy, emotional and challenging world, The Transport for Sick Children Charity, gives these families that important respite and reassurance that their transport to an appointment is taken care of. It may sound simple, but it makes such a huge difference' **Lucy Gubbins, Referrer**

'Thank you so much for your team's support. Our patients are always brought to appointments on time and they are all very happy with the service they receive. Just recently one of your drivers supported one of our families during their appointment. They went above and beyond, and we are very grateful for her support. It was a difficult appointment that would have been unable to continue without her. Thank you so much!' **Heena Akhtar, Referrer**

'Thank you so much for your help with the families I support. It is hugely appreciated and really makes a difference to families who have struggled and often had a traumatic time' **Emily Greenacre, Referrer**

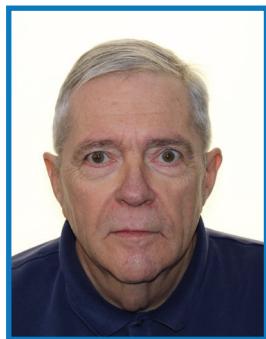
## Just a few of the comments from our online survey over the last 12 months:

'The driver was kind and asked if we were comfortable (warm enough), he dropped us right at the Hospital door and picked us up straight away when we were ready to go home' (March '25)

'5 star service from the driver today! Couldn't have done it without their help. Much appreciated, thanks again for your amazing service' (Dec '24)

'The driver arrived early so we had plenty of time to get to our appointment even though there was some traffic enroute. The driver was friendly, professional and safe and the car was clean' (Nov '24)

## What is it like being a volunteer?



'Deciding to volunteer with TfSC has been one of the best decisions I have made in terms of contributing to a much-needed service to families who require assistance in getting their sick children to hospital. It has very quickly become such a rewarding part of my life.'

If anyone was thinking of volunteering, I would definitely recommend giving it a try and to do something you are passionate about and enjoy'.

Andy Gorman, Golborne

## Long service awards

Congratulations to **Keith Edwards (10 years)**, **Eric Houghton (15 years)** and **David Smithers (10 years)** who all received long service awards at the Christmas party.



# Treasurer's report



## Financial review

The Charity's Incoming Resources totalled £169,598 (last year £160,723) in the twelve months to 31st March 2025. The sources of income were as follows:

	%	
	2025	2024
CCG's	91.81	96.24
Donations/Fundraising	1.64	1.65
Bank Interest	6.39	2.11

Donations totalled £2,778 this year. This included a £400.00 donation from Vernon Building Society and several donations from our Volunteer Drivers and families that use the service. There were cuts to interest rates in August 2024 but remained steady during the financial year resulting in around £10,844 of investment income. The Charity's need to retain liquidity has precluded long term investment, i.e. one year or more, because of income uncertainty due to changes in health care budgets and the requirement to ensure sufficient, ongoing operational funding.

Expenditure has also continued to be well controlled and is reviewed at every Board meeting.

Key changes in the year compared to 2024 are:

	2025 £	2024 £	Difference £
Employment Costs	88,097	77,655	+10,442
Drivers Mileage	48,397	51,541	-3,144
Rent and Rates	19,795	19,446	+349
Governance Costs	2,398	2,461	-63
Telephone	1,121	1,207	-86

The charity has made a deficit of £24,190 compared with a deficit last year of £13,131.

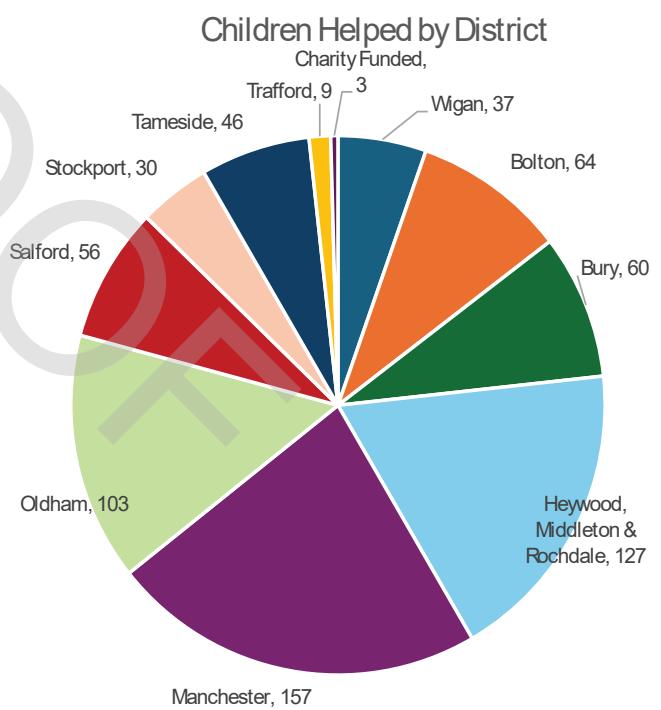
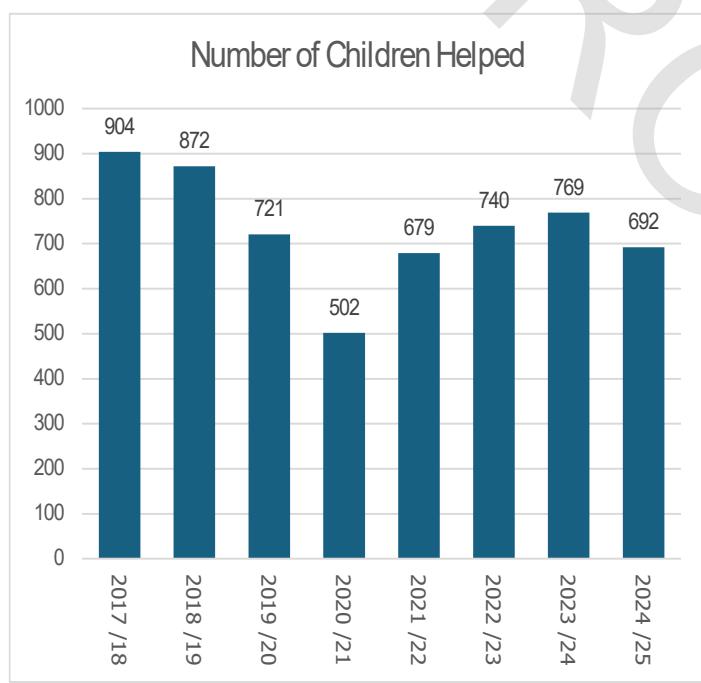
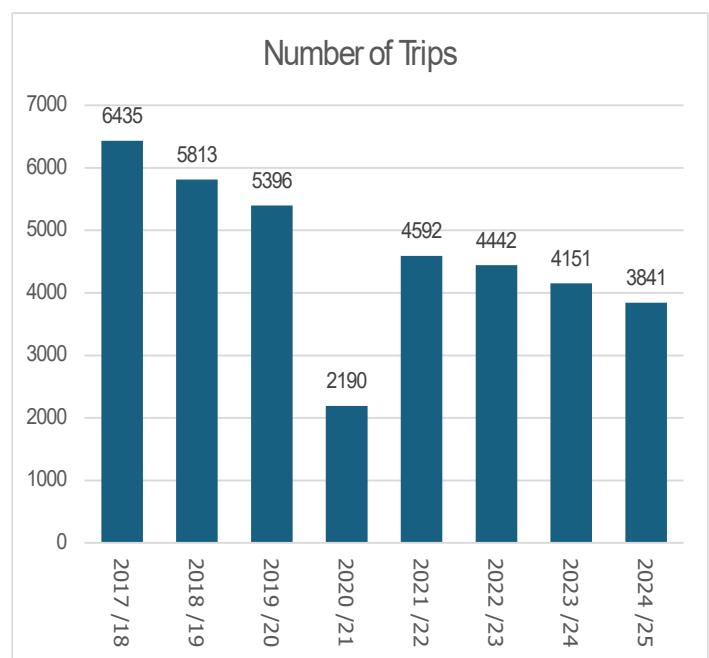
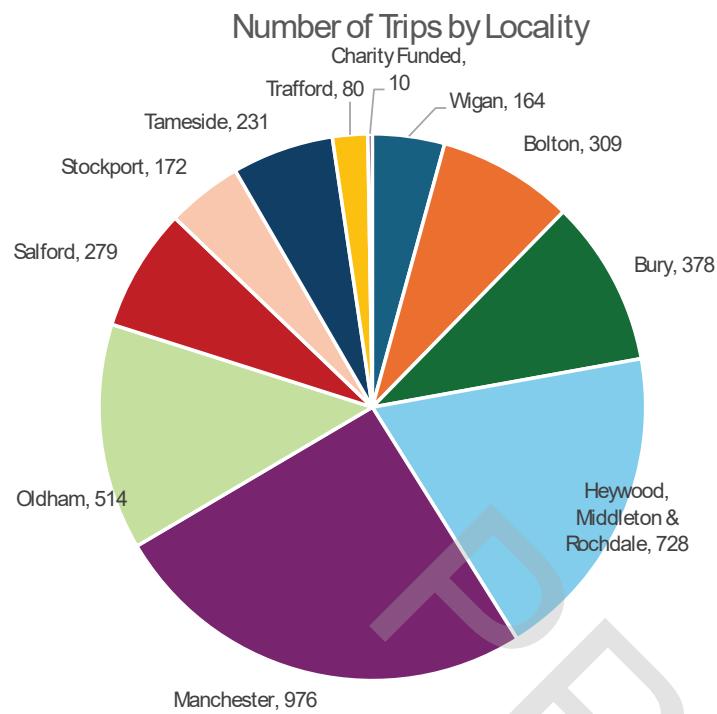
£16,185 of the deficit this year is due to donations made from the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale (HMR) Fund. These funds were restricted for the benefit of Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale resident children. Fourteen HMR charitable organisations applied to the fund, with ten being successful after consideration by the Board receiving donations ranging from £750 - £2,200.

Employment costs also increased in line with the NHS Agenda for Change published pay scales for all staff. The charity continued to prioritise spending around publicity and promotion to recruit more volunteer drivers; this has been desperately needed and will continue into next year.

Gaynor Kershaw

Acting Treasurer

# Activity Statistics



# Our Thanks To

## Volunteer drivers

Karen Adam  
Wig Allan  
Julie Baum  
Christine Brown  
Daniel Caldon  
John Capstick  
Michelle Connolly  
Ursula Cross  
Norman Dale  
Keith Edwards  
Tony Gaffney  
Chris Gatley  
Andy Gorman  
Brian Harman  
Paul Horrocks  
Norman Hignett  
Eric Houghton  
Steve Hyde  
Catherine Iddin  
John Kirkham  
Brian Lindon  
John Ling  
Harold Mather  
Bill Mitchell  
John Molyneux  
Suzanne Partington  
Peter Roberts  
Helen Slater  
Roger Smith  
David Smithers  
Ali Soleimaninezhad  
Maurice Ward  
Mike Warner  
Stuart Wilson  
Bill Wood

## Trustee Volunteers

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

## Domestic volunteer

Brian Ridgway

## Donors

Ibby Rafiq  
Daniel Snape - Convenzis  
Matthew Jenkinson  
Rachael Ntongo  
Alice Carroll  
Sally Carroll  
Alice Wells- Bradley  
Calvin Ward  
Arsala Shahzada  
Zahra Fojar  
Millie Booth  
Jackson Hill  
Wig Allan  
Adele Litchfield - Oliver  
Levi Rhodes  
Dawood & Ziyad Mohammed  
Mohammed Mahmood  
Ava-Marie Laurie-McHugh  
Brodie Lee Allen  
Mackenzie Bates  
Katie Cunningham  
John & Irene Sagar  
Roger Smith  
David Smithers  
Stockport Business and Innovation Centre  
Anonymous donors via Enthuse platform

**"A big thank you to everyone at Stockport Business & Innovation Centre where the charity office is based who helped us to raise £196.76 at our first Macmillan coffee morning. The money was split equally between Macmillan and Transport for Sick Children"**

PROOF

