



# Annual General Meeting 2026

Registered Charity: 1159719

[www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk](http://www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk)

## Statement of Public Benefit...

**When planning the activities for the period the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and other matters. The charity operates in and around Swindon but as funds become available the charity will extend this to the wider community. The Charity provides bereavement support for children and young people.**



## Our Mission...

**At Wiltshire Treehouse, we believe every child and young person should have access to support during their grieving process. We enable those in our local communities to improve the coping strategies, skills and confidence needed to better manage daily life.**



## Trustees Report 2025...

2025 was a financially challenging year for Wiltshire Treehouse and the wider charity sector. Rising costs and increasing demand—particularly for our Family Group programme—required us to expand capacity, secure larger venues, and recruit and train additional volunteers. We also delivered more outreach events across Wiltshire, further adding to costs.

To remain financially sustainable, we redirected resources from our business team, removing the role of community fundraiser. Although a difficult decision, our actions ensured the limited resources we had were focused on frontline services. Despite cost pressures, we delivered better value for money than last year: referrals increased, spending per child decreased, and we expanded both Family Group spaces and outreach sessions.

To reduce reliance on trusts and grants, we strengthened corporate and individual fundraising, forming successful new partnerships within local business networks. We also diversified income by increasing training sales and launching a chargeable one-to-one support service. This service meets a clear need for support outside group settings and has received positive feedback. Thanks to generous donations, a discretionary fund ensures children from low-income families can access one-to-one support free of charge when needed.

Our Trustee board remains strong. Following the departure of our previous Chair in September, we elected an interim chair and recruited two new trustees, maintaining a broad and robust skill set.

We remain committed to youth participation, with one young trustee with lived bereavement experience and continue to run our peer leader programme. In 2025, we reviewed our programmes with children, young people, and parents/carers, leading to improvements such as introducing a 'Now and Next' board for children with SEND and offering simplified worksheet options.

**Helen Pepler**, Interim Chair of Trustees



# 2025: Our Year in Brief



We did it all with **1937** Volunteer hours & 2.5 Fulltime equivalent staff



# Strategic Plan 2025

In 2025 our core operational targets were to:

- Support beneficiaries across Swindon & Wiltshire  
405 CYP supported via advice, family support sessions,  
1 to 1 sessions, 3 Family Groups, 6 NESTs and 1 A Day to Remember.  
We introduced our 1 to 1 service to expand our offer and diversify income.
- Increase volunteer team to ensure services are adequately resourced,  
safe and effective  
More volunteers recruited to deliver family group and support phone calls



# Strategic Plan 2025

In 2025 our core operational targets were:

- Expansion of services into Mid Wiltshire  
Seasonal events including Easter, Summer, Christmas,  
2 NESTs and 1 to 1 work, professionals training in-person in  
Devizes and virtually
- Create a knowledgeable team to ensure services are safe and effective  
Safeguarding training, bereavement training and opportunities to  
shadow/learn other roles
- Support professionals via delivery of bereavement training  
Trained over 300 professionals



✘ We cancelled our aim of exploring pre-bereavement support.

This was because we focused on launching our new 1 to 1 service (designed to meet need and diversify income).

Our pre-bereavement information pack remains accessible on our website



# Your feedback and the changes we made:

You Said:	We Did:
Our community events needed activities for older young people	We made plans for more regular opportunities for young people (starting in 2026)
Children with SEND can struggle with knowing what to expect in Family Group	We created and now use a Now and Next Board
You asked for 1 to 1 support	We introduced a new 1 to 1 service to broaden our offer

**“Thank you for helping me with suicidal thoughts & self harm. I have really felt accepted & seen for the first time since my friend died. Thank you..”**

***YP who completed NEST***

**“He talks about mummy more than before. He is in a completely different place & that’s 100% down to WT. If asked at the beginning what I had expected, it wouldn’t have been the amazing results by the end of the course.”**

***Family Group carer***

# Strategic Plan 2025

In 2025 our core business targets were:

- Income generation & Fundraising, a target of £140,000
- Increase the Fundraising team with a new Community and Individuals Fundraising post
- Increased awareness of Wiltshire Treehouse.
- Engage Wiltshire Businesses
- Expand relationships with Swindon based businesses



## We achieved:

- Target success rate of 34% return on applications.
- We didn't quite make our targeted £140k, but we finished with £124k. A £5.7k surplus on expenditure.
- 16 events delivered across Swindon & Wiltshire.
- We were one of the chosen charities for Swindon Mayor 2025-2026
- 3 new key corporate partnerships established: GXO Iceland, MPB Windows & Doors and The Waiting Room. With ongoing relationships with ZCT, Nationwide and Open works maintained.
- Week 2 Remember Media Campaign, with successful coffee/tea mornings
- Launched our Charity Champions, who form our fundraising volunteers.
- A new website to better reflect our branding and with better functionality



# Charlotte (10) & Harry (7) Cycle to the Beach for Connor Fundraising for Wiltshire Treehouse

A special shout out to Charlotte and Harry, who fundraised for us in memory of their little brother Connor.



**Connor loved going to the beach with us and riding on the back of mummy's bike so we decided we wanted to do both of those things to remember him.**

Last year our 20 month old brother Connor died suddenly. We miss him very very much and we are really sad without him. We will be doing a cycle ride from our home in Swindon to Weston-Super-Mare from 24th - 27th May 2025. All our new friends at Wiltshire Treehouse have really helped us try to understand what happened to Connor and not feel quite so sad. We want to raise money to say thank you to them.



**Grief support for children and young people in Swindon & Wiltshire**

Registered Charity 1159719

#### Did you know?

"Wiltshire Treehouse is a small independent charity that receives no government support. To run our free services throughout Swindon & Wiltshire we depend on the generosity of others."



**We won  
Community  
Group of the  
Year in the  
Stratton Star  
Awards 2025**



# This year (2026) we will...

- ☐ Deliver: 3 programmes for primary aged children in Swindon
- 3 NEST programmes in Swindon
- 2 NEST programmes in Wiltshire
- Summer and Christmas events in Swindon & Wiltshire
- 4 after school sessions in Devizes/Corsham (Wiltshire)
- Deliver our 1 to 1 service in Swindon & Wiltshire
- Launch our youth participation project
- Bespoke training for professionals (at least 3 courses)



# This year (2026) we will...

- Recruit volunteers to support with after school sessions, programmes and fundraising
- Explore training needs of the team and organise as required
- Continue to utilise our local & national partnerships
- Respond to the changing needs of our services users
- Ensure our work continues to reflect best practise and make best use of resources
- Explore new fundraising partnerships
- Increase our visibility across communities



# The Challenges...

- Increasing costs and the challenges of fundraising in a competitive market
- Standing out of the crowd
- Movement within the volunteer team, we continue to actively recruit



**We cannot do it without YOUR support**

**THANK YOU!!**



# Volunteer Recognition of Service Presentations

