

11 June 2026

Social Purpose eNews



Grant-making guidance

In the light of the ever-increasing cost pressures, the Charity Commission have issued new guidance to facilitate greater flexibility for charity grant-makers. This recent guidance, issued earlier this month, gives charities more freedom to award unrestricted grants to other charities.

Core costs, to keep the charity running, are very difficult to secure funding for. The regulator hopes that the new guidance will result in more unrestricted grant funding being issued to other charities. Charities in receipt of this funding will be able to spend the funding on what is needed to keep their charitable services running.

The report sets out **the full guidance** for making grants to charities and other organisations. This includes instruction on the grant-making progress, due-diligence, grant monitoring and grant reporting, the trustees' responsibilities and also highlights the crucial point that charities should only award grants in line with the charity's own purposes – as outlined in their governing document. Lastly, the guidance includes information on how to approach making grants to non-charities and the greater risks in this area.

The uncertain future of charity shops

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) have announced earlier this month that they plan to close 150 charity shops due to an 'exceptionally challenging trading environment'. This represents a significant 23% reduction of the BHF charity shops nationwide. Cancer Research similarly announced last year that they would close 190 charity shops by April 2027.

The reasons for the closures are multifaceted – rising costs, inflationary pressures and changing consumer habits'. There has been a significant shift in consumer habits for second-hand clothes, books, toys and homeware. The success of apps or online platforms such as Vinted, Facebook Marketplace and eBay have significantly contributed to the reduction in charity shop sales. Where in the past, consumers would venture out into the charity shops for a bargain, increasingly they can order low-cost alternatives from the comfort of their own home. This has made the success of charity shops particularly uncertain in this ever-changing landscape of online retail.



Are charities investing enough in legacy fundraising?

In the UK, a staggering 80% of the UK's private wealth is held by the Baby Boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) and their parents. Over the next few of decades, this wealth will be passed on, creating a significant opportunity for charities to benefit from this transfer. Legacy income is an important source of voluntary income for many charities. It is one that is unpredictable but requires dedicated and consistent fundraising effort over the years to encourage individuals to leave a legacy to the charity in their will.

According to the Chartered Institute of Fundraising's 2026 benchmarking survey, which used data from 104 UK charities, 37% of all voluntary income comes from legacies, yet only 15% of fundraising costs are directed towards legacies. Whilst legacy income can be considered for many to be a 'slow burner', it will be a key revenue source for charities in the years to come.

Becoming a charity trustee

The Charity Commission has outlined the important work of a charity trustee in a publication to highlight the benefits of volunteering in the sector. This has been published at the launch of Volunteers' Week in the UK earlier this month. The publication outlines what trustees do, who can become a trustee, and what trustees are responsible for. It also highlights a '[5-minute-guide](#)' on trustee duties.

Becoming a trustee can be beneficial to the individual, not just the charity. A trusteeship can make a difference to a cause close to your heart, develop leadership and decision-making skills, expand professional networks and enhance career prospects. If you want to get involved and become a trustee, the Charity Commission has a [dedicated page](#) where you can get started.



£2.5m recovered by the Regulator from the football charity

The Charity Commission has published its findings for the inquiry into the Players Foundation (formerly known as the Professional Footballers' Association Charity) which opened as a result of concerns about the charity's relationship with the connected trade union, The Professional Footballers' Association.

£1.9m of funds were transferred from the charity's bank account to the union without clear explanation. The significant reduction in their charity cash balances was not spotted by the charity's trustees. This has now been recovered by the regulator. The charity also let the Union reside rent-free in their properties over several years with a value of approximately £627k of unpaid rent. This has now been repaid after the Commission's intervention. There were also notable conflicts of interest as there were trustees of the charity who were also trustees of the union. There were also members of Union senior management who were charity trustees.

The publication demonstrates the critical importance of good governance, oversight and transparency in charities.

The full publication can be read [here](#).

Changes to filing requirements for small companies

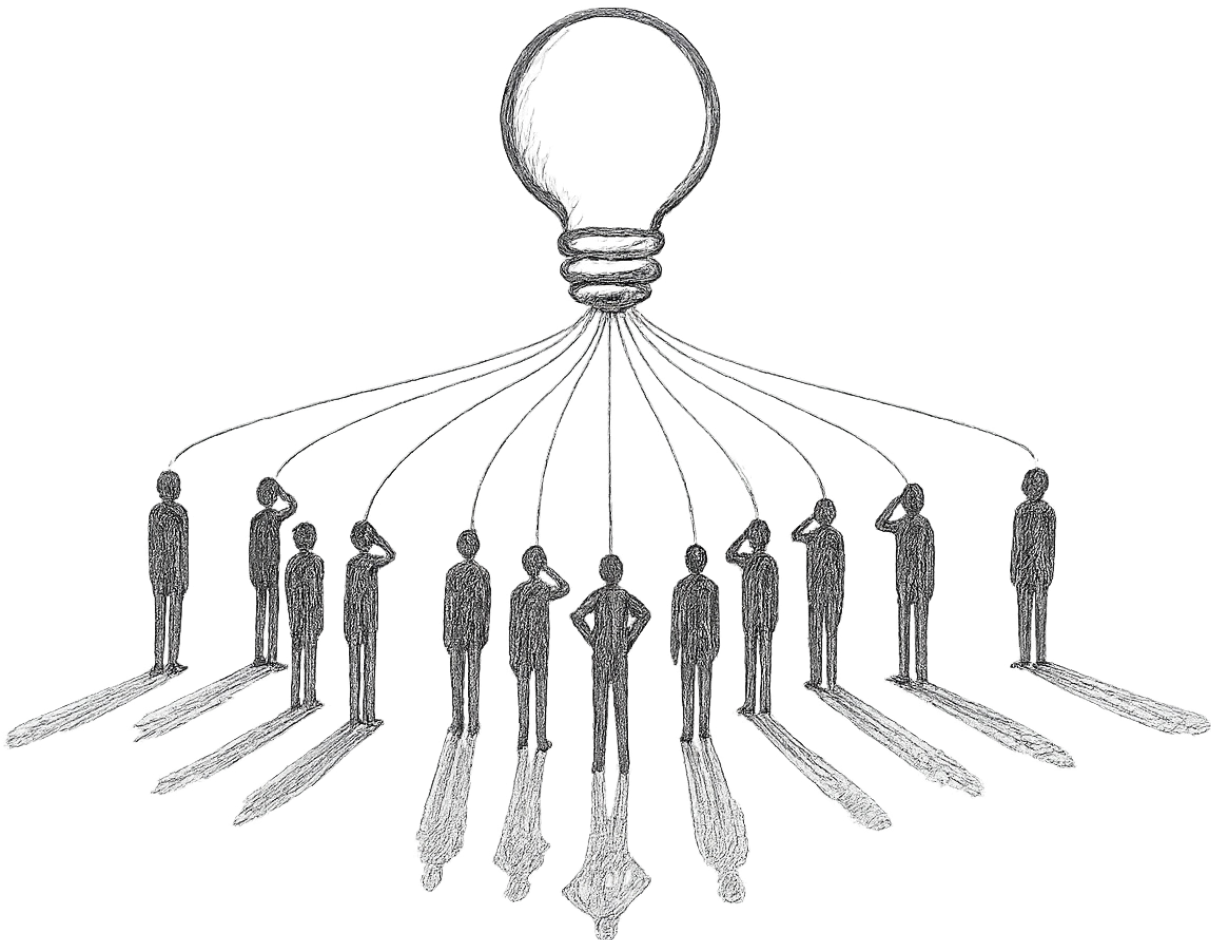
The Government has confirmed this month that small and micro companies will be required to file profit and loss accounts with Companies House. This is a big change as this has never been required before. It has announced, however, that there will be an opt out of publishing the profit and loss account on the public register. It has yet to confirm how small companies will opt out. This will impact charities with small or micro companies which form part of their group, particularly trading subsidiaries. The changes will not be effective until April 2028, so there is time to prepare.

Included in this announcement was confirmation of a few other requirements in relation to small and micro companies. There will no longer be an option of filing abridged accounts for small or micro companies and there will need to be a strengthened eligibility statement for all companies claiming an audit exemption. All of these changes have an implementation date of April 2028. Lastly, Companies House will be requiring all accounts to be filed via commercial software with both the web-filing and post options to be discontinued, there is no mention of any potential exemptions or allowances on this for charities.



Introducing HaysMac's Fractional CFO Service!

As organisations grow, financial decisions become bigger, faster and more complex. But you may not need – or want to invest in – a full-time CFO. That gap can leave leadership teams without the strategic finance support needed to move forward with confidence. We have launched HaysMac Fractional CFO to address exactly that. Find out more [here](#).



Upcoming events programme

Quarterly Charities Update

02 July 2026

10:00 – 11:30

Online

Schools sector summer soiree

23 July 2026

16:00 – 19:00

HaysMac, 10 Queen Street Place, London

SORP: New Trustees Report

16 September 2026

10:00 – 11:00

Online

Schools bi-annual update

17 September 2026

10:00 – 11:30

Online

SORP: Leases - Charities

29 September 2026

10:00 – 11:00

Online

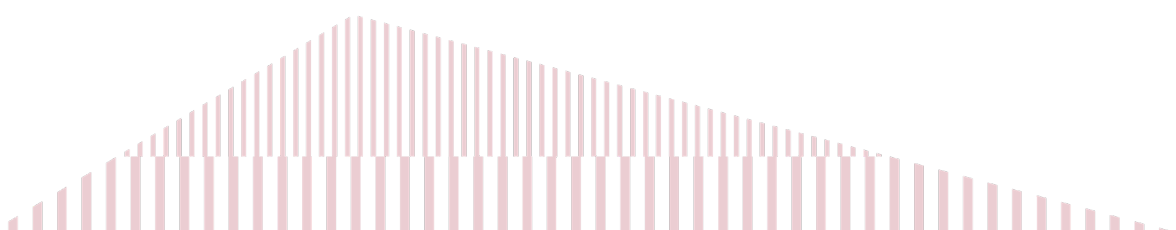
SORP: Charities - Income recognition

8 October 2026

10:00 – 11:00

Online

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Steve Harper at sharper@haysmac.com



HaysMac[★]

10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

T 020 7969 5500
E marketing@haysmac.com

haysmac.com

© Copyright 2026 HaysMac LLP. All rights reserved.

HaysMac is the trading name of HaysMac LLP, a limited liability partnership. Registered number: OC423459. Registered in England and Wales. Registered to carry on audit work in the UK and regulated for a range of investment business activities by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. A list of members' names is available for inspection at 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1AG. A member of the ICAEW Practice Assurance Scheme.

Disclaimer: This publication has been produced by the partners of HaysMac LLP and is for private circulation only. Whilst every care has been taken in preparation of this document, it may contain errors for which we cannot be held responsible. In the case of a specific problem, it is recommended that professional advice be sought. The material contained in this publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means, without prior permission from HaysMac LLP.

