

(FAVOR UK) Annual Report

2024

www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org



A Message from our Chair of Trustees

FAVOR UK is able to report another successful year for the charity as we continue to deliver our mission. As Chair, it is a privilege to witness the transformational impact of our work on people who are too often stigmatised and sidelined in our society. In these pages you will find a range of truly inspiring illustrations of our work whether it is through our advocacy services, campaigning, retreats or the iconic National Recovery Walk. After over 10 years as Chair, it is my intention to step down after a suitable successor has been recruited and I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve. I am grateful to all our trustee's past and present for their commitment, wisdom and the wonderful support they have given me.

Finally, my thanks go to all of our dedicated and highly skilled staff who work tirelessly and our chief executive Annemarie Ward, who continuously inspires us with her energy and commitment.

Jon Royle

Chair Man



Executive Summary from the Chief Executive

2024 was a transformative year for FAVOR UK, marked by significant milestones and an expanded impact. From the landmark Right to Recovery Bill reaching the Scottish Parliament to the growth of our Women's Healing Retreat program, the hosting of the 16th Annual UK Recovery Walk and Conference, and the publication of our comprehensive three-year Advocacy Case Worker Report, we continued to shape a recovery-oriented landscape. Our mission remains rooted in delivering vital advocacy, empowering recovery communities, and tackling systemic challenges—all driven by our unwavering belief that recovery is possible and that everyone deserves access to the resources they need to thrive. These incredible achievements are even more remarkable considering our dedicated team of just three staff members. None of this would have been possible without the invaluable partnerships with our collaborators and the tireless efforts of our passionate volunteers. Together, we are making recovery a reality for countless individuals and families.

In a year that tested the resilience of individuals and communities across the UK, Faces & Voices of Recovery UK (FAVOR UK) stood at the forefront of addiction recovery advocacy, navigating challenges and driving impactful change. From the halls of government to city streets, our message was clear: recovery is not only possible but is a right that must be protected and empowered. With an unwavering commitment to improving lives, our team of lived-experience leaders, advocates, and community partners came together to make 2024 a transformative year for addiction recovery.

Annemarie Ward
Chief Executive



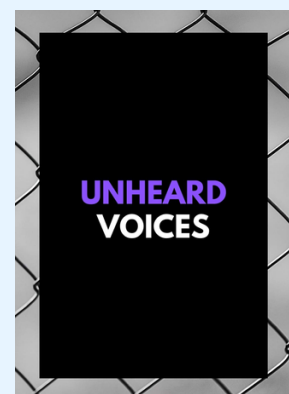
Advocacy and Legislative Successes: A Year of Breakthroughs

One of the defining moments of the year was our successful push for the Right to Recovery Bill in Scotland, a landmark piece of legislation that enshrines the right to addiction treatment. This bill represents a vital shift in how addiction recovery is approached, ensuring individuals have legal access to the care they need. The Right to Recovery Bill coming to the Scottish parliament is not just a victory

for Scotland—it is a beacon of hope, setting a precedent for equitable addiction treatment across the UK. As we move forward, FAVOR UK remains committed to advocating for similar reforms nationwide, striving for a future where every person struggling with addiction has access to the resources they need to recover. You can take part in the consultation on the link below.



www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/stand-up



2024 UK Recovery Walk: Respect and Resilience in Crystal Palace Park



The **2024 UK Recovery Walk**, hosted by **FAVOR UK** (Faces and Voices of Recovery UK), took place in the picturesque surroundings of **Crystal Palace Park**, London, bringing together thousands of people to celebrate recovery, raise awareness, and honor those impacted by addiction. This year's theme, "Respect", highlighted the importance of dignity, compassion, and understanding in supporting individuals on their recovery journeys.

The walk was a powerful and emotional gathering, with participants united in a shared vision of hope and healing. Rather than marching through city streets, the event was centered entirely within Crystal Palace Park, offering a serene and inclusive space for celebration and reflection.



Highlights of the day included:

- **Inspirational Speakers:** Individuals shared heartfelt recovery stories and called for greater respect and accessibility in addiction services, emphasizing the work of FAVOR UK in advocating for change.
- **Live Entertainment:** Music, spoken word performances, and other artistic displays created a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere.
- **Community Stalls and Activities:** Informative stands, family-friendly activities, and spaces for connection fostered a welcoming environment for all attendees.

The theme of "Respect" was woven throughout the day's events, from the stories shared on stage to the collective spirit of the attendees. The event also honored the lives lost to addiction while celebrating the strength of those in recovery and the families and communities that support them.

Set against the beautiful backdrop of Crystal Palace Park, this year's Recovery Walk was a testament to the resilience and unity of the recovery community and a call to action for respect, compassion, and meaningful change.



www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/rw2024





<https://bit.ly/4gi5oJu>



Empowering Communities Through Connection and Stigma Reduction

The UK Recovery Walk 2024 in London was an inspiring highlight, bringing together thousands of people in a collective celebration of resilience, healing, and hope. Celebrating recovery in the heart of the UK's capital, individuals in recovery, their families, and allies came together to challenge stereotypes, promote recovery, and build a supportive community. This year's Recovery Walk not only amplified the voices of those in recovery but also showcased the power of unity in combating stigma and fostering understanding. In a display of

unity and resilience, the UK Recovery Walk 2024 brought together thousands of participants in London, embodying the strength of our community. This event showcased recovery as a powerful and transformative force, breaking stigmas and celebrating every recovery journey. The 2024 conference, featuring Dame Carol Black as keynote speaker, provided vital dialogue on homelessness, addiction, and recovery, reinforcing our commitment to comprehensive, accessible support. You can [read all about it here](#)



www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/rw2024



Women's Healing Retreat: A Safe Haven and Path to Empowerment

Recognising the unique needs of women in recovery, FAVOR UK launched its first Women's Healing Retreat, an immersive three-day experience focused on healing, self-reflection, and empowerment. Held in the serene Scottish Borders and funded by The Volant Charitable Trust, this retreat offered participants a sanctuary to reconnect with themselves and others, away from the

pressures of everyday life. Through a thoughtfully designed program of mindfulness, group support, and self-care, the retreat left a profound impact, with participants expressing a renewed sense of hope and connection. With plans to expand this retreat annually, FAVOR UK is committed to creating safe, inclusive spaces for women to heal and thrive. Read more on the link below.



www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/retreat



Financial Stewardship and Strategic Growth



Amidst rising costs of living, FAVOR UK maintained a steady course, carefully managing resources to support our expanding programs and advocacy efforts. Through responsible stewardship, we maximised the impact of every donation and grant, ensuring our resources directly benefit those we serve. The financial support we received from our generous sponsors and partners empowered us to scale our initiatives, from legislative advocacy to community outreach, setting a strong foundation for future growth. You can see our annual accounts at the end of this report.



**BREAKING
NEWS**



SCAN
ME 

www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/advocacy

The UK's first addiction advocacy case worker service

FAVOR UK's Advocacy Case Worker Project has made a profound impact, supporting 123 individuals and their families through some of the most challenging moments of their lives. From securing 22 life-changing residential rehabilitation placements to resolving complex housing and benefit issues for 20 clients, the project has been a lifeline for many. Our advocacy team worked tirelessly to guide clients through daunting complaint processes, addressing systemic failings and giving them the confidence to assert their rights. By building trusted relationships with recovery groups, statutory

services, and housing organizations, we ensured our clients' voices were heard and respected. Despite encountering significant barriers, including long delays in mental health support and poor integration between addiction and mental health care, our team's determination has shone through, exemplified by transformational stories like T's journey to recovery. This report reflects not just the vital work of advocacy, but the deep connections and meaningful change it can create for those most in need. You can read [our in depth case workers report](#) on our website

Looking Forward:

A Vision for 2025 and Beyond



As we look ahead, FAVOR UK remains steadfast in our mission to transform the landscape of addiction recovery and advocacy across the UK. Building on the momentum of 2024, we are poised to take on new challenges and opportunities, expanding our reach and impact in the coming year.

The success of the Right to Recovery Bill in Scotland has set a powerful precedent, and our focus now shifts to advocating for similar legislative protections nationwide. We will continue to work with policymakers, communities, and stakeholders to ensure that recovery is not just an aspiration but a legal right for everyone. Through strategic campaigns and consultations, we aim to embed recovery-oriented systems into public health frameworks across the UK.

The profound impact of our Advocacy Case Worker Project has shown the critical importance of providing tailored, hands-on support for individuals navigating systemic barriers. In 2025, we will work to scale these services, ensuring that no one is left behind. By fostering new partnerships and securing sustainable funding, we aim to expand our reach, offering more people the guidance and advocacy they need to access life-saving resources.

The overwhelming success of the Women's Healing Retreat has inspired plans to make this an annual, nationwide initiative. By increasing participant capacity and introducing culturally tailored programs, we hope to support an even broader spectrum of women in recovery. With a strong emphasis on empowerment and holistic healing, these retreats will continue to be a cornerstone of our commitment to inclusivity and community connection.

The UK Recovery Walk remains a flagship event, celebrating resilience and breaking down stigma. In 2025, the walk will move to Wolverhampton or Solihull, further spreading the message of hope and unity. Alongside this, our annual conference will delve deeper into critical topics like addiction, mental health, and recovery policy, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of thought leadership in the sector.





Empowering Lived Experience Leadership

At the heart of everything we do is the principle of lived experience leadership. In 2025, we will focus on strengthening this foundation by providing training and development opportunities for individuals in recovery, equipping them to lead and inspire others. Initiatives like Our Stories Have Power and Recovery Ally Training will continue to amplify the voices of those with lived experience, fostering a culture of understanding and collaboration.



A Commitment to Collaboration

Finally, FAVOR UK will deepen our partnerships with recovery organizations, statutory services, and community groups, recognizing that collective action is the key to creating lasting change. Together, we will build a recovery-oriented society that values compassion, equity, and resilience.

As we embark on this journey into 2025 and beyond, our vision remains clear: a future where recovery is accessible to all, free from stigma, and celebrated as a cornerstone of community well-being. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to make this vision a reality. Together, we are stronger. Together, we recover.

Thank You

To everyone who has been part of this journey, thank you for standing with us in 2024. Your support is more than just generosity; it is an investment in a future where recovery is a right, not a privilege, and where every voice in the journey to recovery is heard, respected, and empowered.

Annemarie Ward

CEO

Financial Overview

This year, FAVOR UK saw a steady influx of donations and grants that supported our expanded programs. Revenue from unrestricted and restricted funds allowed us to sustain core advocacy services, execute high-impact events, and continue to build new initiatives like the Women's Healing Retreat. Despite inflationary pressures, our careful stewardship enabled a balanced financial outcome, positioning us for future growth.

Faces & Voices of Recovery UK
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 30 April 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	4	6,899	-	6,899	8,666
Investments	5	365	-	365	165
Other	6	96,340	69,000	165,340	131,956
Total		103,604	69,000	172,604	140,787
Expenditure on:					
Other	7	68,425	85,521	153,946	128,804
Total		35,179	(16,521)	18,658	11,983
Net gains on investments			-	-	-
Net income	8	35,179	(16,521)	18,658	11,983
Transfers between funds			-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		35,179	(16,521)	18,658	11,983
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		35,179	(16,521)	18,658	11,983
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		68,585	16,521	85,106	73,123
Total funds carried forward		103,764	-	103,764	85,106



Scan this QR code or visit the URL below to view the 2024 accounts

www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/accounts

Conferences



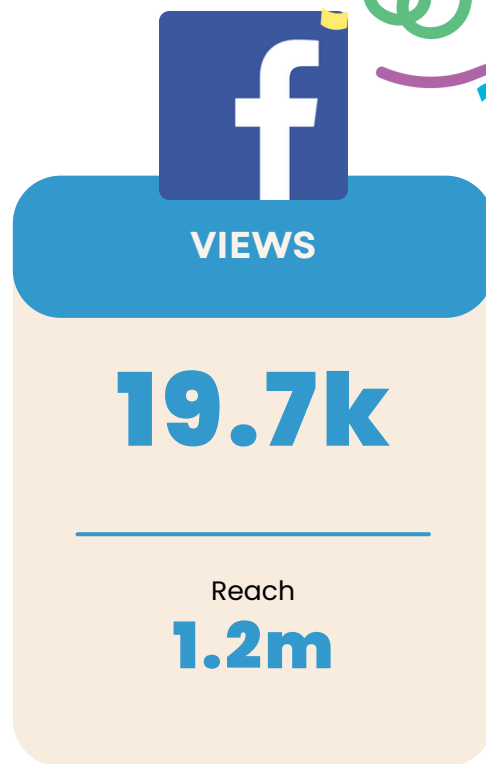
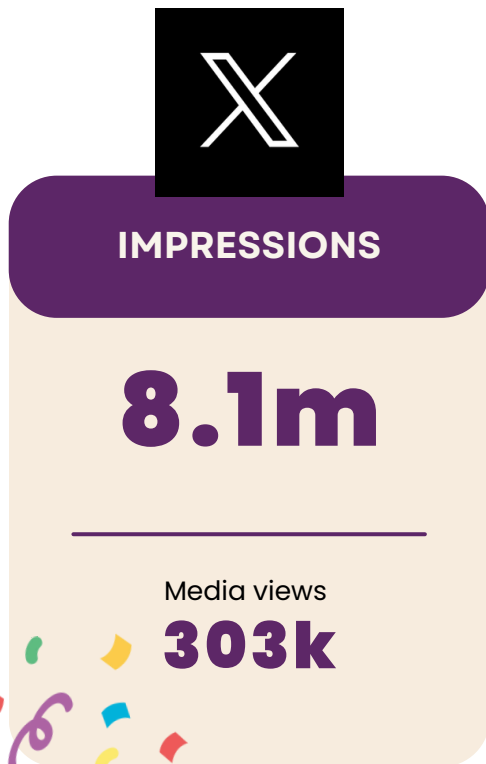
Visit our link below to watch FAVOR Conferences on our website. Topics include **Disrespect & Stigma in Addiction, Respect for Self & Self-Care in Recovery, Respect for Others & Being of Service in Recovery, and Keynote Speech**

The 2024 **FAVOR UK Annual Conference** was held at the historic Hyde Street Methodist Church, a venue deeply rooted in the history of recovery. As the site of the first mutual aid meetings in the UK, it provided a meaningful and inspiring backdrop for this year's gathering.

This year's conference brought together a diverse group of advocates, policymakers, and individuals with lived experience to discuss critical issues surrounding addiction and recovery. The program featured thought-provoking keynote speeches, including one from Dame Carol Black, as well as workshops on topics such as trauma-informed care, legislative progress, and the integration of lived-experience leadership into recovery services. The event served as both a celebration of recovery and a call to action, inspiring attendees to continue their work toward a society where recovery is accessible, supported, and celebrated



www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org/conference-links/



21,540 total followers, with LinkedIn showing the largest growth.
The combined total of **9,995,365** views and reach
Overall Reach: **10 million**

Recovery Coach Academy UK

At FAVOR UK, we believe in empowering individuals and communities to champion recovery and reduce stigma around addiction. Delivered in partnership with the wonderful team at **Recovery Coach Academy UK**, our Recovery Ally Training equips participants with the tools to become advocates and allies for those in recovery. It fosters understanding, empathy, and actionable strategies to support people in overcoming addiction and building a life of wellness.

The "Our Stories Have Power" (OSHP) Training, also delivered by Recovery Coach Academy UK, is a transformative program that teaches participants how to harness the power of personal stories to inspire change, advocate for recovery-focused policies, and dismantle stigma.

Through this training, individuals learn to craft and share their narratives in ways that drive meaningful conversations and policy changes.

We are thrilled to celebrate the impact of these programs, having trained 508 individuals in Recovery Ally Training and Messaging workshops and 132 individuals through the OSHP Training. This milestone reflects the growing movement of recovery advocates committed to making a difference. Together, with our partners at Recovery Coach Academy UK, we are changing perceptions and fostering hope. Thank you to everyone who has joined us in this vital work!

OSHP TRAINING

132

INDIVIDUALS
TRAINED

508





Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

Faces & Voices of Recovery UK
Charity No. SC043961

The Trustees present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2024.



Scan this QR code or visit the URL below to view the 2024 accounts

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