The year in summary

Northgate Community Trust runs four buildings across the borough: the Halls Road centre, two youth spaces and the riverside workshop. This report covers the twelve months to 31 March 2026 and was approved by the board on 14 July 2026.

Headline figures

People who used a Trust building	18,420
Registered volunteers	312
Volunteer hours recorded	41,600
Total income	1,284,000
Total expenditure	1,171,000
Free reserves at year end	268,000
Months of free reserves cover	2.7

What changed

The riverside workshop reopened in October after an eleven month refurbishment. Youth provision moved from two evenings a week to four. Grant income fell 9 percent against the prior year and earned income from room hire rose 22 percent.

Where the money came from

Grants, restricted	486,000
Grants, unrestricted	214,000
Room and workshop hire	298,000
Donations and regular giving	142,000
Trading, cafe and shop	119,000
Investment and other	25,000

Where it went

Youth and family services	392,000
Buildings, energy and maintenance	311,000
Workshop and skills programme	188,000
Staff, central	164,000
Fundraising	71,000
Governance and audit	45,000

A note on energy

Halls Road gas and electricity cost 84,000 this year against 61,000 in the prior year. The board has approved a fabric-first survey of all four buildings for the coming year.

Programme results

Youth and family

Four evening sessions a week, up from two. 640 young people attended at least once, and 214 attended more than ten times. Referrals from schools rose from 38 to 91.

Riverside workshop

Reopened October 2025. 148 people completed a six week skills block. Of the 96 who were job seeking at the start, 51 were in work or training six months later.

Warm rooms

Open six days a week from November to March. 3,900 recorded visits, 41 percent by people over 65. Delivered with the borough council and two local faith groups.

Food

The Thursday pantry served 122 households a week on average and redistributed 29 tonnes of surplus food that would otherwise have been waste.

Governance and plans

The board

Nine trustees, of whom three joined during the year. The board met six times with an average attendance of 87 percent. Finance and audit committee met four times.

Risks the board is watching

Grant concentration: the largest single funder represents 21 percent of income.
Reserves cover of 2.7 months sits below the policy target of four months.
Halls Road roof: survey due, provisional estimate 190,000 over two phases.

Plans for 2026 to 2027

Hold youth provision at four evenings and add a Saturday morning session.
Complete the fabric-first survey and publish a costed decarbonisation plan.
Grow unrestricted income to 30 percent of total, from 27 percent this year.

Independent examination carried out by Marchmont & Hale, chartered accountants.