

SAFER PLACES

England & Wales · Charity number 1018832

Details

Other names	HARLOW WOMENS AID LTD, WOMENS AID - HARLOW AND BROXBOURNE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02789572
Registered	1993-03-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Po Box 2489 Harlow CM18 6WZ
Phone	03301025812
Email	info@saferplaces.co.uk
Website	www.saferplaces.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE DISTRESS AND SUFFERING AMONGST PEOPLE LIVING WITH OR FLEEING FROM OR AT RISK OF DOMESTIC ABUSE INCLUDING STALKING AND HARASSMENT; TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR THEIR FUTURE BENEFIT; TO EDUCATE THOSE WHO WORK WITH VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO PROVIDE SOCIAL HOUSING FOR THOSE SUFFERING, FLEEING, OR AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING AND HARASSMENT.

Activities: The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse. To ensure the safety, improve the quality of life, and reduce repeat victimisation for the survivors of domestic violence, by providing a comprehensive service of advice, support, education and training and immediate access to our safe accommodation when required.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Essex
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£4,365,906	£4,451,783	£2,114,511	66
2024-03-31	£4,162,285	£4,082,804	£2,099,687	59
2023-03-31	£3,953,748	£3,783,405	£2,086,676	54
2022-03-31	£3,409,729	£3,174,039	£1,829,935	51
2021-03-31	£2,983,274	£2,837,907	£673,723	46

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Claire Ruth Arnold		2021-05-25
Dr Melanie Boyce		2025-09-01
Greg Davies		2025-09-01
Jayelene O Callaghan		2025-09-01
Martina Talbot-Rice		2024-02-28
Matthew Owen		2026-03-30
Sureiya Pochee		2025-09-01
Tracy Fisher		2024-03-16

Accounts

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Regulator of Social Housing number	4761

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Governing document	The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
Known as	Safer Places
Registered office	The Latton Bush Centre Southern Way Harlow Essex CM18 7BL
Auditors	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Billericay Commercial Centre Lloyds Commercial 89 High Street Billericay Essex CM12 9AT
Trustees	• Douglas Wildey • Gift Kapswara (resigned 15 April 2025) • Lorraine Larman (resigned 9 July 2025) • Sian Chambers • Claire Arnold • Sean Carroll (resigned 21 May 2024) • Martina Talbot-Rice • Tracy Fisher
Secretary	Tracy Fisher

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

Chair's Introduction

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present our Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2025. These have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act and serve as both a Directors' Report and a reflection of our ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability.

The past few years have posed significant challenges for the communities we serve, the public sector organisations we partner with, and for charities across the UK—including Safer Places. As public services undergo radical reform to meet evolving demands, charities are facing unprecedented pressure. The volume of individuals seeking support has grown, and the complexity of their needs has deepened.

For Safer Places, this has meant supporting a growing number of clients with complex, severe, and enduring needs, in addition to those arising from domestic abuse. We have done so with reduced real-term funding, as inflation has significantly outpaced increases from commissioners and funders.

Despite these challenges, we are pleased to report that we ended the financial year in a stronger position than anticipated. This outcome is the result of several key developments:

- **Strengthening Governance:** We enhanced our Board of Trustees and established three subcommittees focused on risk, finance, investments, efficiency, and governance. This has led to improved oversight and stronger support for our Senior Management Team.
- **Growth of Safer Places CIC:** Our training arm, Safer Places Professional Training and Development Community Interest Company, continues to thrive. The CIC delivers high-quality domestic abuse related training to professionals across the UK and beyond, and generating vital income to support the delivery of our refuge and community services.
- **Improved Occupancy Rates:** We made strategic changes to our safe accommodation, increasing suitability and accessibility. Enhanced assessment and admission processes have also helped us maximise availability and responsiveness.
- **Support from the Postcode Lottery:** A generous donation has provided essential financial support as we reshape our services to meet changing client needs.
- **Operational Efficiencies:** We achieved savings through improved procurement and tighter budget management.

Looking ahead, 2025/26 presents new challenges. We were unsuccessful in securing continued funding from Essex County Council for safe accommodation services. The procurement process required collaboration with providers covering areas beyond our reach. Despite our efforts to form partnerships, other providers declined to collaborate, opting instead to pursue funding for services we have delivered in Essex for over 50 years. With limited time and resources to expand our accommodation footprint, we were unable to submit a viable bid. As a result, there are currently no safe accommodation spaces available in Mid or West Essex, reducing access for victims in these areas.

However, we have retained and upgraded our existing accommodation, and—thanks to the support of Harlow and Chelmsford District Councils—we are now delivering services through a new, integrated community response model. This approach aligns more closely with our core principle: to reach and support all victims and survivors based on risk, need, and choice.

I would like to extend huge thanks to my fellow Trustees, our Senior Management Team, and all staff and volunteers for their unwavering dedication to Safer Places and the people we serve. I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable support of our partner agencies, funders, and the individuals who continue to champion our work through provision of partnership services to mutual clients, supporting donations and advocacy.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

Structure Governance and Management

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of Safer Places and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C and Safer Properties Limited.

Safer Places is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Charitable Company is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (Reg No 4761).

Our governing documents are our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Trustees are elected from our membership at our Annual General meeting. Our Trustees serve for a period of three years and then stand down or seek nomination and re-election. In line with good governance guidance Trustees do not normally serve for more than three terms. However, it was agreed that Douglas Wildey continue as a Trustee since he brings a level of specialist expertise to the board which is highly valued and would be difficult to replace.

Our membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives set out in our Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Trustees shall admit to membership of the company. An application for membership may be approved or rejected by the Trustees. The Trustees have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

We welcome nominations from organisations who are members of Safer Places.

Safer Places has no prohibition on clients becoming Members or Trustees providing they are able to meet the eligibility requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of these roles.

It is the policy of Safer Places to ensure that all Trustees are eligible and have sufficient and appropriate skills to serve. All members wishing to become Trustees undergo a competency-based selection process and are required to complete a Declaration of Eligibility and a Declaration of Interests annually.

Once appointed Trustees participate in an induction process which, includes induction to the company as well as to the role of Trustee. Ongoing training relevant to the role of Trustee is provided.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Safer Places for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Housing SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Group and charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Our Trustees are also responsible for the following:

- Setting the strategic direction of Safer Places, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and meeting the needs for which it was established.
- Ensuring Safer Places complies with company and charity requirements.
- Ensuring that Safer Places does not breach the rules set out in its governing documents and remains true to its charitable purpose.
- Making sure Safer Places complies with all requirements of other legislation, which govern the activities of the company.
- Preventing the misuse of company funds or assets.
- Ensuring that company funds and assets are used reasonably and only in the furtherance of the company's objectives.
- Avoiding any activity that might place the company's assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Taking special care in investing the company's funds or borrowing funds on behalf of the company.
- Using their personal skills and experience to ensure the company is well run and efficient.
- Considering getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the company or where Trustees may be in breach of their duties.

Day to day management of Safer Places is delegated to the Chief Executive who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets at least five times per year.

Staff attend Board Meetings and advise on all matters but do not vote.

Statement on the registered social housing provider's internal control systems

The Board takes an active interest in all internal control and corporate governance matters, and aims to meet the highest standards. The Board accepts the principles in the National Housing Federation Code of Governance, which go well beyond internal financial control.

This statement is confined to internal financial control. Internal financial control means the controls established in order to provide reasonable assurance of:

- the safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or dispositions; and
- the maintenance of proper accounting records and the reliability of financial information used with the company or for publication

Statement

The Board acknowledges its primary responsibility for the company's system of internal financial control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. However, such a system can only provide reasonable and never absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board has established, and intends to continue development of, key procedures designed to provide effective internal financial control. These are the high-level procedures and processes by which the Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

The company's internal financial control and monitoring procedures include:

- clear responsibilities on the part of line and financial management for the maintenance of good financial controls and the production of accurate and timely financial management information
- the control of key financial risks through clearly laid down authorisation levels and proper segregation of duties
- detailed monthly budgeting and reporting of income and expenditure, with regular review by management of variances from budgets
- reporting on compliance with financial controls and procedure (for the year end) by external auditors.

These reports are reviewed by the Finance and the Board prior to the use of interim and annual reports.

Code of Governance and Governance and Financial Viability Standard

Safer Places has adopted the Charity Governance Code as it best reflects the objectives and aims of the organisation as a registered charity. The Board undertake a 5-year external audit against the Charity Code of Governance and review the compliance internally on an annual basis. We can report that there are no outstanding actions or non-compliance against the code and the outcome of the prior audit was that the auditor considered the charity to be well governed.

The Board confirms Safer Places is compliant with the Governance and Financial Viability Standard.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Safer Places are:

“The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse, including stalking and harassment; to provide education for their future benefit; to educate those who work with victims of domestic violence and to provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing, or at risk of domestic violence, stalking and harassment.”

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Safer Places vision is a society where everyone lives a life free from fear and abuse.

Mission

Safer Places exists to drive down the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual abuse and to support those who use our services in their journey to recovery, resilience and independence.

Values

These are the values we promise to uphold so we never lose sight of our mission:

Client Led – We empower our clients to exercise choice and control of their support. We ensure client's voices are heard and that they impact our decision making and shape our services

Accessible – We work inclusively with our clients, partners and communities. Anyone who is at risk of experiencing abuse can access our services when, how and where they need them.

Respectful – We adopt a trauma informed, holistic approach to support. We listen and believe, are non-judgemental and open and honest about what we can and cannot do.

Effective – We deliver high quality services that work for our clients. Our practice is informed by our clients, research, evidence and learning from experts by experience.

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Review of 2024/25

There have been some welcome changes implemented in 2024/5 because of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the additional funding provided to the sector and for children as victims in their own right, but the full impact is not yet being realised as many of those services with a statutory duty to act together and respond differently to victims are facing almost impossible barriers due to the current funding crisis coupled with the dismantling of the infrastructure of our public services during many years of austerity which have left them unable to bounce back and in need of radical reform. The desperate shortage of social or affordable housing in many areas where we deliver services means that even though committed to prioritising victims of domestic abuse most victims will face excessive periods in temporary accommodation, sometimes many years, before being able to settle and rebuild their lives. Only when dealing with the national housing crisis is well underway will councils be able to fulfil their duties. And only when other fundamental changes and the rebuilding of other agencies with statutory duties under the Act happen will it be possible to fulfil the great promise of the Act and the policies which underpin it.

We started 2024/25 with a budget deficit knowing we would have to bid for funding for our Essex services and with a full agenda in terms of our plans for the year. In year two of our strategic plan, we continued to focus on our strategic themes:

1. We reviewed how we spend our money to ensure best value

- We implemented a comprehensive cost review programme in relation to facilities expenditure to better manage refuge supplies and stock. Although we spent more on our accommodation, we made substantial efficiency gains and completed the upgrading of most of our accommodation and facilities. Our accommodation portfolio is now of a much higher standard and is fit for purpose and able to meet the needs of the diversity of people we aim to reach and support. This has meant we have been able to accommodate people who we might have had to turn away or who would have declined our safe accommodation because it did not meet their needs and this in turn has led to higher occupancy and more rental income achieved per available unit.
- We streamlined the assessment and admission process for all our services so the time from referral to accommodation in a refuge or provision of other forms of support improved. This led to higher occupancy rates and a better response to clients and partner agencies.
- We made progress on acquiring single unit accommodation allowing clients to pay utilities direct.
- We extended the length of stay in our accommodation to reflect the fact that residents were being moved into temporary accommodation due to the housing crisis and we reached agreements in principle with Harlow and Chelmsford councils to use accommodation in Essex that was no longer funded by Essex County Council to deliver new models of service for people presenting for support with housing in those areas. In Harlow we are providing an alternative to standard temporary accommodation for vulnerable women and children fleeing from or at risk of domestic abuse with on-site multiagency support and in Chelmsford we are providing an accommodation based service which affords victims presenting to the council as homeless due to domestic abuse with the opportunity to have a short admission to our accommodation to be safe whilst considering their options. Many women who come into safe accommodation return to their original home or home area within the first month and this return is generally unplanned. This service provides the opportunity for the woman to fully consider her options and to be provided with information she needs to be empowered in her decision making. If she decides to return home, then at least she can do so on a planned basis with enhanced multiagency measures in place to maximise safety.
- We have reviewed our utilities suppliers and made both cashable and non-cashable efficiency gains including for example achieving much better internet performance on many sites.

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- We lost income on one of our private rental properties due to problems with tenants and the letting agent we were using. This led to significant legal costs to secure eviction and loss of rent. We have, however, upgraded the property and the asset value has risen significantly. We have learned a good deal and agreed that we will not use a letting agent again in the foreseeable future. We are currently marketing two of our properties with a view to reinvesting in other properties which will not only provide an income to Safer Places but the opportunity to enhance our accommodation offer to be more inclusive of the different needs of different groups.

2 - Deliver a gold standard trauma informed, evidence based, inclusive service that meets individual needs

We have:

- Achieved WAFE accreditation.
- Reviewed our Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion offer and put in place plans we are continuing to implement. In 24/25 we targeted our recruitment to achieve a better match between the client groups we are supporting and our staff group and today we have a much more diverse workforce with for example 21% of our staff sharing language and culture with clients we support.
- Undertaken an extensive needs assessment of all adult clients within our service and identified the extent to which we are meeting their needs and where we need to improve and fed this into our plans for 2025/26.
- Conducted an audit of all our services to identify the extent to which service delivery at the client level is consistently underpinned by our cultural standards: Safeguarding, Trauma Informed Practice, Equality Diversity and Inclusion and Client Centred support and fed the results into our plans for 2025/26.
- Started a review, informed by staff feedback and focus groups, to streamline processes and reduce administrative workload on support workers to free time to direct face to face client support. This work will complete mid 25/26 though improvements are being made on an ongoing basis.

3 - Support the Community Interests Training Company to generate income to provide added value to our frontline services, enhance the reputation and reach of both organisations

We have:

- Developed and launched the first accredited qualification in the UK for the Children workforce who are victims of domestic abuse. This training has been cited as best practice by the Governments Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Developed the UKs first accredited qualification for those who provide support to those living in refuges and other safe accommodation
- Continued to grow the organisation, appointing additional staff and developing new training products and packages and providing a surplus provided to Safer Places to enhance the delivery of services to clients which equates to the running costs of 12 units of safe accommodation
- Reviewed our internal training and CPD offer and implemented new arrangements to ensure that learning improves practice and practice informs learning, taking advantage of the synergy between Safer Places services and the provision of training *By the Frontline for the Frontline*

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4 - Recruit, retain, develop and support staff to deliver excellent services

We have:

- Improved our recruitment processes and changed the workforce mix such that it better reflects those who use our service
- Reviewed our induction supervision and appraisal processes and ensured integration between CPD and future organisational needs
- Invested in succession planning and provided opportunities for staff to gain experience in areas outside of their normal job role. Through secondments and temporary changes to job roles for those whose potential for promotion is evidenced by their performance in their established role, we have enabled those aspiring to more senior roles to extend or increase their existing competencies and experience.
- Undertaken regular staff surveys and focus groups and established quarterly in person whole staff briefings
- Reviewed pay and terms and conditions of employment and improved both across the board whilst recognising that in 25/26 we need to further enhance the pay of certain roles and to provide a better career path for practitioners

5 - Ensuring the estates portfolio is fit for purpose for current and future demands

We have:

- Reviewed the configuration of the properties we have and identified those we will relinquish to provide alternative properties of different types and in different areas to better match the needs of those we serve.
- Expanded our provision for those with alcohol and substance abuse needs concurrent with their experience of domestic abuse through our partnership with Druglink providing an additional 4 units of accommodation taking the total to 8.
- We have completed almost all planned refurbishment of our properties to offer excellent accommodation to the diversity of groups we serve.

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Our Beneficiaries and Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees are aware and mindful of the Charities Commission guidance. Safer Places has delivered public benefit in line with the objects and activities of the organisation through the delivery of our core services.

Over the last year Safer Places has delivered Public Benefit in line with the objects of the charity in the following ways:

To relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from domestic abuse including stalking and harassment

Full details about the people who use our services and their needs, and their achievements that we have supported them to reach can be found in the following: Safer Places Client Needs Assessment and our Impact Report which can be found on our website [SaferPlaces.co.uk](https://www.SaferPlaces.co.uk)

The following provides a summary of our activities delivering services to our beneficiaries and the activities of our subsidiary, Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC (SPPTDcic), which generates income for investment in our client services for the benefit of our beneficiaries.

Our core service

The number of new clients (single adults and families) referred into the service in the 2024/25 financial year was 1,446

We were able to support 69% of those.

The most common reason for being unable to support a family being referred for refuge was that we did not have a suitable place available and this was most often because we did not have accommodation that was large enough for the family or that was in a place where it was safe for the family to be or because they had particular needs that we can usually accommodate, such as for ground floor accommodation, but that we did not have a suitable unit not already occupied on the day they were referred. During 2024/25 we have substantially upgraded and reconfigured all our accommodation to provide a better match with the profile of those referred. While most of the refurbishment was completed in 2024/25, we will complete the remainder in the first quarter of 2025/26 and will also be looking to acquire further properties in areas where people who we might previously have had to turn away can live safely.

We have been unable to provide outreach support to community clients living in the areas where we have refuges and safe accommodation in Essex although we are able to do so in Hertfordshire as we have funding from the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner. However, we have been able to maintain our Women's Centre in Harlow which provides support to women living in that community and have around 40 women using that service at any one time.

Our clients came from a range of ethnic backgrounds:

66% described themselves as British.

35% from non-British backgrounds.

25% from non-white backgrounds.

Urdu was the most spoken language after English.

During the year we continued, with some success, to diversify our workforce attracting candidates from the communities that share culture and language with our non- white British clients. 23% of our staff members identify as being from non-white British backgrounds and 9 speak several of the languages spoken by our largest groups of clients who do not have English as a first language.

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Clients who had a stay in our safe accommodation during the year provided the following responses to the following questions about how they felt when they first entered the service:

- Staff were welcoming and knowledgeable: 71% strongly agreed, 29% agreed.
- The accommodation is suitable to my needs and circumstances: 48% strongly agreed, 50% agreed.
- I have felt safe living here: 68% strongly agreed, 29% agreed

We asked questions of all our clients at the end of their engagement with our services (whether Refuge / safe accommodation or community-based) and the results were:

- Ability to exercise choice and control: 72% said this improved a little, or a lot.
- Relationship with children:
 - of those with children 62% said their relationship with their children had improved a little or lot, 36% said it had remained the same and for 2% it had got worse
- Mental health improvement: 73% said this improved either a little, or a lot.

SPPTDcic

Over the past financial year, our training subsidiary 'Safer Places Professional Training and Development' has experienced significant growth and continued success in delivering specialist domestic abuse training for professionals, as well as raising awareness within the wider community. The demand for our training services has increased markedly, reflecting both the growing recognition of domestic abuse as a critical safeguarding issue and the quality and relevance of the programmes we provide.

We have expanded our reach across multiple sectors, delivering training to a broad range of professionals including those in health, education, social care, law enforcement, and the voluntary sector. Our sessions are designed to build confidence and competence in identifying, responding to, and supporting those affected by domestic abuse. Feedback from participants remains overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting the practical value, sensitivity, and expertise of our trainers.

During the year, we launched several new training packages, including courses focused on coercive control, trauma-informed practice in the context of domestic abuse, safeguarding, self-care for domestic abuse professionals, and working with children and young people affected by domestic abuse. These additions reflect the evolving needs of frontline professionals and our commitment to evidence-based, survivor-informed training content.

Our growth has also enabled us to expand our team of specialist trainers, all of which bring extensive frontline experience in domestic abuse support. This ensures that the real-world context remains central to our training delivery. Additionally, we have invested in digital learning solutions, allowing us to offer both in-person and virtual training to meet the varying needs of organisations and learners. This flexible approach has helped us to reach professionals in more remote areas and to support organisations with limited capacity for face-to-face training.

Beyond professional training, our subsidiary continues to deliver awareness-raising workshops and campaigns within the community. These initiatives have helped to challenge stigma, improve public understanding, and encourage early intervention and help-seeking among those affected by domestic abuse.

Financially, our training subsidiary has performed strongly, generating increased income that has contributed positively to our group's overall financial position. Surplus income generated from training delivery is reinvested into our wider charitable work, enabling us to support more survivors and continue our advocacy and prevention activities.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to developing new training offers, building strategic partnerships, and continuing to advocate for a society where professionals and communities are better equipped to understand, prevent, and respond to domestic abuse.

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Value for Money (VFM)

Each year the Charity used a range of data to measure VFM progress against the housing sector. The results help influence investment decisions and provide the regulators and other stakeholders with information on the progress of the Charity, whilst also ensuring compliance with the regulatory VFM standard. The charity has measured itself against the Acuity smaller providers 2023/24 results.

Metric	2025	2024	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	54.21%	63.63%	2.70%	Safer Places holds its housing stock on operating leases. Fixed assets represent the value of improvements carried out and, additions therefore represent a greater proportion of book value.
New supply % (social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year.
New supply % (non-social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gearing	(535.4)%	(508.4)%	17.3%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	N/A	N/A%	200%	Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit, which was nil for 2025.
Social Housing Cost Per Unit	£17,436	£14,372	£6,447	The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base.
Operating Margin (social housing)	(12.40)%	(17.50)%	15.52%	The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing loss of rent through vacancies.
Operating Margin (overall)	(2.60)%	0.41%	18.52%	
Return on Capital Employed	(5.33)%	0.79%	2.53%	Whilst the lease-based housing provision means Safer Places has lower level of capital employed, the nature of its income streams and activities means it generates a lower return than organisations providing solely housing.

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Reserves policy

It is the policy of the board to provide sufficient reserves to:

- Ensure continuity of provision for a limited period in the event of a large variation in income in order that further income can be sourced or a reduction in service planned and implemented so as to minimise risk to our clients.
- Pay the annual sums associated with reducing the deficit for which we are responsible related to our membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Provide a refurbishment fund so that we can sustain our continuous planned upgrade and refurbishment programme.

Reserves will therefore be held:

1. Working Capital – with sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating at current service level for a period of three months
2. Refurbishment – to undertake a rolling programme to sustain the quality of our accommodation and services.
3. Property acquisition - the Trustees are currently reviewing refuge requirements across operational areas and are considering investment to improve provision of services in key areas.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. Like many charities, in the mid to long term the organisation must also face the challenge of ensuring adequate funds are available to meet the obligations of its defined benefit pension scheme. We continue to hold assets necessary to manage the fund however the pension obligations remain volatile. The economic conditions again prove challenging not just for the Charity but for the client base and we continue to take action to support clients on financial matters as well.
2. To sustain and enhance income related to the training subsidiary in order to provide enhanced services to the stakeholders.

Safer Places Investment Policy

The board of Safer Places has made the decision to sell the existing investment properties held in the year 25/26 as part of a strategic review of the company's investment strategy. The funds will be reinvested in alignment with the organisation's strategic aims for 2025-2028. Cash funds on reserve continue to be placed on fixed term deposits according to best rates at the time.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

Review of Financial position

During the financial year, Safer Places continued its strategy of investing significantly in accommodation, resulting in substantial improvements to the quality and condition of the majority of its properties. This programme of investment, while yielding positive outcomes for service provision, contributed substantially to an operating deficit for the Group of £113,000 (2024: surplus of £79,000). However, after accounting for investment returns and financing costs, the Group recorded an overall surplus for the year of £104,000 (2024: surplus of £93,000). A comprehensive review of the organisation's investment strategy will be undertaken during 2025/26 to ensure continued alignment with strategic objectives.

Income from social housing improved against the prior year, with a modest increase following a review of accommodation provision and referral processes to better match client needs. Social housing income for the year was £1,174,313 (2024: £1,021,911).

The Group's cash position decreased by £202,432 during the year, primarily due to the anticipated operating deficit resulting from strategic reinvestment activity. Investment properties were valued at fair value, and rental income from these assets remained relatively stable throughout the period.

Going Concern

The Board has reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements.

The organisation will sell its current investment portfolio as noted in the investment policy to better align the holding to the strategic aims going forward.

The organisation continues to operate with 6 months operating costs in reserve and has a strong cash balance.

Auditors

The Auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have indicated that they are willing to be re-appointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board


Claire Arnold (sep 5, 2025 12:05:01 GMT+2)

Claire Arnold

Chair of Trustees

Date: 05/09/2025 2025

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in reserves, the consolidated and company statement of financial positions, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 2-3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds.
- We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to Safer Places and determined that the most significant are the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, and the regulatory standards issued by the Regulator of Social Housing.
- We understood how the Association is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the Association's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements. These included risks associated with revenue recognition, application of accounting estimate, and management override of controls, which were discussed and agreed by the audit team.
- Our approach included agreeing the recognition of income to the terms of tenancy agreements, grant agreements and contracts, reviewing the assumptions used and controls applied in the calculation of accounting estimates, the review of journal entries processed in the accounting records and the investigation of significant and unusual transactions identified from our review of the accounting records.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the board members with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the Group.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken, so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

James Holland-Leader FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

5th September 2025

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	2	4,337,011	4,162,285
Less: Operating costs	3	(4,451,783)	(4,082,804)
Other Income		2,090	-
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	(112,682)	79,481
Interest Receivable and Investment Income		22,805	14,767
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Asset/Liability	17	4,000	-
Gain on revaluation of investments	9	4,696	(1,237)
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	185,005	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		103,824	93,011
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability	17	(89,000)	(80,000)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		14,824	13,011

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2024	24,210	2,075,477	2,099,687
Total Comprehensive Income	26,636	(11,812)	14,824
Transfers between funds	(39,500)	39,500	-
Balance at 31st March 2025	11,346	2,103,165	2,114,511

The notes on pages 21 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		186,409		191,001
Other fixed assets	7b		70,682		49,403
Investment Properties	8		1,125,000		939,995
Investments	9		-		110,414
			1,382,091		1,290,813
Current assets					
Debtors	10	530,278		511,290	
Cash at bank and in hand		997,955		1,200,387	
			1,528,233		1,711,677
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(795,813)		(902,803)	
Net current assets			732,420		808,874
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			2,114,511		2,099,687
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			-		-
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			£2,114,511		£2,099,687
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		11,346		24,210
Unrestricted funds	15		2,103,165		2,075,477
Pension reserve	15		-		-
Total Funds			£2,114,511		£2,099,687

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 01/09/2025 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold (Sep 5, 2025 12:05:01 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold - Director

Douglas Wildey
Douglas Wildey (Sep 5, 2025 11:10:28 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey – Director

The notes on pages 21 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		186,409		191,001
Other fixed assets	7b		70,682		49,403
Investment Properties	8		1,125,000		939,995
Investments	9		101		110,515
			1,382,192		1,290,914
Current assets					
Debtors	10	472,724		545,457	
Cash at bank and in hand		865,038		971,139	
			1,337,762		1,516,596
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(668,547)		(772,983)	
Net current assets			669,215		743,613
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			2,051,407		2,034,527
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17		-		-
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			£2,051,407		£2,034,527
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		11,346		24,210
Unrestricted funds	15		2,040,061		2,010,317
Pension reserve	15		-		-
Total Funds			£2,051,407		£2,034,527

The parent company's total comprehensive income for the year amounted to £16,880 (2024: £(21,077)).
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 01/09/2025 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold (Sep 5, 2025 10:03:03 GMT+2)

Claire Arnold - Director

DW
Doug Wildey (Sep 5, 2025 11:10:28 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 21 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Net cash generated from Operating Activities	A	(197,947)	170,418
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(142,400)	(144,136)
Purchase of Fixed Asset Investments		-	-
Proceeds from disposal of Fixed Asset Investments		118,293	-
Interest Received		19,622	8,979
		(4,485)	(135,157)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		(202,432)	35,261
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		1,200,387	1,165,126
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	£997,955	£1,200,387

A. Cashflows from Operating Activities

Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	103,824	93,011
Depreciation and losses on disposal	25,713	69,452
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(18,988)	13,431
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(106,990)	88,054
Interest Receivable	(22,805)	(14,767)
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Pension	(4,000)	(144,000)
Pension Costs/Expense	(89,000)	(80,000)
Gains on revaluation	(189,701)	1,237
	£(197,947)	£170,418

B. Analysis of Changes in net funds

	At 01/04/2024	Cash flows	At 31/03/2025
Cash	£1,200,387	£(202,432)	£997,955

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 the Statement of Recommended Practice for Registered Social Housing Providers 2018 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

The Charitable Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board has reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements. The Board has considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the Charity, and is content that the measures taken by the Charity, together with strong reserves and enhanced prospects due to Domestic Abuse Bill changes and the implementation of the government's new domestic abuse strategy, provides adequate forecasting and assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the Financial Statements.

The presentation currency in the financial statements is the pound sterling (£).

(b) Company status

Safer Places is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

(c) Group Financial Statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charitable Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Properties Limited (08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. (13524749), on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Comprehensive Income has not been presented for the parent Charitable Company itself, having taken advantage of the exemption afforded by the Companies Act 2006.

(d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds, which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

(e) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is deferred where:

- The donor specifies that the grant must be used in the future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions, which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

For legacies, entitlement is when the impending distribution is probable.

Grants have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services but as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(f) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

	Years	%
Leasehold Refuge Improvements:		
Fabric	40	2.5
Roofs	40	2.5
Kitchens	20	5
Doors and Windows	30	3.33
Bathrooms	25	4
Boilers	15	6.67
Refuge Equipment	5	20
Leasehold Office Improvements	5	20
Furniture and Equipment	5	20
Motor Vehicles	5	20

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

(h) Pension costs

The charitable company participates in a group defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. This is a funded scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds.

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments together with any change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service. They are included as part of staff costs. Net interest on the defined benefit liability is shown as a cost in the statement of comprehensive income. The remeasurement of the defined benefit liability is also reported in the statement of comprehensive income, and is shown in more detail in Note 17 to the Accounts.

(i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(j) Investments

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Depreciation is not provided in respect of investment properties.

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

The charitable company's investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Comprehensive Income includes the net gains and losses arising on the revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

(k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

(m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties

The following are the critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that the Board has made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Fair value of Investment Properties

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Trustees assess the fair value of the investment properties based on recent market values. In determining the fair value on this basis, the valuation remains sensitive to fluctuations in the property market.

Identification of housing property components

The charity accounts for its expenditure on housing properties using component accounting. Under component accounting, the housing property is divided into those major components which are considered to have substantially different useful economic lives. Judgement is used in allocating property costs between components (land, structure, kitchens, bathrooms etc) and in determining the useful economic lives of each component.

Housing property depreciation is calculated on a component by component basis. The identification of such components is a matter of judgement and may have a material impact on the depreciation charge. The components selected are those which reflect how the major repairs to the property are managed.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to 'technological obsolescence' with regard to IT equipment/software and any changes to decent homes standard requiring frequent replacement of components. The accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2025 was £326,046.

Bad debt provision

A full line by line review of trade debtors is carried out at the end of each month. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the bad debt provisions are as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the provisions do not match the level of debts which ultimately prove to be uncollectible.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties (continued)

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension asset in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends.

A liability of £Nil is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2025 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 17 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2	Income - Group	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Donations and Legacies				
	Donations	14,023	1,251	15,274	31,040
	Children In Need	-	-	-	19,399
	Household Support Fund	-	39,500	39,500	-
	People's Postcode Lottery	75,000	-	75,000	-
	Other grants	10,000	-	10,000	17,182
		£99,023	£40,751	£139,774	£67,621
	Charitable Activities:				
	Refuge rents receivable	1,095,200	-	1,095,200	956,023
	Refuge service charges	79,113	-	79,113	65,888
	Supporting People Hertfordshire	1,712,366	-	1,712,366	1,752,344
	Hertfordshire Community Funding	-	241,222	241,222	344,829
	Tier 2 Housing Support	-	29,060	29,060	47,945
	Women's Centre Pilot	66,753	-	66,753	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	11,758	11,758	-
	PCC ISAC Service	-	120,300	120,300	85,359
	Advance	44,393	-	44,393	47,947
	EDASS	-	504,000	504,000	504,000
	Training Services	263,822	-	263,822	241,902
		£3,261,647	£906,340	£4,167,487	£4,046,237
	Investment Properties				
	Rents receivable	£29,250	£ -	£29,250	£48,427
	Turnover	£3,389,920	£947,091	£4,337,011	£4,162,295

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Operating costs - Group

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Services to victims seeking support		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,491,824	1,351,090
Professional fees	35,498	32,496
Refuge rents and service charges	434,457	422,739
Refuge running expenses	585,186	575,204
Refuge depreciation	105,643	52,712
Other operating expenses	838,378	740,613
Bad debts	25,926	57,954
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	593,164	488,274
Depreciation	20,070	16,740
Insurance	37,128	36,515
Legal and professional fees	22,296	30,936
Audit fee	16,255	19,200
Meeting expenses	-	-
Other overhead expenses	205,100	228,841
	4,410,925	4,053,314
Other activities		
Investment property management costs	40,858	29,490
Total operating costs	£4,451,783	£4,082,804
Unrestricted Funds	3,531,328	3,083,153
Restricted Funds	920,455	999,651
	£4,451,783	£4,082,804

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4	Accommodation in management	2025	2024
	Social housing income and expenditure:	£	£
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	1,095,200	956,023
	Service charges receivable	79,113	65,888
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,319,964)	(1,200,714)
	Net surplus/(deficit) from social housing activities	£(145,651)	£(178,803)
	Void losses	£220,920	£310,153
		Units	Units
	Supported housing	72	84

The RP manages properties on behalf of Swan, Catalyst. L&Q, Housing Associations, registered social housing providers operating in Essex and Herts.

5	Operating surplus/deficit	2025	2024
	This is stated after charging:	£	£
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	14,292	17,033
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	457,768	443,633
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	4,478	1,263
	Depreciation of owned assets	125,713	69,452

6	Staff costs	2025	2024
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,716,761	1,543,456
	Social security costs	153,283	138,939
	Pension costs	115,166	106,821
	Termination payments	-	-
		£1,984,210	£1,789,216

		2025	2024
		No.	No.
	The average weekly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was:	55	50
	The average number of employees during the year was:	66	59

There were two employees whose remuneration employee benefits fell in the banding £70,000 to £80,000 and one in the banding £100,000 to £110,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £379,065 (2024: £318,463). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £82,482 (2024: £80,079) and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 17. Remuneration comprises salaries and pension contributions, while employee benefits includes social security contributions in addition. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2024: £nil).

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties Group and Parent	Leasehold Refuge Improvements £	Refuge Equipment £	Total £
	Cost:			
	At 1 April	183,366	144,210	327,576
	Additions	90,374	10,677	101,051
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	273,740	154,887	428,627
	Depreciation:			
	At 1 April	45,759	90,816	136,575
	Charge for the Year	86,175	19,468	105,643
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	131,934	110,284	242,218
	Net Book Value 31 March 2024	£137,607	£53,394	£191,001
	Net book Value 31 March 2025	£141,806	£44,603	£186,409
7b	Other Fixed Assets Group and Parent	Leasehold Office Improvements £	Furniture and Equipment £	Total £
	Cost:			
	At 1 April	2,920	110,241	113,161
	Additions	-	41,349	41,349
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	2,920	151,590	154,510
	Depreciation:			
	At 1 April	2,920	60,838	63,758
	Charge for the Year	-	20,070	20,070
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	2,920	80,908	83,828
	Net book value 31 March 2024	£ -	£49,403	£49,403
	Net book value 31 March 2025	£ -	£70,682	£70,682

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8	Investment properties Group and Parent	Investment Properties £	Total £
	At 1 April 2024	939,995	939,995
	Change in fair value	185,005	185,005
	At 31st March 2025	<u>£1,125,000</u>	<u>£1,125,000</u>

The investment properties have been valued by the Trustees at 31 March 2025 based on advice from a local estate agent.

9	Investments	Group		Parent		
		Investment in unit trust £	Total £	Group Undertakings £	Investment in unit trust £	Total £
	At 1 April 2024	110,414	110,414	101	110,414	110,515
	Additions	3,183	3,183	-	3,183	3,183
	Disposals	(113,597)	(113,597)	-	(113,597)	(113,597)
	At 31 March 2025	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£101</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£101</u>

Investments in group undertakings comprises 100% of the ordinary share capital of Safer Properties Limited (company number: 08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC (company number: 13524749).

The principal activities of the subsidiaries are property investment and the provision of training courses, respectively. Summaries of the trading results are shown below:

	Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C.		Safer Properties Limited	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	263,822	241,902	-	-
Costs of sales	(163,334)	(140,838)	-	-
Gross profit	100,488	101,064	-	-
Administrative expenses	(37,299)	(37,720)	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit	63,189	63,344	-	-
Interest receivable	-	1,901	-	-
Profit for the financial year	<u>£63,189</u>	<u>£65,245</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>

The aggregate capital and reserves of the subsidiary companies at 31 March 2024 were: Safer Properties Limited £Nil (2024: £Nil), and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. £63,205, (2024: £65,261).

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10 Debtors	Group		Parent	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Social housing rent arrears	182,704	128,516	182,704	128,516
Less provision for doubtful debts	(128,621)	(104,678)	(128,621)	(104,678)
	54,083	23,838	54,083	23,838
Trade debtors	363,054	408,862	305,148	331,681
Other debtors and accrued income	16,396	15,465	26,724	128,794
Prepayments	96,745	63,125	86,769	61,144
	£530,278	£511,290	£472,724	£545,457
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Parent	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	85,274	62,836	85,274	62,836
Trade creditors	89,821	148,370	81,742	141,758
Taxation & social security	51,573	47,267	30,720	25,980
Accruals and deferred income	542,695	613,493	444,361	511,522
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	26,450	30,887	26,450	30,887
	£795,813	£902,803	£668,547	£772,983
12 Deferred Income	Group		Parent	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Brought forward	473,671	584,154	377,423	478,743
Released to income	(468,400)	(583,979)	(372,152)	(478,068)
Deferred this year	448,829	473,496	356,675	377,248
	£454,100	£473,671	£361,946	£377,423

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Analysis of net assets between funds
Fund balances at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Group			
Investments	1,125,000	-	1,125,000
Tangible fixed assets	257,091	-	257,091
Net current assets	721,074	11,346	732,420
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	£2,103,165	£11,346	£2,114,511

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,125,101	-	1,125,101
Tangible fixed assets	257,091	-	257,091
Net current assets	657,869	11,346	669,215
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	£2,040,061	£11,346	£2,051,407

Fund balances at 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Group			
Investments	1,050,409	-	1,050,409
Tangible fixed assets	240,404	-	240,404
Net current assets	784,664	24,210	808,874
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	£2,075,477	£24,210	£2,099,687

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,050,510	-	1,050,510
Tangible fixed assets	240,404	-	240,404
Net current assets	719,403	24,210	743,613
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	£2,010,317	£24,210	£2,034,527

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14	Restricted Funds – current year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
	Herts Community Foundation	-	241,222	(241,222)	-	-
	EDASS	9,500	504,000	(513,500)	-	-
	MOJ PCC - Herts	-	120,300	(120,300)	-	-
	Housing IDVA	14,710	29,060	(32,424)	-	11,346
	Household Support Fund	-	39,500	-	(39,500)	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	11,758	(11,758)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	1,251	(1,251)	-	-
		<u>£24,210</u>	<u>£947,091</u>	<u>£(920,455)</u>	<u>£(39,500)</u>	<u>£11,346</u>
	Restricted Funds – prior year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
	Herts Community Foundation	469	344,829	(345,298)	-	-
	EDASS	-	504,000	(494,500)	-	9,500
	MOJPCC – Herts	-	85,359	(85,359)	-	-
	Housing IDVA	-	47,945	(33,235)	-	14,710
	Children in Need	944	19,399	(20,343)	-	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	1,423	(1,423)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	11,969	(11,969)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	7,524	(7,524)	-	-
		<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£1,022,448</u>	<u>£(999,651)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£24,210</u>

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- (i) **Herts Community Foundation**
Funding received to enhance services provided in Hertfordshire. The fund is used to increase children's support staffing, the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House, and for the provision of resettlement support for those leaving refuge.
- (ii) **EDASS**
Funding is received for Essex Domestic Abuse Support Services and utilised for the support and education of those in Essex at medium risk of domestic abuse in order to recognise, recover from, and develop resilience against abuse.
- (iii) **MoJ PCC - Herts**
Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner funding received from the Ministry of Justice to reinforce specialist provision for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence across the county.
- (iv) **Housing IDVA**
Funding received for an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate to provide support to domestic abuse victims in temporary accommodation.
- (v) **Household Support Fund**
Funding received from Essex County Council's Household Support Fund to defray exceptional utilities costs faced at the Charity's refuges in 2023/24. As the costs were incurred in the previous financial year, these funds have been transferred to unrestricted funds.
- (vi) **National Lottery Community Fund**
Funding received from the National Lottery for the delivery of classes for confidence building and growth.
- (vii) **Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project**
This is a social welfare grant from the Pilgrim Trust to support early action projects that improve the life chances of vulnerable women and girls.
- (viii) **Children in Need**
The Charity was awarded a multi-year grant from Children in Need during 2019/20 to cover the costs of employing two Children's Workers for a three-year period.
- (ix) **Other Donations & Grants**
This consists of donations received at the Charity's refuges and is utilised on providing support activities to those housed in emergency accommodation.

SAFER PLACES
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Designated Funds			General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £				
Balance brought forward 1 April 2023	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,160,263	2,085,263	-	2,085,263
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	70,214	70,214	-	70,214
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(80,000)	(80,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(80,000)	(80,000)	80,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2024	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£1,150,477</u>	<u>£2,075,477</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£2,075,477</u>
Balance brought forward 1 April 2024	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,150,477	2,075,477	-	2,075,477
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	77,188	77,188	-	77,188
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(89,000)	(89,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(49,500)	(49,500)	89,000	39,500
Balance carried forward 31 March 2025	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£1,178,165</u>	<u>£2,103,165</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£2,103,165</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Unrestricted Funds - Parent

	Designated Funds						
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward 1 April 2023	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,129,191	2,054,191	-	2,054,191
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	36,126	36,126	-	36,126
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(80,000)	(80,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(80,000)	(80,000)	80,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2024	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£1,085,317</u>	<u>£2,010,317</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£2,010,317</u>
Balance brought forward 1 April 2024	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,085,317	2,010,317	-	2,010,317
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	79,244	79,244	-	79,244
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(89,000)	(89,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(49,500)	(49,500)	89,000	39,500
Balance carried forward 31 March 2025	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£1,115,061</u>	<u>£2,040,061</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£2,040,061</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

Building Fund

This fund is to be used for building new refuges on land to be gifted.

Refurbishment Fund

This fund was set up to cover the costs of planned refurbishment work on new and existing properties.

General Fund

This represents all funds not otherwise designated by the trustees and covers working capital requirements

Subsequent to the year end, the Board has reviewed the designation of unrestricted funds and has resolved that a further £841,230 of the Group's General Funds are to be designated to 1) Property Revaluation Fund, which represents unrealised gains on the investment properties not available for immediate use by the Group, and 2) Restructuring Fund, to reserve funds for planned restructuring of services over the 2025/26 financial year. If these designations were in place at 31 March 2025, unrestricted funds would be as follows:

	£
Building Fund	750,000
Refurbishment Fund	175,000
Property Revaluation Fund	700,350
Restructuring Fund	140,880
General Funds	336,935
Total Unrestricted Funds – Group	<u>£2,103,165</u>

Safer Places operates a business continuity policy and is accredited under ISO 22301; the Board considers that this level of General Funds is appropriate to ensure the Group has sufficient working capital to finance its operations as well as providing a level of contingency to ensure the continuity of services in the event of an interruption to normal operations. The designated funds held are assessed as part of the Group's continuing commitment and management of the Group's business continuity plan.

16 Taxation

The nature of the income received, and the company's charitable activities means that no corporation tax liability arises on the results for the year. The subsidiary, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC Gift Aids its taxable profits to the company and as such no tax charge is recorded in accordance with FRS 102 paragraph 29.14A.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Defined benefit pension schemes

Safer Places participates in a defined benefit pension scheme – Essex Pension Fund operated by Essex County Council. At 31 March 2022, Safer Places had 7 active, 59 deferred pensioners and 27 pensioners in the fund. The Employer pays contributions of 26.5% plus an additional monetary amount each year.

The assets allocation of the fund is as follows:

	2025		2024	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	5,244	55	5,092	55
Gilts	145	2	164	2
Property	771	8	634	7
Cash	186	2	227	2
Alternative Assets	1,440	15	1,397	15
Other Managed Funds	1,765	18	1,677	18
	<u>£9,551</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£9,191</u>	<u>100%</u>

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2025	2024
Retiring today – Males	20.8	20.8
– Females	23.3	23.3
Retiring in 20 years – Males	22.1	22.0
– Females	24.8	24.7

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

CPI Increases	2.90%	2.95%
Salary Increases	3.90%	3.95%
Pension Increases	2.90%	2.95%
Discount Rate	5.80%	4.90%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2025 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2025. The results of these valuations are set out below.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	4,651,000	5,334,000	5,255,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	(9,551,000)	(9,191,000)	(8,200,000)
Deficit/(surplus)	(4,900,000)	(3,875,000)	(2,945,000)
Impact of asset ceiling	4,900,000	3,875,000	2,945,000
Net defined benefit liability/(asset)	£ -	£ -	£ -

An asset ceiling has been recognised to limit the defined benefit asset to £Nil. While it is possible under LGPS regulations for an employer to receive a refund of surplus, Safer Places is a minor participant in the scheme and does not have sufficient influence to reduce future contributions to the scheme.

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

	2025	2024
	£	£
Service Costs	56,000	55,000
Net Interest on defined liability/(asset)	(4,000)	(144,000)
Exclude Net Interest above asset ceiling	-	144,000
Administration Expenses	6,000	6,000
	£58,000	£61,000

(c) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	18,000	615,000
Changes in demographic assumptions	-	71,000
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	-	(44,000)
Change in financial assumptions	747,000	46,000
Changes in effect of asset ceiling	(854,000)	(768,000)
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	£(89,000)	£(80,000)

(d) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balances of present Value of the defined benefit obligation

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	5,334,000	5,255,000
Current Service Cost	56,000	55,000
Interest Cost	255,000	249,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	-	(71,000)
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	-	44,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	(747,000)	(46,000)
Estimated Benefits Paid	(269,000)	(172,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	22,000	20,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	£4,651,000	£5,334,000

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(e) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balance of Fair Value of Funds Assets

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	9,191,000	8,200,000
Interest on Assets	448,000	393,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	18,000	615,000
Administration Expenses	(6,000)	(6,000)
Contributions by Employer	147,000	141,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	22,000	20,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(269,000)	(172,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£9,551,000</u>	<u>£9,191,000</u>

(f) Sensitivity Analysis

	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	4,584	4,651	4,719
Projected Service Costs	45	46	47
Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	4,654	4,651	4,648
Projected Service Costs	46	46	46
Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	4,718	4,651	4,585
Projected Service Costs	48	46	45
Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions	+ 1 Year	None	-1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligations	4,804	4,651	4,504
Projected Service Costs	46	46	45

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2026

	£
Service Cost	46,000
Net Interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	(4,000)
Administration Expenses	5,000
Total Loss/(Surplus)	<u>£47,000</u>
Employer Contribution	<u>£153,000</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £11,370 (2024: (£11,865) from D.Willey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2024: no trustee received any reimbursement of expenses).

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC, an unregistered body. Safer Places acts as paymaster for staff jointly employed by both entities and recharged staff costs amounting to £117,812. Safer Places charged SPPTDCIC a management fee of £15,735 and recharged expenses paid on that company's behalf. The allocation of staff costs was calculated on the basis of time spent by those employees on the activity of the subsidiary with no markup. In addition, Safer Places received a distribution under gift aid of £65,249 in the year. At the year end, £Nil was owed by Safer Places to SPPTDCIC.

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Properties Limited, an unregistered body. There were no transactions with Safer Properties during the year. At the year-end £900 (2024: £900) was owed by Safer Properties to Safer Places.

19 Ultimate control

The charity is under no overall control but is administered by the trustees.

20 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2025 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

Group	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire				
Within one year	282,600	414,103	11,002	14,280
Between two and five years	255,864	194,143	12,365	22,411
In more than five years	-	15,766	-	-
	<u>£538,464</u>	<u>£624,012</u>	<u>£23,366</u>	<u>£36,691</u>
Parent	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire				
Within one year	282,600	414,103	11,002	14,280
Between two and five years	255,864	194,143	12,365	22,411
In more than five years	-	15,766	-	-
	<u>£538,464</u>	<u>£624,012</u>	<u>£23,366</u>	<u>£36,691</u>

21 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2025 Safer Places had no capital commitments.

SAFER PLACES

England & Wales - Charity number 1018832

Accounts

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Regulator of Social Housing number	4761

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SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Governing document	The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
Known as	Safer Places
Registered office	The Latton Bush Centre Southern Way Harlow Essex CM18 7BL
Auditors	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Billericay Commercial Centre Lloyds Commercial 89 High Street Billericay Essex CM12 9AT
Trustees	• Douglas Wildey • Gift Kapswara • Lorraine Larman • Sian Chambers • Claire Arnold • Kathy Osborne (resigned 22 December 2023) • Sean Carroll (resigned 21 May 2024) • Martina Talbot-Rice (appointed 28 February 2024) • Tracy Fisher (appointed 16 March 2024)
Secretary	Allison Gardner

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Structure Governance and Management

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of Safer Places and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C and Safer Properties Limited.

Safer Places is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Charitable Company is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (Reg No 4761).

Our governing documents are our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Trustees are elected from our membership at our Annual General meeting. Our Trustees serve for a period of three years and then stand down or seek nomination and re-election. In line with good governance guidance Trustees do not normally serve for more than three terms. However, it was agreed that Douglas Wildey continue as a Trustee since he brings a level of specialist expertise to the board which is highly valued and would be difficult to replace.

Our membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives set out in our Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Trustees shall admit to membership of the company. An application for membership may be approved or rejected by the Trustees. The Trustees have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

We welcome nominations from organisations who are members of Safer Places.

Safer Places has no prohibition on clients becoming Members or Trustees providing they are able to meet the eligibility requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of these roles.

It is the policy of Safer Places to ensure that all Trustees are eligible and have sufficient and appropriate skills to serve. All members wishing to become Trustees undergo a competency-based selection process and are required to complete a Declaration of Eligibility and a Declaration of Interests annually.

Once appointed Trustees participate in an induction process which, includes induction to the company as well as to the role of Trustee. Ongoing training relevant to the role of Trustee is provided.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Safer Places for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Housing SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Group and charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Our Trustees are also responsible for the following:

- Setting the strategic direction of Safer Places, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and meeting the needs for which it was established.
- Ensuring Safer Places complies with company and charity requirements.
- Ensuring that Safer Places does not breach the rules set out in its governing documents and remains true to its charitable purpose.
- Making sure Safer Places complies with all requirements of other legislation, which govern the activities of the company.
- Preventing the misuse of company funds or assets.
- Ensuring that company funds and assets are used reasonably and only in the furtherance of the company's objectives.
- Avoiding any activity that might place the company's assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Taking special care in investing the company's funds or borrowing funds on behalf of the company.
- Using their personal skills and experience to ensure the company is well run and efficient.
- Considering getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the company or where Trustees may be in breach of their duties.

Day to day management of Safer Places is delegated to the Chief Executive who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets at least five times per year.

Staff attend Board Meetings and advise on all matters but do not vote.

Statement on the registered social housing provider's internal control systems

The Board takes an active interest in all internal control and corporate governance matters, and aims to meet the highest standards. The Board accepts the principles in the National Housing Federation Code of Governance, which go well beyond internal financial control.

This statement is confined to internal financial control. Internal financial control means the controls established in order to provide reasonable assurance of:

- the safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or dispositions; and
- the maintenance of proper accounting records and the reliability of financial information used with the company or for publication

Statement

The Board acknowledges its primary responsibility for the company's system of internal financial control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. However, such a system can only provide reasonable and never absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board has established, and intends to continue development of, key procedures designed to provide effective internal financial control. These are the high-level procedures and processes by which the Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

The company's internal financial control and monitoring procedures include:

- clear responsibilities on the part of line and financial management for the maintenance of good financial controls and the production of accurate and timely financial management information
- the control of key financial risks through clearly laid down authorisation levels and proper segregation of duties
- detailed monthly budgeting and reporting of income and expenditure, with regular review by management of variances from budgets
- reporting on compliance with financial controls and procedure (for the year end) by external auditors.

These reports are reviewed by the Finance and the Board prior to the use of interim and annual reports.

Code of Governance and Governance and Financial Viability Standard

Safer Places has adopted the Charity Governance Code as it best reflects the objectives and aims of the organisation as a registered charity. The Board undertake a 5-year external audit against the Charity Code of Governance and review the compliance internally on an annual basis. We can report that there are no outstanding actions or non-compliance against the code and the outcome of the prior audit was that the auditor considered the charity to be well governed.

The Board confirms Safer Places is compliant with the Governance and Financial Viability Standard.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Safer Places are:

"The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse, including stalking and harassment; to provide education for their future benefit; to educate those who work with victims of domestic violence and to provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing, or at risk of domestic violence, stalking and harassment."

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Safer Places vision is a society where everyone lives a life free from fear and abuse.

Mission

Safer Places exists to drive down the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual abuse and to support those who use our services in their journey to recovery, resilience and independence.

Values

These are the values we promise to uphold so we never lose sight of our mission:

Client Led – We empower our clients to exercise choice and control of their support. We ensure client's voices are heard and that they impact our decision making and shape our services

Accessible – We work inclusively with our clients, partners and communities. Anyone who is at risk of experiencing abuse can access our services when, how and where they need them.

Respectful – We adopt a trauma informed, holistic approach to support. We listen and believe, are non-judgemental and open and honest about what we can and cannot do.

Effective – We deliver high quality services that work for our clients. Our practice is informed by our clients, research, evidence and learning from experts by experience.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Review of 2023/24

We have had a very busy year providing a range of services across Essex and Hertfordshire including community outreach, safe accommodation, therapeutic services, a range of support options including our Triple R programme, children's support service and support for victims with insecure immigration & No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). We support anyone, regardless of gender identity, sexuality, age, race, ethnicity, religion or disability.

This year we excitedly started working on our new strategic plan and we have been very busy making good progress against this.

1 - We will review how we spend our money to ensure best value

- We invested in a new system for Health and Safety and Compliance
- We undertook a full review of facilities
- We implemented a new Risk Register with supplier control
- Fixed cost and overhead allocations have been re-worked to increase visibility of per contract costs
- We expect a further reduction in printing costs as a result of approximately £1,500 per annum.
- We saved £16,000 through efficiencies
- IT & systems cost review is complete and pending complete works should realise a cost saving per annum of approximately £3k

Future plans

We will:

- Develop a of more comprehensive cost review programme in relation to facilities expenditure to better manage refuge supplies and stock
- Streamline the assessment and admission process for all our services
- Update the due diligence framework for new property acquisitions to reduce costs e.g. single unit allocations to allow clients to directly pay utilities
- Review processes related to resettlement properties to enable longer tenancies and therefore better financially support the estates/facilities cost base

2 - Deliver a gold standard trauma informed, evidence based, inclusive service that meets individual needs

- Safer Places received the "Gems of Harlow" award for outstanding acts of community service. The event, hosted by Harlow Council at the Civic Centre, on Tuesday 15th August, celebrated the achievements of local charities making a difference in the community.
- We undertook an Adult Needs Assessment and Children's Needs Assessment in our safe accommodation.
- We are redeveloping our service model as a result of the learning from the Refuge needs assessment which indicates the diversity within our caseloads and that clients tend to fall into three main groups requiring different levels and types of service based on needs and circumstances.
- We worked with BrainKind on a research project.
- We reviewed the recommendations and developed an implementation plan from impact research on:
 - migrant women,
 - trans clients experiencing domestic abuse
 - how we can attract a more diverse workforce.

Future plans

We will:

- Work to gain WAFE accreditation
- Review our Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion offer
- Undertake more needs assessments to determine if we are meeting the diverse needs of our clients
- Implement our new tiered service model
- Implement the recommendations from the Impact research

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

- 3 - Support the Community Interests Training Company to generate income to provide added value to our frontline services, enhance the reputation and reach of both organisations
- The C.I.C was formed in July 2021. At this stage we offered 3 qualifications (IDVA, ISVA & ISAS) and offered a small range of short courses which were not CPD accredited.
 - The team now has 5 members.
 - Our portfolio currently consists of
 - 8 qualifications
 - 12 CPD accredited short courses
 - A bank of 15 webinars to offer bite-size learning opportunities to professionals on specialist topics
 - We have doubled the number of IDVA cohorts run per year, our most popular and profitable course.
 - Two of our qualifications are bespoke and we are the sole provider of Level 3 Children's Advocate and Level 4 Independent Stalking Advocacy Specialist
 - We have responded to the changes in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to offer a bespoke children's qualification to support children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.
 - Safer Places staff have achieved 74 qualifications internally.

Future plans

We will:

- Continue to grow and develop our team and our training portfolio
- Develop Safe Accommodation standards in conjunction with Safer Places to offer Level 4 Safe Accommodation for Managers qualification
- Launch new training for family courts
- Consider/engage with market outside of the UK

4 - Recruit, retain, develop and support staff to deliver excellent services

- Safer Places is an organisation committed to supporting and developing our workforce.
- We completed an annual review of pay and conditions and made recommendations to the Board
- As of 31st March there were 65 members of staff compared to 60 staff in the previous year (April 2023). Staff turnover was 1.59%. The same period last year (April 2023) was 1.79%.
- Safer Places was shortlisted for the Investors in People 2023 award "UK Employer of the Year". The award is given to organisations who prioritise the health and wellbeing of their staff and are committed to better working practices within their organisation. Feedback included:
- People felt exceptionally well invested in.
- There is a highly collaborative and mutually supportive team; this continuously demonstrated and proactively engendered by the approaches of leaders.
- People feel empowered and trusted, and said they had been able to progress further than they may have initially believed they could.
- Leadership strategies had not only impacted on outcomes for service users but also those who work for or network with Safer Places.

Future plans

We will:

- Further invest in the development of future senior leadership roles
- Publish and promote our current benefits to ensure staff continue to be aware of them and use them and improve benefit package for staff
- Ensure Senior Practitioners have more targeted development plans e.g. around preparing for meetings with and influencing partner agencies and groups, report writing etc., through shadowing and coaching as well as training
- Invest in more targeted recruitment
- Improve application of the supervision and appraisal process allowing better identification of staff ready for development and then putting training and coaching plans in place for them

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

5 - Ensuring the estates portfolio is fit for purpose for current and future demands

- We opened:
 - Alex House – providing a much-needed safe accommodation for any male survivor who needs us named after a local male
 - Khushi House a specialist Asian women's refuge named by survivors after a universal word for happiness
 - T – safe accommodation and specialist support for women with alcohol or drug use in partnership with DrugLink.
- We have been working hard to bring all our accommodation up to a high standard with a programme of planned maintenance
- We commissioned a chartered surveyor to provide a regular condition surveys on each property providing costed and prioritised recommendations for each and working with us on the development of our estates strategy

Future plans

We will

- Look at the configuration of the properties we have
- Look to acquire a further 10 units which could be used for resettlement
- Extend T with an additional 4 units
- Develop a plan for refurbishment of our safe accommodation

As can be seen we have ambitious plans to further develop a plan to ensure that our safe accommodation is suitable to meet the ever-changing needs that we are faced with. We are excited see what the year ahead holds.

Our Beneficiaries and Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees are aware and mindful of the Charities Commission guidance. Safer Places has delivered public benefit in line with the objects and activities of the organisation through the delivery of our core services.

Over the last year Safer Places has delivered Public Benefit in line with the objects of the charity in the following ways:

To relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from domestic abuse including stalking and harassment

We received a total of 3809 referrals for support over the financial year.

Safe Accommodation

Our safe accommodation service supported a total of 677 individuals, 266 women, 16 men, 1 non-binary individual and 394 children across our safe accommodation.

Outreach Hertfordshire

Our outreach service in Hertfordshire supported 1027 women, 66 men, 1 non-binary person and 613 children.

Stalking Service

Our specialist stalking support service supported 434 adults and 363 children.

- The average time before seeking help was 16 months.
- 64% of the cases closed reported feeling safer on exit
- 58% reported improved quality of life

No Recourse to Public Funds

- Our specialist IDVA who works with victims who have no recourse to public funds which is paid for by The Pilgrims Trust supported 26 adults with 25 children.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Triple R

We continued to run our psychoeducational CBT based RRR Domestic Abuse group program. This is a 12-week program in four modules which covers Risk, Recovery and Resilience and Impact on Children. Participants can undertake all four modules or select a specific module – this programme can be adapted to personal circumstances and the needs of participants and is delivered through in-person and online sessions for those we are supporting.

Participants have found the group invaluable in their recovery:

- "This group has opened my eyes and changed my life in a positive way. I can talk freely without being judged and continue to learn new things as I heal and understand the past."
- "I feel that this programme has some form of magic in it. The whole thing has been so empowering, and my recovery is momentous. I had been crying every day and feeling hopeless. I am now much better and feel positive about who I am and whatever I decide to do... I can do it."
- "I feel so much stronger, braver and that I am starting to re-find myself again. I feel like I am gaining control over my life a little at a time. There have been weeks where the only thing that has got me through it knowing I had Triple R. Thanks to Triple R I feel like I am starting to get back to who I used to be before my abusive relationship."

Children

Since the change in the law in 2021, children are automatically classed as victims (in their own right) if they have seen, heard or experienced domestic abuse. Children who stay with us with their parent receive a warm welcome and are met with a buddy bag welcome pack that contains age-appropriate toys. Children will be able to access age-appropriate group therapies such as drawing, drama, play or Lego therapy and will receive access to one-to-one therapies that are age appropriate and child centred. Over the year we have celebrated many special occasions, such as a birthdays and religious celebrations. Individual support plans are developed and regularly reviewed for the children and if any support is required with regards to special educational needs, health needs, disabilities, school applications or any other external agencies, our children and family team help to put things in place.

Conference

We held a conference 'Creating a Safer Place for Survivors of Domestic Abuse', on the 8th March to coincide with International Women's Day. The keynote speaker at the conference was researcher Stephanie Bechelet, from the organisation Brainkind who support people living with acquired brain injuries and other neurological conditions in the UK. This year Brainkind released groundbreaking research - 'Too Many To Count' - which, with the help of Safer Places and other domestic abuse charities, explored the prevalence and effect of brain injuries on abuse victims, finding that half of all domestic abuse survivors may be living with a brain injury.

Training

Our Community Interest Company, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC. (SPDTCIC) has gone from strength to strength. The organisation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Safer Places with all profit deployed to enhance the direct client services to beneficiaries of Safer Places services. The impact of training has been felt within the organisation but also outside of the organisation as well.

- Approx 1900 delegates attended our webinars, we pride ourselves on our cutting edge range of topics including: DA & pets, Stalking & young people, DA & the deaf community, DA & Mental health, DA & the LGBTQ+ community, DA & Neurodiversity, HBA, Children as victims, DA & suicide, Males victims of DA, DA & the transgender community, Clare's Law - 10 Year Anniversary, Sexism and Misogyny, Sexual Harassment, Online Abuse, VAWG Workshop.
- 212 delegates attended one of our short courses including
- 525 people attended our J9 Disclosure Training Sessions
- 1550 students attended our Healthy Relationships Sessions
- 205 qualifications were awarded from our accredited programmes

We are so proud of what the CIC has achieved over the year and the feedback we have received really just says it all:

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

- "Firstly, I wanted to say a huge thank you for delivering the Level 3 IDVA course. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and the support and knowledge you shared was fabulous. It is a life changing course in so many ways, for victims and for professionals. It definitely has changed my life. I have now secured an IDVA role".
- "I just wanted to say a big thank you after receiving the marks and feedback for the ISVA workbook. Thank you for an amazing opportunity and a truly engaging and amazing training course".
- "After this I then completed the ISVA course and now have the confidence and knowledge that I need to pursue my dream job".
- "Next month I start my new job as a Health IDVA in a hospital".
- "Thank you Safer Places for changing my life".

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Value for Money (VFM)

Each year the Charity used a range of data to measure VFM progress against the housing sector. The results help influence investment decisions and provide the regulators and other stakeholders with information on the progress of the Charity, whilst also ensuring compliance with the regulatory VFM standard. The charity has measured itself against the Acuity smaller providers 2022/23 results (median figures, for Cost Per Unit the Supported Housing result has been used due to being more comparable to Safer Places).

Metric	2024	2023	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	63.63%	68.53%	3.70%	Safer Places holds its housing stock on operating leases. Fixed assets represent the value of improvements carried out and, additions therefore represent a greater proportion of book value.
New supply % (social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year.
New supply % (non-social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gearing	(508.4)%	(758.4)%	13.24%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	N/A	N/A%	168%	Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit, which was nil for 2024.
Social Housing Cost Per Unit	£14,372	£14,813	£5,395	The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base.
Operating Margin (social housing)	(17.50)%	(14.66)%	13.21%	The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing loss of rent through vacancies. Safer Places has seen reductions to the amount of Housing Benefit chargeable for clients due to local authority adjustments to service charge allowances, putting further pressure on margins.
Operating Margin (overall)	0.41%	4.30%	13.34%	
Return on Capital Employed	0.79%	7.82%	1.86%	Whilst the lease-based housing provision means Safer Places has lower level of capital employed, the nature of its income streams and activities means it generates a lower return than organisations providing solely housing.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the board to provide sufficient reserves to:

- Ensure continuity of provision for a limited period in the event of a large variation in income in order that further income can be sourced or a reduction in service planned and implemented so as to minimise risk to our clients.
- Pay the annual sums associated with reducing the deficit for which we are responsible related to our membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Provide a refurbishment fund so that we can sustain our continuous planned upgrade and refurbishment programme.

Reserves will therefore be held:

1. Working Capital – with sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating at current service level for a period of three months
2. Refurbishment – to undertake a rolling programme to sustain the quality of our accommodation and services.
3. Property acquisition - the Trustees are currently reviewing refuge requirements across operational areas and are considering investment to improve provision of services in key areas.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. In light of the continued uncertain economic conditions, increased costs related to utilities and the supply chain caused by increased fuel costs are a principal risk to Safer Places.
2. Like many charities, in the mid to long term the organisation must also face the challenge of ensuring adequate funds are available to meet the obligations of its defined benefit pension scheme. We continue to hold assets necessary to manage the fund however the pension obligations remain volatile. The economic conditions again prove challenging not just for the Charity but for the client base and we continue to take action to support clients on financial matters as well.
3. To sustain and enhance income related to the training subsidiary in order to provide enhanced services to the stakeholders. The year reflects that the provision of training has proved a successful venture to date.

Safer Places Investment Policy

It is the policy of Safer Places to achieve the best possible return on investment and therefore two properties were purchased in 2012. The rental return on these properties far exceeds any rate that could be achieved currently through the financial institutions. Cash funds on reserve will be placed on fixed term deposits according to best rates at the time and the need for funds to be available.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Review of Financial position

Safer Places' continued strategy to diversify income and provide fully funded frontline services has resulted in a sustained operating surplus for the group of £79k (2023: surplus 192k), and taking into account investment returns and financing costs achieved a group surplus for the year of £93k (2023: surplus £219k) which will be re-invested to services in the coming financial period to ensure we continue to meet the changing needs of our client base.

Social housing income remained relatively constant showing a slight decrease from 2023 due to adjustments in the types & quantity of units provided £1,021,911 (2023: £1,074,291).

The cash position of the group has increased by £35,261, due to the surplus for the year net of fixed asset additions. The group and parent charity therefore maintained sufficient cash balances to fulfil its reserves policy at the year end. Investment Properties were determined to be held at fair value and rental income from the properties also remains relatively stable.

Going Concern

The Board has reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees agreed to focus on diversifying income streams and in 2021/2022 setup a trading subsidiary to deliver high quality training services within the domestic abuse which continues in 2023/2024 to realise a significant profit. The organisation continues to operate with 6 months operating costs in reserve and has a strong cash balance.

We therefore consider that the future prospects for funding to continue to be encouraging and that we are well placed to secure additional income.

Auditors

The Auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have indicated that they are willing to be re-appointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board

Claire Arnold


Claire Arnold (Sep 24, 2024 15:37 GMT+1)

Chair of Trustees

Date: 24-Sep 2024

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in reserves, the consolidated and company statement of financial positions, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 2-3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds.
- We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to Safer Places and determined that the most significant are the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, and the regulatory standards issued by the Regulator of Social Housing.
- We understood how the Association is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the Association's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements. These included risks associated with revenue recognition, application of accounting estimate, and management override of controls, which were discussed and agreed by the audit team.
- Our approach included agreeing the recognition of income to the terms of tenancy agreements, grant agreements and contracts, reviewing the assumptions used and controls applied in the calculation of accounting estimates, the review of journal entries processed in the accounting records and the investigation of significant and unusual transactions identified from our review of the accounting records.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the board members with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the Group.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken, so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

James Holland-Leader FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

26th September 2024

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover	2	4,162,285	3,953,748
Less: Operating costs	3	(4,082,804)	(3,783,405)
Other Income		-	21,566
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	79,481	191,909
Interest Receivable and Investment Income		14,767	7,611
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Asset/Liability	17	-	-
Gain on revaluation of investments	9	(1,237)	(5,774)
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	-	24,995
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		93,011	218,741
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability	17	(80,000)	38,000
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		13,011	£256,741

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
CHANGES IN RESERVES**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2023	1,413	2,085,263	2,086,676
Total Comprehensive Income	22,797	(9,786)	13,011
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	24,210	2,075,477	2,099,687

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		191,001		122,170
Other fixed assets	7b		49,403		43,550
Investment Properties	8		939,995		939,995
Investments	9		110,414		105,863
			1,290,813		1,211,578
Current assets					
Debtors	10	511,290		524,721	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,200,387		1,165,126	
		1,711,677		1,689,847	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(902,803)		(814,749)	
Net current assets			808,874		875,098
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			2,099,687		2,086,676
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			-		-
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			£2,099,687		£2,086,676
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		24,210		1,413
Unrestricted funds	15		2,075,477		2,085,263
Pension reserve	15		-		-
Total Funds			£2,099,687		£2,086,676

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24-Sep 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold [Sep 24, 2024 15:37 GMT+1]

Claire Arnold - Director

Doug Wildey
Doug Wildey [Sep 24, 2024 15:50 GMT+1]

Douglas Wildey – Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		191,001		122,170
Other fixed assets	7b		49,403		43,550
Investment Properties	8		939,995		939,995
Investments	9		110,515		105,964
			<u>1,290,914</u>		<u>1,211,679</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	10	545,457		600,973	
Cash at bank and in hand		971,139		1,017,953	
		<u>1,516,596</u>		<u>1,618,926</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(772,983)		(775,001)	
Net current assets			<u>743,613</u>		<u>843,925</u>
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			<u>2,034,527</u>		<u>2,055,604</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17		-		-
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			<u>£2,034,527</u>		<u>£2,055,604</u>
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		24,210		1,413
Unrestricted funds	15		2,010,317		2,054,191
Pension reserve	15		-		-
Total Funds			<u>£2,074,527</u>		<u>£2,055,604</u>

The parent company's total comprehensive expenditure for the year amounted to £(21,077) (2023: £235,869). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24-Sep 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold (Sep 24, 2024 15:37 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold - Director

Doug Wildey
Doug Wildey (Sep 24, 2024 15:50 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash generated from Operating Activities	A	170,418	(77,568)
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(144,136)	(101,751)
Purchase of Fixed Asset Investments		-	-
Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	-
Interest Received		8,979	2,596
		<u>(135,157)</u>	<u>(99,155)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		35,261	(176,723)
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		1,165,126	1,341,849
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	<u>£1,200,387</u>	<u>£1,165,126</u>
A. Cashflows from Operating Activities			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		237,011	218,741
Depreciation and losses on disposal		69,452	61,581
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		13,431	(309,817)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		88,054	34,759
Interest Receivable		(14,767)	(7,611)
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Pension		(144,000)	-
Pension Costs/Expense		(80,000)	(56,000)
Gains on revaluation		1,237	(19,221)
		<u>£170,418</u>	<u>£(77,568)</u>
B. Analysis of Changes in net funds			
	At 01/04/2023	Cash flows	At 31/03/2024
Cash	£1,165,126	£35,261	£1,200,387
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 the Statement of Recommended Practice for Registered Social Housing Providers 2018 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

The Charitable Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board has reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements. The Board has considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the Charity, and is content that the measures taken by the Charity, together with strong reserves and enhanced prospects due to Domestic Abuse Bill changes and the implementation of the government's new domestic abuse strategy, provides adequate forecasting and assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the Financial Statements.

The presentation currency in the financial statements is the pound sterling (£).

(b) Company status

Safer Places is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

(c) Group Financial Statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charitable Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Properties Limited (08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. (13524749), on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Comprehensive Income has not been presented for the parent Charitable Company itself, having taken advantage of the exemption afforded by the Companies Act 2006.

(d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds, which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(e) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is deferred where:

- The donor specifies that the grant must be used in the future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions, which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

For legacies, entitlement is when the impending distribution is probable.

Grants have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services but as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(f) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

	Years	%
Leasehold Refuge Improvements:		
Fabric	40	2.5
Roofs	40	2.5
Kitchens	20	5
Doors and Windows	30	3.33
Bathrooms	25	4
Boilers	15	6.67
Refuge Equipment	5	20
Leasehold Office Improvements	5	20
Furniture and Equipment	5	20
Motor Vehicles	5	20

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(h) Pension costs

The charitable company participates in a group defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. This is a funded scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds.

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments together with any change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service. They are included as part of staff costs. Net interest on the defined benefit liability is shown as a cost in the statement of comprehensive income. The remeasurement of the defined benefit liability is also reported in the statement of comprehensive income, and is shown in more detail in Note 17 to the Accounts.

(i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(j) Investments

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Depreciation is not provided in respect of investment properties.

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

The charitable company's investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Comprehensive Income includes the net gains and losses arising on the revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

(k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties

The following are the critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that the Board has made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Fair value of Investment Properties

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Trustees assess the fair value of the investment properties based on recent market values. In determining the fair value on this basis, the valuation remains sensitive to fluctuations in the property market.

Identification of housing property components

The charity accounts for its expenditure on housing properties using component accounting. Under component accounting, the housing property is divided into those major components which are considered to have substantially different useful economic lives. Judgement is used in allocating property costs between components (land, structure, kitchens, bathrooms etc) and in determining the useful economic lives of each component.

Housing property depreciation is calculated on a component by component basis. The identification of such components is a matter of judgement and may have a material impact on the depreciation charge. The components selected are those which reflect how the major repairs to the property are managed.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to 'technological obsolescence' with regard to IT equipment/software and any changes to decent homes standard requiring frequent replacement of components. The accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2024 was £200,333.

Bad debt provision

A full line by line review of trade debtors is carried out at the end of each month. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the bad debt provisions are as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the provisions do not match the level of debts which ultimately prove to be uncollectible.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties (continued)

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension asset in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends.

A liability of £Nil is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2024 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 17 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Income - Group	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations	23,516	7,524	31,040	29,108
Children In Need	-	19,399	19,399	38,798
Other grants	3,790	13,392	17,182	16,324
	<u>£27,306</u>	<u>£40,315</u>	<u>£67,621</u>	<u>£84,230</u>
Charitable Activities:				
Refuge rents receivable	956,023	-	956,023	1,004,719
Refuge service charges	65,888	-	65,888	69,572
Supporting People Hertfordshire	1,752,344	-	1,752,344	1,661,822
Hertfordshire Community Funding	-	344,829	344,829	293,251
Tier 2 Housing Support	-	47,945	47,945	35,060
PCC ISAC Service	-	85,359	85,359	106,622
Advance	47,947	-	47,947	49,953
EDASS	-	504,000	504,000	290,912
Herts County Council Sunflower	-	-	-	1,650
Ministry of Housing, CLG	-	-	-	99,938
Training Services	241,902	-	241,902	216,819
	<u>£3,064,104</u>	<u>£982,133</u>	<u>£4,046,237</u>	<u>£3,830,318</u>
Investment Properties				
Rents receivable	£48,427	£ -	£48,427	£39,200
	<u>£3,139,837</u>	<u>£1,022,448</u>	<u>£4,162,295</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>
Turnover				
	<u>£3,139,837</u>	<u>£1,022,448</u>	<u>£4,162,295</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Operating costs - Group

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Services to victims seeking support		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,351,090	1,177,737
Professional fees	32,496	33,527
Refuge rents and service charges	422,739	432,752
Refuge running expenses	575,204	423,104
Refuge depreciation	52,712	34,836
Other operating expenses	740,613	831,729
Bad debts	57,954	27,571
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	488,274	546,546
Depreciation	16,740	26,745
Insurance	36,515	28,906
Legal and professional fees	30,936	34,336
Audit fee	19,200	10,510
Meeting expenses	-	-
Other overhead expenses	228,841	167,449
	4,053,314	3,775,748
Other activities		
Investment property management costs	29,490	7,657
Total operating costs	£4,082,804	£3,783,405
Unrestricted Funds	3,083,153	2,905,873
Restricted Funds	999,651	877,532
	£4,082,804	£3,783,405

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4	Accommodation in management	2024	2023
	Social housing income and expenditure:	£	£
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	956,023	1,004,719
	Service charges receivable	65,888	69,572
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,200,714)	(1,231,791)
	Net surplus/(deficit) from social housing activities	£(178,803)	£(157,500)
	Void losses	£310,153	£185,176
	Supported housing	Units 84	Units 84

The RP manages properties on behalf of Swan, Catalyst, L&Q, Housing Associations, registered social housing providers operating in Essex and Herts.

5	Operating surplus/deficit	2024	2023
	This is stated after charging:	£	£
	Trustees' emoluments	-	-
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	17,033	13,865
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	443,633	433,029
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	1,263	6,664
	Depreciation of owned assets	69,452	61,581

6	Staff costs	2024	2023
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,543,456	1,371,591
	Social security costs	138,939	121,553
	Pension costs	106,821	152,477
	Termination payments	-	-
		£1,789,216	£1,645,621

		2024	2023
		No.	No.
	The average weekly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was:	50	48
	The average number of employees during the year was:	59	54

There was one employees whose employee benefits fell in the banding £60,000 to £70,000, one in the banding £70,000 to £80,000 and one in the banding £100,000 to £110,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £318,463 (2023: £319,286). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £89,875 (2023: £87,830) and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 17. Employee benefits comprise salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2023: £nil).

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties Group and Parent	Leasehold Refuge Improvements £	Refuge Equipment £	Total £
	Cost:			
	At 1 April	80,617	125,416	206,033
	Additions	102,749	18,794	121,543
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	<u>183,366</u>	<u>144,210</u>	<u>327,576</u>
	Depreciation:			
	At 1 April	20,531	63,332	83,863
	Charge for the Year	25,228	27,484	52,712
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	<u>45,759</u>	<u>90,816</u>	<u>136,575</u>
	Net Book Value 31 March 2023	<u>£60,086</u>	<u>£62,084</u>	<u>£122,170</u>
	Net book Value 31 March 2024	<u>£137,607</u>	<u>£53,394</u>	<u>£191,001</u>

7b	Other Fixed Assets Group and Parent	Leasehold Office Improvements £	Furniture and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
	Cost:				
	At 1 April	11,136	87,648	-	98,784
	Additions	-	22,593	-	22,593
	Disposals	(8,216)	-	-	(8,216)
	At 31 March	<u>2,920</u>	<u>110,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,161</u>
	Depreciation:				
	At 1 April	10,006	45,228	-	55,234
	Charge for the Year	1,130	15,610	-	16,740
	Disposals	(8,216)	-	-	(8,216)
	At 31 March	<u>2,920</u>	<u>60,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,758</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2023	<u>£1,130</u>	<u>£42,420</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£43,550</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2024	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£49,403</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£49,403</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Investment properties Group and Parent	Investment Properties £	Total £
At 1 April 2023	939,995	939,995
Change in fair value	-	
At 31st March 2024	<u>£939,995</u>	<u>£939,995</u>

The investment properties have been valued by the Trustees at 31 March 2024 based on current market value which has been assessed on the basis of historic selling prices of similar properties in the location over the course of the financial year.

9 Investments	Group		Parent		
	Investment in unit trust £	Total £	Group Undertakings £	Investment in unit trust £	Total £
At 1 April 2023	105,863	105,863	101	105,863	105,964
Additions	5,788	5,788	-	5,788	5,788
Unrealised losses	(1,237)	(1,237)	-	(1,237)	(1,237)
At 31 March 2024	<u>£110,414</u>	<u>£110,414</u>	<u>£101</u>	<u>£110,414</u>	<u>£110,515</u>

Investments in group undertakings comprises 100% of the ordinary share capital of Safer Properties Limited (company number: 08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC (company number: 13524749).

The principal activities of the subsidiaries are property investment and the provision of training courses, respectively. Summaries of the trading results are shown below:

	Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C.		Safer Properties Limited	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover	241,902	217,883	-	-
Costs of sales	(140,838)	(145,122)	-	-
Gross profit	101,064	72,761	-	-
Administrative expenses	(37,720)	(42,239)	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit	63,344	30,522	-	-
Interest receivable	1,901	650	-	-
Profit for the financial year	<u>£65,245</u>	<u>£31,172</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>

The aggregate capital and reserves of the subsidiary companies at 31 March 2024 were: Safer Properties Limited £Nil (2023: £Nil), and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. £65,261, (2023: £31,173).

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 Debtors	Group		Parent	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Social housing rent arrears	128,516	120,702	128,516	120,702
Less provision for doubtful debts	(104,678)	(46,724)	(104,678)	(46,724)
	<u>23,838</u>	<u>73,978</u>	<u>23,838</u>	<u>73,978</u>
Trade debtors	408,862	383,458	331,681	327,896
Other debtors and accrued income	15,465	4,927	128,794	138,189
Prepayments	63,125	62,358	61,144	60,910
	<u>£511,290</u>	<u>£524,721</u>	<u>£545,457</u>	<u>£600,973</u>
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Parent	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	62,836	48,627	62,836	48,627
Trade creditors	148,370	41,594	141,758	39,425
Taxation & social security	47,267	44,037	25,980	27,831
Accruals and deferred income	613,493	679,261	511,522	566,497
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	91,391
Other creditors	30,887	1,230	30,887	1,230
	<u>£902,803</u>	<u>£814,749</u>	<u>£772,983</u>	<u>£775,001</u>
12 Deferred Income	Group		Parent	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Brought forward	584,154	542,298	478,743	443,888
Released to income	(583,979)	(542,123)	(478,068)	(443,713)
Deferred this year	473,496	583,979	377,248	478,068
	<u>£473,671</u>	<u>£584,154</u>	<u>£377,423</u>	<u>£478,243</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Group			
Investments	1,050,409	-	1,050,409
Tangible fixed assets	240,404	-	240,404
Net current assets	784,664	24,210	808,874
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,075,477</u>	<u>£24,210</u>	<u>£2,099,687</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,050,510	-	1,050,510
Tangible fixed assets	240,404	-	240,404
Net current assets	719,403	24,210	743,613
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,010,317</u>	<u>£24,210</u>	<u>£2,034,527</u>

Fund balances at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Group			
Investments	1,045,858	-	1,045,858
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	873,685	1,413	875,098
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,085,263</u>	<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£2,086,676</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,045,959	-	1,045,959
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	842,512	1,413	843,925
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,054,191</u>	<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£2,055,604</u>

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

14	Restricted Funds – current year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
	Herts Community Foundation	469	344,829	(345,298)	-	-
	EDASS	-	504,000	(494,500)	-	9,500
	MOJ PCC - Herts	-	85,359	(85,359)	-	-
	Housing IDVA	-	47,945	(33,235)	-	14,710
	Children In Need	944	19,399	(20,343)	-	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	1,423	(1,423)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	11,969	(11,969)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	7,524	(7,524)	-	-
		£1,413	£1,022,448	£(999,651)	£ -	£24,210
	Restricted Funds – prior year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
	Herts Community Foundation	-	293,251	(292,782)	-	469
	EDASS	-	290,912	(290,912)	-	-
	MOJPCC – Herts	-	106,622	(106,622)	-	-
	Children in Need	-	38,798	(37,854)	-	944
	MHCLG – Essex DA Support	-	99,938	(99,938)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	14,364	(14,364)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	35,060	(35,060)	-	-
		£ -	£878,945	£(877,532)	£ -	£1,413

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- (i) **MoJ PCC - Herts**
Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner funding received from the Ministry of Justice to reinforce specialist provision for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence across the county.
- (ii) **Housing IDVA**
Funding received for an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate to provide support to domestic abuse victims in temporary accommodation.
- (iii) **National Lottery Community Fund**
Funding received from the National Lottery for the delivery of classes for confidence building and growth.
- (iv) **Children in Need**
The Charity was awarded a multi-year grant from Children in Need during 2019/20 to cover the costs of employing two Children's Workers for a three-year period.
- (v) **MHCLG**
These are funds received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which are restricted to the provision of a Complex Needs Refuge and Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker service.
- (vi) **Herts Community Foundation**
Funding received to enhance services provided in Hertfordshire. The fund is used to increase children's support staffing, the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House, and for the provision of resettlement support for those leaving refuge.
- (vii) **EDASS**
Funding is received for Essex Domestic Abuse Support Services and utilised for the support and education of those in Essex at medium risk of domestic abuse in order to recognise, recover from, and develop resilience against abuse.
- (viii) **Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project**
This is a social welfare grant from the Pilgrim Trust to support early action projects that improve the life chances of vulnerable women and girls.
- (ix) **Other Donations & Grants**
This consists of donations received at the Charity's refuges and is utilised on providing support activities to those housed in emergency accommodation.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

15 Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Designated Funds						
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	998,935	1,923,935	(94,000)	1,829,935
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	217,328	217,328	-	217,328
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,160,263	£2,085,263	£ -	£2,085,263
Balance brought forward 1 April 2023	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,160,263	2,085,263	-	2,085,263
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	-	214,214	-	214,214
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(224,000)	(224,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	(224,000)	224,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2024	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£	£2,075,477	£ -	£2,075,477

**SAFER PLACES
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

15 Unrestricted Funds - Parent

	Designated Funds						Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	988,735	1,913,735	(94,000)	1,819,735
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	196,456	196,456	-	196,456
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,129,191	£2,054,191	£ -	£2,054,191
Balance brought forward 1 April 2023	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,129,191	2,054,191	-	2,054,191
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	180,126	180,126	-	180,126
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(224,000)	(274,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(224,000)	(224,000)	224,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2024	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,083,317	£2,010,317	£ -	£2,010,317

Building Fund

This fund is to be used for building new refuges on land to be gifted.

Refurbishment Fund

This fund was set up to cover the costs of planned refurbishment work on new and existing properties.

SAFER PLACES **(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

16 Taxation

The nature of the income received and the company's charitable activities means that no corporation tax liability arises on the results for the year. The subsidiary, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC Gift Aids its taxable profits to the company and as such no tax charge is recorded in accordance with FRS 102 paragraph 29.14A.

17 Defined benefit pension schemes

Safer Places participates in a defined benefit pension scheme – Essex Pension Fund operated by Essex County Council. At 31 March 2019, Safer Places had 11 active, 64 deferred pensioners and 19 pensioners in the fund. The Employer pays contributions of 24.5% plus an additional monetary amount each year.

The assets allocation of the fund is as follows:

	2024		2023	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	5,092	55	4,684	57
Gilts	164	2	113	1
Other Bonds	-	-	363	4
Property	634	7	656	8
Cash	227	2	270	3
Alternative Assets	1,397	15	1,268	15
Other Managed Funds	1,677	18	846	10
	<u>£9,191</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£8,200</u>	<u>100%</u>

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2024	2023
Retiring today – Males	20.8	21.1
– Females	23.3	23.5
Retiring in 20 years – Males	22.0	22.3
– Females	24.7	25.0

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

CPI Increases	2.95%	2.90%
Salary Increases	3.95%	3.90%
Pension Increases	2.95%	2.90%
Discount Rate	4.90%	4.80%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2024 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2024. The results of these valuations are set out below.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

	2024	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	5,334,000	5,255,000	8,122,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	(9,191,000)	(8,200,000)	(8,028,000)
Deficit/(surplus)	(3,875,000)	(2,945,000)	94,000
Impact of asset ceiling	3,875,000	2,945,000	-
Net defined benefit liability/(asset)	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£94,000</u>

An asset ceiling has been recognised to limit the defined benefit asset to £Nil. While it is possible under LGPS regulations for an employer to receive a refund of surplus, Safer Places is a minor participant in the scheme and does not have sufficient influence to reduce future contributions to the scheme.

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Service Costs	55,000	106,000
Net Interest on defined liability/(asset)	(144,000)	-
Exclude Net Interest above asset ceiling	144,000	-
Administration Expenses	6,000	4,000
	<u>£61,000</u>	<u>£110,000</u>

(c) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	615,000	(107,000)
Changes in demographic assumptions	71,000	125,000
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	(44,000)	(333,000)
Change in financial assumptions	46,000	3,224,000
Other actuarial gains/(losses) on assets	-	74,000
Changes in effect of asset ceiling	(768,000)	(2,945,000)
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	<u>£(80,000)</u>	<u>£38,000</u>

(d) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balances of present Value of the defined benefit obligation

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	5,255,000	8,122,000
Current Service Cost	55,000	106,000
Interest Cost	249,000	209,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(71,000)	(125,000)
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	44,000	333,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	(46,000)	(3,224,000)
Estimated Benefits Paid	(172,000)	(187,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>£5,334,000</u>	<u>£5,255,000</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(e) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balance of Fair Value of Funds Assets

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	8,200,000	8,028,000
Interest on Assets	393,000	209,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	615,000	(107,000)
Administration Expenses	(6,000)	(4,000)
Contributions by Employer	141,000	166,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(172,000)	(187,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£9,191,000</u>	<u>£8,200,000</u>

(f) Sensitivity Analysis

	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,251	5,334	5,420
Projected Service Costs	54	55	57
 Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,338	5,334	5,330
Projected Service Costs	55	55	55
 Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,417	5,334	5,253
Projected Service Costs	56	55	54
 Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions	 + 1 Year	 None	 -1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,529	5,334	5,146
Projected Service Costs	58	55	53

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2025

	£
Service Cost	55,000
Net Interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	(3,000)
Administration Expenses	6,000
Total Loss/(Surplus)	<u>£58,000</u>
Employer Contribution	<u>£145,000</u>

SAFER PLACES **(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £11,865 (2023: (£13,524) from D.Wilkey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2023: no trustee received any reimbursement of expenses).

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC, an unregistered body. Safer Places acts as paymaster for staff jointly employed by both entities and recharged staff costs amounting to £97,531. Safer Places charged SPPTDCIC a management fee of £14,898 and recharged £5,974 of expenses paid on that company's behalf. The allocation of staff costs was calculated on the basis of time spent by those employees on the activity of the subsidiary with no markup. In addition, Safer Places received a distribution under gift aid of £31,157 in the year. At the year end, £Nil was owed by Safer Places to SPPTDCIC.

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Properties Limited, an unregistered body. There were no transactions with Safer Properties during the year. At the year-end £900 (2023: £900) was owed by Safer Properties to Safer Places.

19 Ultimate control

The charity is under no overall control but is administered by the trustees.

20 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2024 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

Group	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	414,103	413,710	14,280	35,139
Between two and five years	194,143	225,655	22,411	42,462
In more than five years	15,766	55,664	-	-
	<u>£624,012</u>	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£36,691</u>	<u>£77,601</u>

Parent	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	414,103	413,710	14,280	35,139
Between two and five years	194,143	225,655	22,411	42,462
In more than five years	15,766	55,664	-	-
	<u>£624,012</u>	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£36,691</u>	<u>£77,601</u>

21 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2024 Safer Places had no capital commitments.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Regulator of Social Housing number	4761

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SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Governing document	The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
Known as	Safer Places
Registered office	The Latton Bush Centre Southern Way Harlow Essex CM18 7BL
Auditors	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Billericay Commercial Centre Lloyds Commercial 89 High Street Billericay Essex CM12 9AT
Trustees	• Douglas Wildey • Gift Kapswara • Lorraine Larman • Sian Chambers • Claire Arnold • Kathy Osborne (resigned 22 December 2023) • Sean Carroll (resigned 21 May 2024) • Martina Talbot-Rice (appointed 28 February 2024) • Tracy Fisher (appointed 16 March 2024)
Secretary	Allison Gardner

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Structure Governance and Management

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of Safer Places and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C and Safer Properties Limited.

Safer Places is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Charitable Company is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (Reg No 4761).

Our governing documents are our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Trustees are elected from our membership at our Annual General meeting. Our Trustees serve for a period of three years and then stand down or seek nomination and re-election. In line with good governance guidance Trustees do not normally serve for more than three terms. However, it was agreed that Douglas Wildey continue as a Trustee since he brings a level of specialist expertise to the board which is highly valued and would be difficult to replace.

Our membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives set out in our Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Trustees shall admit to membership of the company. An application for membership may be approved or rejected by the Trustees. The Trustees have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

We welcome nominations from organisations who are members of Safer Places.

Safer Places has no prohibition on clients becoming Members or Trustees providing they are able to meet the eligibility requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of these roles.

It is the policy of Safer Places to ensure that all Trustees are eligible and have sufficient and appropriate skills to serve. All members wishing to become Trustees undergo a competency-based selection process and are required to complete a Declaration of Eligibility and a Declaration of Interests annually.

Once appointed Trustees participate in an induction process which, includes induction to the company as well as to the role of Trustee. Ongoing training relevant to the role of Trustee is provided.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Safer Places for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Housing SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Group and charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Our Trustees are also responsible for the following:

- Setting the strategic direction of Safer Places, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and meeting the needs for which it was established.
- Ensuring Safer Places complies with company and charity requirements.
- Ensuring that Safer Places does not breach the rules set out in its governing documents and remains true to its charitable purpose.
- Making sure Safer Places complies with all requirements of other legislation, which govern the activities of the company.
- Preventing the misuse of company funds or assets.
- Ensuring that company funds and assets are used reasonably and only in the furtherance of the company's objectives.
- Avoiding any activity that might place the company's assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Taking special care in investing the company's funds or borrowing funds on behalf of the company.
- Using their personal skills and experience to ensure the company is well run and efficient.
- Considering getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the company or where Trustees may be in breach of their duties.

Day to day management of Safer Places is delegated to the Chief Executive who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets at least five times per year.

Staff attend Board Meetings and advise on all matters but do not vote.

Statement on the registered social housing provider's internal control systems

The Board takes an active interest in all internal control and corporate governance matters, and aims to meet the highest standards. The Board accepts the principles in the National Housing Federation Code of Governance, which go well beyond internal financial control.

This statement is confined to internal financial control. Internal financial control means the controls established in order to provide reasonable assurance of:

- the safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or dispositions; and
- the maintenance of proper accounting records and the reliability of financial information used with the company or for publication

Statement

The Board acknowledges its primary responsibility for the company's system of internal financial control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. However, such a system can only provide reasonable and never absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board has established, and intends to continue development of, key procedures designed to provide effective internal financial control. These are the high-level procedures and processes by which the Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

The company's internal financial control and monitoring procedures include:

- clear responsibilities on the part of line and financial management for the maintenance of good financial controls and the production of accurate and timely financial management information
- the control of key financial risks through clearly laid down authorisation levels and proper segregation of duties
- detailed monthly budgeting and reporting of income and expenditure, with regular review by management of variances from budgets
- reporting on compliance with financial controls and procedure (for the year end) by external auditors.

These reports are reviewed by the Finance and the Board prior to the use of interim and annual reports.

Code of Governance and Governance and Financial Viability Standard

Safer Places has adopted the Charity Governance Code as it best reflects the objectives and aims of the organisation as a registered charity. The Board undertake a 5-year external audit against the Charity Code of Governance and review the compliance internally on an annual basis. We can report that there are no outstanding actions or non-compliance against the code and the outcome of the prior audit was that the auditor considered the charity to be well governed.

The Board confirms Safer Places is compliant with the Governance and Financial Viability Standard.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Safer Places are:

"The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse, including stalking and harassment; to provide education for their future benefit; to educate those who work with victims of domestic violence and to provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing, or at risk of domestic violence, stalking and harassment."

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Safer Places vision is a society where everyone lives a life free from fear and abuse.

Mission

Safer Places exists to drive down the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual abuse and to support those who use our services in their journey to recovery, resilience and independence.

Values

These are the values we promise to uphold so we never lose sight of our mission:

Client Led – We empower our clients to exercise choice and control of their support. We ensure client's voices are heard and that they impact our decision making and shape our services

Accessible – We work inclusively with our clients, partners and communities. Anyone who is at risk of experiencing abuse can access our services when, how and where they need them.

Respectful – We adopt a trauma informed, holistic approach to support. We listen and believe, are non-judgemental and open and honest about what we can and cannot do.

Effective – We deliver high quality services that work for our clients. Our practice is informed by our clients, research, evidence and learning from experts by experience.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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Review of 2023/24

We have had a very busy year providing a range of services across Essex and Hertfordshire including community outreach, safe accommodation, therapeutic services, a range of support options including our Triple R programme, children's support service and support for victims with insecure immigration & No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). We support anyone, regardless of gender identity, sexuality, age, race, ethnicity, religion or disability.

This year we excitedly started working on our new strategic plan and we have been very busy making good progress against this.

1 - We will review how we spend our money to ensure best value

- We invested in a new system for Health and Safety and Compliance
- We undertook a full review of facilities
- We implemented a new Risk Register with supplier control
- Fixed cost and overhead allocations have been re-worked to increase visibility of per contract costs
- We expect a further reduction in printing costs as a result of approximately £1,500 per annum.
- We saved £16,000 through efficiencies
- IT & systems cost review is complete and pending complete works should realise a cost saving per annum of approximately £3k

Future plans

We will:

- Develop a of more comprehensive cost review programme in relation to facilities expenditure to better manage refuge supplies and stock
- Streamline the assessment and admission process for all our services
- Update the due diligence framework for new property acquisitions to reduce costs e.g. single unit allocations to allow clients to directly pay utilities
- Review processes related to resettlement properties to enable longer tenancies and therefore better financially support the estates/facilities cost base

2 - Deliver a gold standard trauma informed, evidence based, inclusive service that meets individual needs

- Safer Places received the "Gems of Harlow" award for outstanding acts of community service. The event, hosted by Harlow Council at the Civic Centre, on Tuesday 15th August, celebrated the achievements of local charities making a difference in the community.
- We undertook an Adult Needs Assessment and Children's Needs Assessment in our safe accommodation.
- We are redeveloping our service model as a result of the learning from the Refuge needs assessment which indicates the diversity within our caseloads and that clients tend to fall into three main groups requiring different levels and types of service based on needs and circumstances.
- We worked with BrainKind on a research project.
- We reviewed the recommendations and developed an implementation plan from impact research on:
 - migrant women,
 - trans clients experiencing domestic abuse
 - how we can attract a more diverse workforce.

Future plans

We will:

- Work to gain WAFE accreditation
- Review our Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion offer
- Undertake more needs assessments to determine if we are meeting the diverse needs of our clients
- Implement our new tiered service model
- Implement the recommendations from the Impact research

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- 3 - Support the Community Interests Training Company to generate income to provide added value to our frontline services, enhance the reputation and reach of both organisations
- The C.I.C was formed in July 2021. At this stage we offered 3 qualifications (IDVA, ISVA & ISAS) and offered a small range of short courses which were not CPD accredited.
 - The team now has 5 members.
 - Our portfolio currently consists of
 - 8 qualifications
 - 12 CPD accredited short courses
 - A bank of 15 webinars to offer bite-size learning opportunities to professionals on specialist topics
 - We have doubled the number of IDVA cohorts run per year, our most popular and profitable course.
 - Two of our qualifications are bespoke and we are the sole provider of Level 3 Children's Advocate and Level 4 Independent Stalking Advocacy Specialist
 - We have responded to the changes in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to offer a bespoke children's qualification to support children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.
 - Safer Places staff have achieved 74 qualifications internally.

Future plans

We will:

- Continue to grow and develop our team and our training portfolio
- Develop Safe Accommodation standards in conjunction with Safer Places to offer Level 4 Safe Accommodation for Managers qualification
- Launch new training for family courts
- Consider/engage with market outside of the UK

4 - Recruit, retain, develop and support staff to deliver excellent services

- Safer Places is an organisation committed to supporting and developing our workforce.
- We completed an annual review of pay and conditions and made recommendations to the Board
- As of 31st March there were 65 members of staff compared to 60 staff in the previous year (April 2023). Staff turnover was 1.59%. The same period last year (April 2023) was 1.79%.
- Safer Places was shortlisted for the Investors in People 2023 award "UK Employer of the Year". The award is given to organisations who prioritise the health and wellbeing of their staff and are committed to better working practices within their organisation. Feedback included:
- People felt exceptionally well invested in.
- There is a highly collaborative and mutually supportive team; this continuously demonstrated and proactively engendered by the approaches of leaders.
- People feel empowered and trusted, and said they had been able to progress further than they may have initially believed they could.
- Leadership strategies had not only impacted on outcomes for service users but also those who work for or network with Safer Places.

Future plans

We will:

- Further invest in the development of future senior leadership roles
- Publish and promote our current benefits to ensure staff continue to be aware of them and use them and improve benefit package for staff
- Ensure Senior Practitioners have more targeted development plans e.g. around preparing for meetings with and influencing partner agencies and groups, report writing etc., through shadowing and coaching as well as training
- Invest in more targeted recruitment
- Improve application of the supervision and appraisal process allowing better identification of staff ready for development and then putting training and coaching plans in place for them

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5 - Ensuring the estates portfolio is fit for purpose for current and future demands

- We opened:
 - Alex House – providing a much-needed safe accommodation for any male survivor who needs us named after a local male
 - Khushi House a specialist Asian women's refuge named by survivors after a universal word for happiness
 - T – safe accommodation and specialist support for women with alcohol or drug use in partnership with DrugLink.
- We have been working hard to bring all our accommodation up to a high standard with a programme of planned maintenance
- We commissioned a chartered surveyor to provide a regular condition surveys on each property providing costed and prioritised recommendations for each and working with us on the development of our estates strategy

Future plans

We will

- Look at the configuration of the properties we have
- Look to acquire a further 10 units which could be used for resettlement
- Extend T with an additional 4 units
- Develop a plan for refurbishment of our safe accommodation

As can be seen we have ambitious plans to further develop a plan to ensure that our safe accommodation is suitable to meet the ever-changing needs that we are faced with. We are excited see what the year ahead holds.

Our Beneficiaries and Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees are aware and mindful of the Charities Commission guidance. Safer Places has delivered public benefit in line with the objects and activities of the organisation through the delivery of our core services.

Over the last year Safer Places has delivered Public Benefit in line with the objects of the charity in the following ways:

To relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from domestic abuse including stalking and harassment

We received a total of 3809 referrals for support over the financial year.

Safe Accommodation

Our safe accommodation service supported a total of 677 individuals, 266 women, 16 men, 1 non-binary individual and 394 children across our safe accommodation.

Outreach Hertfordshire

Our outreach service in Hertfordshire supported 1027 women, 66 men, 1 non-binary person and 613 children.

Stalking Service

Our specialist stalking support service supported 434 adults and 363 children.

- The average time before seeking help was 16 months.
- 64% of the cases closed reported feeling safer on exit
- 58% reported improved quality of life

No Recourse to Public Funds

- Our specialist IDVA who works with victims who have no recourse to public funds which is paid for by The Pilgrims Trust supported 26 adults with 25 children.

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Triple R

We continued to run our psychoeducational CBT based RRR Domestic Abuse group program. This is a 12-week program in four modules which covers Risk, Recovery and Resilience and Impact on Children. Participants can undertake all four modules or select a specific module – this programme can be adapted to personal circumstances and the needs of participants and is delivered through in-person and online sessions for those we are supporting.

Participants have found the group invaluable in their recovery:

- "This group has opened my eyes and changed my life in a positive way. I can talk freely without being judged and continue to learn new things as I heal and understand the past."
- "I feel that this programme has some form of magic in it. The whole thing has been so empowering, and my recovery is momentous. I had been crying every day and feeling hopeless. I am now much better and feel positive about who I am and whatever I decide to do... I can do it."
- "I feel so much stronger, braver and that I am starting to re-find myself again. I feel like I am gaining control over my life a little at a time. There have been weeks where the only thing that has got me through it knowing I had Triple R. Thanks to Triple R I feel like I am starting to get back to who I used to be before my abusive relationship."

Children

Since the change in the law in 2021, children are automatically classed as victims (in their own right) if they have seen, heard or experienced domestic abuse. Children who stay with us with their parent receive a warm welcome and are met with a buddy bag welcome pack that contains age-appropriate toys. Children will be able to access age-appropriate group therapies such as drawing, drama, play or Lego therapy and will receive access to one-to-one therapies that are age appropriate and child centred. Over the year we have celebrated many special occasions, such as a birthdays and religious celebrations. Individual support plans are developed and regularly reviewed for the children and if any support is required with regards to special educational needs, health needs, disabilities, school applications or any other external agencies, our children and family team help to put things in place.

Conference

We held a conference 'Creating a Safer Place for Survivors of Domestic Abuse', on the 8th March to coincide with International Women's Day. The keynote speaker at the conference was researcher Stephanie Bechelet, from the organisation Brainkind who support people living with acquired brain injuries and other neurological conditions in the UK. This year Brainkind released groundbreaking research - 'Too Many To Count' - which, with the help of Safer Places and other domestic abuse charities, explored the prevalence and effect of brain injuries on abuse victims, finding that half of all domestic abuse survivors may be living with a brain injury.

Training

Our Community Interest Company, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC. (SPDTCIC) has gone from strength to strength. The organisation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Safer Places with all profit deployed to enhance the direct client services to beneficiaries of Safer Places services. The impact of training has been felt within the organisation but also outside of the organisation as well.

- Approx 1900 delegates attended our webinars, we pride ourselves on our cutting edge range of topics including: DA & pets, Stalking & young people, DA & the deaf community, DA & Mental health, DA & the LGBTQ+ community, DA & Neurodiversity, HBA, Children as victims, DA & suicide, Males victims of DA, DA & the transgender community, Clare's Law - 10 Year Anniversary, Sexism and Misogyny, Sexual Harassment, Online Abuse, VAWG Workshop.
- 212 delegates attended one of our short courses including
- 525 people attended our J9 Disclosure Training Sessions
- 1550 students attended our Healthy Relationships Sessions
- 205 qualifications were awarded from our accredited programmes

We are so proud of what the CIC has achieved over the year and the feedback we have received really just says it all:

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- "Firstly, I wanted to say a huge thank you for delivering the Level 3 IDVA course. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and the support and knowledge you shared was fabulous. It is a life changing course in so many ways, for victims and for professionals. It definitely has changed my life. I have now secured an IDVA role".
- "I just wanted to say a big thank you after receiving the marks and feedback for the ISVA workbook. Thank you for an amazing opportunity and a truly engaging and amazing training course".
- "After this I then completed the ISVA course and now have the confidence and knowledge that I need to pursue my dream job".
- "Next month I start my new job as a Health IDVA in a hospital".
- "Thank you Safer Places for changing my life".

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Value for Money (VFM)

Each year the Charity used a range of data to measure VFM progress against the housing sector. The results help influence investment decisions and provide the regulators and other stakeholders with information on the progress of the Charity, whilst also ensuring compliance with the regulatory VFM standard. The charity has measured itself against the Acuity smaller providers 2022/23 results (median figures, for Cost Per Unit the Supported Housing result has been used due to being more comparable to Safer Places).

Metric	2024	2023	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	63.63%	68.53%	3.70%	Safer Places holds its housing stock on operating leases. Fixed assets represent the value of improvements carried out and, additions therefore represent a greater proportion of book value.
New supply % (social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year.
New supply % (non-social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gearing	(508.4)%	(758.4)%	13.24%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	N/A	N/A%	168%	Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit, which was nil for 2024.
Social Housing Cost Per Unit	£14,372	£14,813	£5,395	The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base.
Operating Margin (social housing)	(17.50)%	(14.66)%	13.21%	The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing loss of rent through vacancies. Safer Places has seen reductions to the amount of Housing Benefit chargeable for clients due to local authority adjustments to service charge allowances, putting further pressure on margins.
Operating Margin (overall)	0.41%	4.30%	13.34%	
Return on Capital Employed	0.79%	7.82%	1.86%	Whilst the lease-based housing provision means Safer Places has lower level of capital employed, the nature of its income streams and activities means it generates a lower return than organisations providing solely housing.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the board to provide sufficient reserves to:

- Ensure continuity of provision for a limited period in the event of a large variation in income in order that further income can be sourced or a reduction in service planned and implemented so as to minimise risk to our clients.
- Pay the annual sums associated with reducing the deficit for which we are responsible related to our membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Provide a refurbishment fund so that we can sustain our continuous planned upgrade and refurbishment programme.

Reserves will therefore be held:

1. Working Capital – with sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating at current service level for a period of three months
2. Refurbishment – to undertake a rolling programme to sustain the quality of our accommodation and services.
3. Property acquisition - the Trustees are currently reviewing refuge requirements across operational areas and are considering investment to improve provision of services in key areas.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. In light of the continued uncertain economic conditions, increased costs related to utilities and the supply chain caused by increased fuel costs are a principal risk to Safer Places.
2. Like many charities, in the mid to long term the organisation must also face the challenge of ensuring adequate funds are available to meet the obligations of its defined benefit pension scheme. We continue to hold assets necessary to manage the fund however the pension obligations remain volatile. The economic conditions again prove challenging not just for the Charity but for the client base and we continue to take action to support clients on financial matters as well.
3. To sustain and enhance income related to the training subsidiary in order to provide enhanced services to the stakeholders. The year reflects that the provision of training has proved a successful venture to date.

Safer Places Investment Policy

It is the policy of Safer Places to achieve the best possible return on investment and therefore two properties were purchased in 2012. The rental return on these properties far exceeds any rate that could be achieved currently through the financial institutions. Cash funds on reserve will be placed on fixed term deposits according to best rates at the time and the need for funds to be available.

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Review of Financial position

Safer Places' continued strategy to diversify income and provide fully funded frontline services has resulted in a sustained operating surplus for the group of £79k (2023: surplus 192k), and taking into account investment returns and financing costs achieved a group surplus for the year of £93k (2023: surplus £219k) which will be re-invested to services in the coming financial period to ensure we continue to meet the changing needs of our client base.

Social housing income remained relatively constant showing a slight decrease from 2023 due to adjustments in the types & quantity of units provided £1,021,911 (2023: £1,074,291).

The cash position of the group has increased by £35,261, due to the surplus for the year net of fixed asset additions. The group and parent charity therefore maintained sufficient cash balances to fulfil its reserves policy at the year end. Investment Properties were determined to be held at fair value and rental income from the properties also remains relatively stable.

Going Concern

The Board has reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees agreed to focus on diversifying income streams and in 2021/2022 setup a trading subsidiary to deliver high quality training services within the domestic abuse which continues in 2023/2024 to realise a significant profit. The organisation continues to operate with 6 months operating costs in reserve and has a strong cash balance.

We therefore consider that the future prospects for funding to continue to be encouraging and that we are well placed to secure additional income.

Auditors

The Auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have indicated that they are willing to be re-appointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board

Claire Arnold


Claire Arnold (Sep 24, 2024 15:37 GMT+1)

Chair of Trustees

Date: 24-Sep 2024

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in reserves, the consolidated and company statement of financial positions, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 2-3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds.
- We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to Safer Places and determined that the most significant are the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, and the regulatory standards issued by the Regulator of Social Housing.
- We understood how the Association is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the Association's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements. These included risks associated with revenue recognition, application of accounting estimate, and management override of controls, which were discussed and agreed by the audit team.
- Our approach included agreeing the recognition of income to the terms of tenancy agreements, grant agreements and contracts, reviewing the assumptions used and controls applied in the calculation of accounting estimates, the review of journal entries processed in the accounting records and the investigation of significant and unusual transactions identified from our review of the accounting records.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the board members with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the Group.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken, so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

James Holland-Leader FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

26th September 2024

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover	2	4,162,285	3,953,748
Less: Operating costs	3	(4,082,804)	(3,783,405)
Other Income		-	21,566
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	79,481	191,909
Interest Receivable and Investment Income		14,767	7,611
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Asset/Liability	17	-	-
Gain on revaluation of investments	9	(1,237)	(5,774)
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	-	24,995
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		93,011	218,741
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability	17	(80,000)	38,000
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		13,011	£256,741

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
CHANGES IN RESERVES**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2023	1,413	2,085,263	2,086,676
Total Comprehensive Income	22,797	(9,786)	13,011
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	24,210	2,075,477	2,099,687

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		191,001		122,170
Other fixed assets	7b		49,403		43,550
Investment Properties	8		939,995		939,995
Investments	9		110,414		105,863
			<u>1,290,813</u>		<u>1,211,578</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	10	511,290		524,721	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,200,387		1,165,126	
		<u>1,711,677</u>		<u>1,689,847</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(902,803)		(814,749)	
Net current assets			<u>808,874</u>		<u>875,098</u>
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			<u>2,099,687</u>		<u>2,086,676</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			-		-
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			<u>£2,099,687</u>		<u>£2,086,676</u>
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		24,210		1,413
Unrestricted funds	15		2,075,477		2,085,263
Pension reserve	15		-		-
Total Funds			<u>£2,099,687</u>		<u>£2,086,676</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24-Sep 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold [Sep 24, 2024 15:37 GMT+1]

Doug Wildey
Doug Wildey [Sep 24, 2024 15:50 GMT+1]

Claire Arnold - Director

Douglas Wildey – Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Housing property assets	7a	191,001	122,170
Other fixed assets	7b	49,403	43,550
Investment Properties	8	939,995	939,995
Investments	9	110,515	105,964
		<u>1,290,914</u>	<u>1,211,679</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	545,457	600,973
Cash at bank and in hand		971,139	1,017,953
		<u>1,516,596</u>	<u>1,618,926</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(772,983)	(775,001)
Net current assets		<u>743,613</u>	<u>843,925</u>
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities		<u>2,034,527</u>	<u>2,055,604</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17	-	-
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities		<u>£2,034,527</u>	<u>£2,055,604</u>
Represented by:			
Restricted funds	14	24,210	1,413
Unrestricted funds	15	2,010,317	2,054,191
Pension reserve	15	-	-
Total Funds		<u>£2,074,527</u>	<u>£2,055,604</u>

The parent company's total comprehensive expenditure for the year amounted to £(21,077) (2023: £235,869). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24-Sep 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold (Sep 24, 2024 15:37 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold - Director

Doug Wildey
Doug Wildey (Sep 24, 2024 15:50 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash generated from Operating Activities	A	170,418	(77,568)
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(144,136)	(101,751)
Purchase of Fixed Asset Investments		-	-
Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	-
Interest Received		8,979	2,596
		<u>(135,157)</u>	<u>(99,155)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		35,261	(176,723)
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		<u>1,165,126</u>	<u>1,341,849</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	<u>£1,200,387</u>	<u>£1,165,126</u>
A. Cashflows from Operating Activities			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		237,011	218,741
Depreciation and losses on disposal		69,452	61,581
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		13,431	(309,817)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		88,054	34,759
Interest Receivable		(14,767)	(7,611)
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Pension		(144,000)	-
Pension Costs/Expense		(80,000)	(56,000)
Gains on revaluation		1,237	(19,221)
		<u>£170,418</u>	<u>£(77,568)</u>
B. Analysis of Changes in net funds			
	At 01/04/2023	Cash flows	At 31/03/2024
Cash	<u>£1,165,126</u>	<u>£35,261</u>	<u>£1,200,387</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 the Statement of Recommended Practice for Registered Social Housing Providers 2018 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

The Charitable Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board has reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements. The Board has considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the Charity, and is content that the measures taken by the Charity, together with strong reserves and enhanced prospects due to Domestic Abuse Bill changes and the implementation of the government's new domestic abuse strategy, provides adequate forecasting and assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the Financial Statements.

The presentation currency in the financial statements is the pound sterling (£).

(b) Company status

Safer Places is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

(c) Group Financial Statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charitable Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Properties Limited (08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. (13524749), on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Comprehensive Income has not been presented for the parent Charitable Company itself, having taken advantage of the exemption afforded by the Companies Act 2006.

(d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds, which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(e) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is deferred where:

- The donor specifies that the grant must be used in the future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions, which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

For legacies, entitlement is when the impending distribution is probable.

Grants have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services but as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(f) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

	Years	%
Leasehold Refuge Improvements:		
Fabric	40	2.5
Roofs	40	2.5
Kitchens	20	5
Doors and Windows	30	3.33
Bathrooms	25	4
Boilers	15	6.67
Refuge Equipment	5	20
Leasehold Office Improvements	5	20
Furniture and Equipment	5	20
Motor Vehicles	5	20

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(h) Pension costs

The charitable company participates in a group defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. This is a funded scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds.

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments together with any change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service. They are included as part of staff costs. Net interest on the defined benefit liability is shown as a cost in the statement of comprehensive income. The remeasurement of the defined benefit liability is also reported in the statement of comprehensive income, and is shown in more detail in Note 17 to the Accounts.

(i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(j) Investments

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Depreciation is not provided in respect of investment properties.

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

The charitable company's investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Comprehensive Income includes the net gains and losses arising on the revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

(k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties

The following are the critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that the Board has made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Fair value of Investment Properties

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Trustees assess the fair value of the investment properties based on recent market values. In determining the fair value on this basis, the valuation remains sensitive to fluctuations in the property market.

Identification of housing property components

The charity accounts for its expenditure on housing properties using component accounting. Under component accounting, the housing property is divided into those major components which are considered to have substantially different useful economic lives. Judgement is used in allocating property costs between components (land, structure, kitchens, bathrooms etc) and in determining the useful economic lives of each component.

Housing property depreciation is calculated on a component by component basis. The identification of such components is a matter of judgement and may have a material impact on the depreciation charge. The components selected are those which reflect how the major repairs to the property are managed.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to 'technological obsolescence' with regard to IT equipment/software and any changes to decent homes standard requiring frequent replacement of components. The accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2024 was £200,333.

Bad debt provision

A full line by line review of trade debtors is carried out at the end of each month. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the bad debt provisions are as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the provisions do not match the level of debts which ultimately prove to be uncollectible.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties (continued)

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension asset in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends.

A liability of £Nil is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2024 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 17 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Income - Group	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations	23,516	7,524	31,040	29,108
Children In Need	-	19,399	19,399	38,798
Other grants	3,790	13,392	17,182	16,324
	<u>£27,306</u>	<u>£40,315</u>	<u>£67,621</u>	<u>£84,230</u>
Charitable Activities:				
Refuge rents receivable	956,023	-	956,023	1,004,719
Refuge service charges	65,888	-	65,888	69,572
Supporting People Hertfordshire	1,752,344	-	1,752,344	1,661,822
Hertfordshire Community Funding	-	344,829	344,829	293,251
Tier 2 Housing Support	-	47,945	47,945	35,060
PCC ISAC Service	-	85,359	85,359	106,622
Advance	47,947	-	47,947	49,953
EDASS	-	504,000	504,000	290,912
Herts County Council Sunflower	-	-	-	1,650
Ministry of Housing, CLG	-	-	-	99,938
Training Services	241,902	-	241,902	216,819
	<u>£3,064,104</u>	<u>£982,133</u>	<u>£4,046,237</u>	<u>£3,830,318</u>
Investment Properties				
Rents receivable	£48,427	£ -	£48,427	£39,200
	<u>£3,139,837</u>	<u>£1,022,448</u>	<u>£4,162,295</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>
Turnover				
	<u>£3,139,837</u>	<u>£1,022,448</u>	<u>£4,162,295</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Operating costs - Group

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Services to victims seeking support		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,351,090	1,177,737
Professional fees	32,496	33,527
Refuge rents and service charges	422,739	432,752
Refuge running expenses	575,204	423,104
Refuge depreciation	52,712	34,836
Other operating expenses	740,613	831,729
Bad debts	57,954	27,571
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	488,274	546,546
Depreciation	16,740	26,745
Insurance	36,515	28,906
Legal and professional fees	30,936	34,336
Audit fee	19,200	10,510
Meeting expenses	-	-
Other overhead expenses	228,841	167,449
	4,053,314	3,775,748
Other activities		
Investment property management costs	29,490	7,657
Total operating costs	£4,082,804	£3,783,405
Unrestricted Funds	3,083,153	2,905,873
Restricted Funds	999,651	877,532
	£4,082,804	£3,783,405

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4	Accommodation in management	2024	2023
	Social housing income and expenditure:	£	£
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	956,023	1,004,719
	Service charges receivable	65,888	69,572
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,200,714)	(1,231,791)
	Net surplus/(deficit) from social housing activities	£(178,803)	£(157,500)
	Void losses	£310,153	£185,176
	Supported housing	Units 84	Units 84

The RP manages properties on behalf of Swan, Catalyst, L&Q, Housing Associations, registered social housing providers operating in Essex and Herts.

5	Operating surplus/deficit	2024	2023
	This is stated after charging:	£	£
	Trustees' emoluments	-	-
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	17,033	13,865
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	443,633	433,029
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	1,263	6,664
	Depreciation of owned assets	69,452	61,581

6	Staff costs	2024	2023
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,543,456	1,371,591
	Social security costs	138,939	121,553
	Pension costs	106,821	152,477
	Termination payments	-	-
		£1,789,216	£1,645,621

		2024	2023
		No.	No.
	The average weekly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was:	50	48
	The average number of employees during the year was:	59	54

There was one employees whose employee benefits fell in the banding £60,000 to £70,000, one in the banding £70,000 to £80,000 and one in the banding £100,000 to £110,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £318,463 (2023: £319,286). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £89,875 (2023: £87,830) and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 17. Employee benefits comprise salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2023: £nil).

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties Group and Parent	Leasehold Refuge Improvements £	Refuge Equipment £	Total £
	Cost:			
	At 1 April	80,617	125,416	206,033
	Additions	102,749	18,794	121,543
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	<u>183,366</u>	<u>144,210</u>	<u>327,576</u>
	Depreciation:			
	At 1 April	20,531	63,332	83,863
	Charge for the Year	25,228	27,484	52,712
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 March	<u>45,759</u>	<u>90,816</u>	<u>136,575</u>
	Net Book Value 31 March 2023	<u>£60,086</u>	<u>£62,084</u>	<u>£122,170</u>
	Net book Value 31 March 2024	<u>£137,607</u>	<u>£53,394</u>	<u>£191,001</u>

7b	Other Fixed Assets Group and Parent	Leasehold Office Improvements £	Furniture and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
	Cost:				
	At 1 April	11,136	87,648	-	98,784
	Additions	-	22,593	-	22,593
	Disposals	(8,216)	-	-	(8,216)
	At 31 March	<u>2,920</u>	<u>110,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,161</u>
	Depreciation:				
	At 1 April	10,006	45,228	-	55,234
	Charge for the Year	1,130	15,610	-	16,740
	Disposals	(8,216)	-	-	(8,216)
	At 31 March	<u>2,920</u>	<u>60,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,758</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2023	<u>£1,130</u>	<u>£42,420</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£43,550</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2024	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£49,403</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£49,403</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8	Investment properties Group and Parent	Investment Properties £	Total £
	At 1 April 2023	939,995	939,995
	Change in fair value	-	-
	At 31st March 2024	<u>£939,995</u>	<u>£939,995</u>

The investment properties have been valued by the Trustees at 31 March 2024 based on current market value which has been assessed on the basis of historic selling prices of similar properties in the location over the course of the financial year.

9	Investments	Group		Parent	
	Investment in unit trust	Total	Group Undertakings	Investment in unit trust	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	105,863	105,863	101	105,863	105,964
Additions	5,788	5,788	-	5,788	5,788
Unrealised losses	(1,237)	(1,237)	-	(1,237)	(1,237)
At 31 March 2024	<u>£110,414</u>	<u>£110,414</u>	<u>£101</u>	<u>£110,414</u>	<u>£110,515</u>

Investments in group undertakings comprises 100% of the ordinary share capital of Safer Properties Limited (company number: 08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC (company number: 13524749).

The principal activities of the subsidiaries are property investment and the provision of training courses, respectively. Summaries of the trading results are shown below:

	Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C.		Safer Properties Limited	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Turnover	241,902	217,883	-	-
Costs of sales	(140,838)	(145,122)	-	-
Gross profit	101,064	72,761	-	-
Administrative expenses	(37,720)	(42,239)	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit	63,344	30,522	-	-
Interest receivable	1,901	650	-	-
Profit for the financial year	<u>£65,245</u>	<u>£31,172</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>

The aggregate capital and reserves of the subsidiary companies at 31 March 2024 were: Safer Properties Limited £Nil (2023: £Nil), and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. £65,261, (2023: £31,173).

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 Debtors	Group		Parent	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Social housing rent arrears	128,516	120,702	128,516	120,702
Less provision for doubtful debts	(104,678)	(46,724)	(104,678)	(46,724)
	<u>23,838</u>	<u>73,978</u>	<u>23,838</u>	<u>73,978</u>
Trade debtors	408,862	383,458	331,681	327,896
Other debtors and accrued income	15,465	4,927	128,794	138,189
Prepayments	63,125	62,358	61,144	60,910
	<u>£511,290</u>	<u>£524,721</u>	<u>£545,457</u>	<u>£600,973</u>
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Parent	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	62,836	48,627	62,836	48,627
Trade creditors	148,370	41,594	141,758	39,425
Taxation & social security	47,267	44,037	25,980	27,831
Accruals and deferred income	613,493	679,261	511,522	566,497
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	91,391
Other creditors	30,887	1,230	30,887	1,230
	<u>£902,803</u>	<u>£814,749</u>	<u>£772,983</u>	<u>£775,001</u>
12 Deferred Income	Group		Parent	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Brought forward	584,154	542,298	478,743	443,888
Released to income	(583,979)	(542,123)	(478,068)	(443,713)
Deferred this year	473,496	583,979	377,248	478,068
	<u>£473,671</u>	<u>£584,154</u>	<u>£377,423</u>	<u>£478,243</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Group			
Investments	1,050,409	-	1,050,409
Tangible fixed assets	240,404	-	240,404
Net current assets	784,664	24,210	808,874
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,075,477</u>	<u>£24,210</u>	<u>£2,099,687</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,050,510	-	1,050,510
Tangible fixed assets	240,404	-	240,404
Net current assets	719,403	24,210	743,613
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,010,317</u>	<u>£24,210</u>	<u>£2,034,527</u>

Fund balances at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Group			
Investments	1,045,858	-	1,045,858
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	873,685	1,413	875,098
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,085,263</u>	<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£2,086,676</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,045,959	-	1,045,959
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	842,512	1,413	843,925
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,054,191</u>	<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£2,055,604</u>

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

14	Restricted Funds – current year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
	Herts Community Foundation	469	344,829	(345,298)	-	-
	EDASS	-	504,000	(494,500)	-	9,500
	MOJ PCC - Herts	-	85,359	(85,359)	-	-
	Housing IDVA	-	47,945	(33,235)	-	14,710
	Children In Need	944	19,399	(20,343)	-	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	1,423	(1,423)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	11,969	(11,969)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	7,524	(7,524)	-	-
		<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£1,022,448</u>	<u>£(999,651)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£24,210</u>
	Restricted Funds – prior year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
	Herts Community Foundation	-	293,251	(292,782)	-	469
	EDASS	-	290,912	(290,912)	-	-
	MOJPCC – Herts	-	106,622	(106,622)	-	-
	Children in Need	-	38,798	(37,854)	-	944
	MHCLG – Essex DA Support	-	99,938	(99,938)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	14,364	(14,364)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	35,060	(35,060)	-	-
		<u>£ -</u>	<u>£878,945</u>	<u>£(877,532)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£1,413</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- (i) **MoJ PCC - Herts**
Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner funding received from the Ministry of Justice to reinforce specialist provision for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence across the county.
- (ii) **Housing IDVA**
Funding received for an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate to provide support to domestic abuse victims in temporary accommodation.
- (iii) **National Lottery Community Fund**
Funding received from the National Lottery for the delivery of classes for confidence building and growth.
- (iv) **Children in Need**
The Charity was awarded a multi-year grant from Children in Need during 2019/20 to cover the costs of employing two Children's Workers for a three-year period.
- (v) **MHCLG**
These are funds received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which are restricted to the provision of a Complex Needs Refuge and Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker service.
- (vi) **Herts Community Foundation**
Funding received to enhance services provided in Hertfordshire. The fund is used to increase children's support staffing, the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House, and for the provision of resettlement support for those leaving refuge.
- (vii) **EDASS**
Funding is received for Essex Domestic Abuse Support Services and utilised for the support and education of those in Essex at medium risk of domestic abuse in order to recognise, recover from, and develop resilience against abuse.
- (viii) **Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project**
This is a social welfare grant from the Pilgrim Trust to support early action projects that improve the life chances of vulnerable women and girls.
- (ix) **Other Donations & Grants**
This consists of donations received at the Charity's refuges and is utilised on providing support activities to those housed in emergency accommodation.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

15 Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Designated Funds						
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	998,935	1,923,935	(94,000)	1,829,935
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	217,328	217,328	-	217,328
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,160,263	£2,085,263	£ -	£2,085,263
Balance brought forward 1 April 2023	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,160,263	2,085,263	-	2,085,263
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	-	214,214	-	214,214
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(224,000)	(224,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	(224,000)	224,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2024	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£	£2,075,477	£ -	£2,075,477

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

15 Unrestricted Funds - Parent

	Designated Funds						Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	988,735	1,913,735	(94,000)	1,819,735
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	196,456	196,456	-	196,456
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,129,191	£2,054,191	£ -	£2,054,191
Balance brought forward 1 April 2023	750,000	175,000	925,000	1,129,191	2,054,191	-	2,054,191
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	180,126	180,126	-	180,126
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(224,000)	(274,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(224,000)	(224,000)	224,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2024	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,083,317	£2,010,317	£ -	£2,010,317

Building Fund

This fund is to be used for building new refuges on land to be gifted.

Refurbishment Fund

This fund was set up to cover the costs of planned refurbishment work on new and existing properties.

SAFER PLACES **(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

16 Taxation

The nature of the income received and the company's charitable activities means that no corporation tax liability arises on the results for the year. The subsidiary, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC Gift Aids its taxable profits to the company and as such no tax charge is recorded in accordance with FRS 102 paragraph 29.14A.

17 Defined benefit pension schemes

Safer Places participates in a defined benefit pension scheme – Essex Pension Fund operated by Essex County Council. At 31 March 2019, Safer Places had 11 active, 64 deferred pensioners and 19 pensioners in the fund. The Employer pays contributions of 24.5% plus an additional monetary amount each year.

The assets allocation of the fund is as follows:

	2024		2023	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	5,092	55	4,684	57
Gilts	164	2	113	1
Other Bonds	-	-	363	4
Property	634	7	656	8
Cash	227	2	270	3
Alternative Assets	1,397	15	1,268	15
Other Managed Funds	1,677	18	846	10
	£9,191	100%	£8,200	100%

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2024	2023
Retiring today – Males	20.8	21.1
– Females	23.3	23.5
Retiring in 20 years – Males	22.0	22.3
– Females	24.7	25.0

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

CPI Increases	2.95%	2.90%
Salary Increases	3.95%	3.90%
Pension Increases	2.95%	2.90%
Discount Rate	4.90%	4.80%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2024 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2024. The results of these valuations are set out below.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

	2024	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	5,334,000	5,255,000	8,122,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	(9,191,000)	(8,200,000)	(8,028,000)
Deficit/(surplus)	(3,875,000)	(2,945,000)	94,000
Impact of asset ceiling	3,875,000	2,945,000	-
Net defined benefit liability/(asset)	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£94,000</u>

An asset ceiling has been recognised to limit the defined benefit asset to £Nil. While it is possible under LGPS regulations for an employer to receive a refund of surplus, Safer Places is a minor participant in the scheme and does not have sufficient influence to reduce future contributions to the scheme.

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Service Costs	55,000	106,000
Net Interest on defined liability/(asset)	(144,000)	-
Exclude Net Interest above asset ceiling	144,000	-
Administration Expenses	6,000	4,000
	<u>£61,000</u>	<u>£110,000</u>

(c) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	615,000	(107,000)
Changes in demographic assumptions	71,000	125,000
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	(44,000)	(333,000)
Change in financial assumptions	46,000	3,224,000
Other actuarial gains/(losses) on assets	-	74,000
Changes in effect of asset ceiling	(768,000)	(2,945,000)
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	<u>£(80,000)</u>	<u>£38,000</u>

(d) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balances of present Value of the defined benefit obligation

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	5,255,000	8,122,000
Current Service Cost	55,000	106,000
Interest Cost	249,000	209,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(71,000)	(125,000)
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	44,000	333,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	(46,000)	(3,224,000)
Estimated Benefits Paid	(172,000)	(187,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>£5,334,000</u>	<u>£5,255,000</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(e) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balance of Fair Value of Funds Assets

	2024	2023
	£	£
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	8,200,000	8,028,000
Interest on Assets	393,000	209,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	615,000	(107,000)
Administration Expenses	(6,000)	(4,000)
Contributions by Employer	141,000	166,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(172,000)	(187,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£9,191,000</u>	<u>£8,200,000</u>

(f) Sensitivity Analysis

	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,251	5,334	5,420
Projected Service Costs	54	55	57
 Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,338	5,334	5,330
Projected Service Costs	55	55	55
 Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,417	5,334	5,253
Projected Service Costs	56	55	54
 Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions	 + 1 Year	 None	 -1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,529	5,334	5,146
Projected Service Costs	58	55	53

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2025

	£
Service Cost	55,000
Net Interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	(3,000)
Administration Expenses	6,000
Total Loss/(Surplus)	<u>£58,000</u>
Employer Contribution	<u>£145,000</u>

SAFER PLACES **(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £11,865 (2023: (£13,524) from D.Wilkey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2023: no trustee received any reimbursement of expenses).

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC, an unregistered body. Safer Places acts as paymaster for staff jointly employed by both entities and recharged staff costs amounting to £97,531. Safer Places charged SPPTDCIC a management fee of £14,898 and recharged £5,974 of expenses paid on that company's behalf. The allocation of staff costs was calculated on the basis of time spent by those employees on the activity of the subsidiary with no markup. In addition, Safer Places received a distribution under gift aid of £31,157 in the year. At the year end, £Nil was owed by Safer Places to SPPTDCIC.

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Properties Limited, an unregistered body. There were no transactions with Safer Properties during the year. At the year-end £900 (2023: £900) was owed by Safer Properties to Safer Places.

19 Ultimate control

The charity is under no overall control but is administered by the trustees.

20 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2024 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

Group	<u>Land and Buildings</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	414,103	413,710	14,280	35,139
Between two and five years	194,143	225,655	22,411	42,462
In more than five years	15,766	55,664	-	-
	<u>£624,012</u>	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£36,691</u>	<u>£77,601</u>

Parent	<u>Land and Buildings</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	414,103	413,710	14,280	35,139
Between two and five years	194,143	225,655	22,411	42,462
In more than five years	15,766	55,664	-	-
	<u>£624,012</u>	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£36,691</u>	<u>£77,601</u>

21 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2024 Safer Places had no capital commitments.



SaferPlaces

Domestic Abuse Support Services

Audit Findings Report

Year Ended 31 March 2024



Safer Places: Audit Findings Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Board of Directors

Safer Places

1 August 2024

Dear Directors

Safer Places and Subsidiary Companies

Audit findings for the year ended 31 March 2024

This Audit Findings Report highlights the significant findings arising from the audit and sets out the key matters which we are required to formally report to those charged with governance in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260.

As you will appreciate, our audit procedures are designed primarily to enable us to form an opinion on the accounts as a whole. Our procedures include such tests of the accounting records and internal control systems as are, in our opinion, necessary for audit purposes. Consequently, whilst our procedures may identify certain weaknesses which may exist, the audit procedures in themselves should not be relied upon to reveal all the weaknesses which may exist in the system.

This report has been prepared for your sole use and we assume no responsibility to any other party in respect of its contents. The report should not be disclosed to any third party without our prior written consent.

This report is not exhaustive and deals with only the more significant matters which came to our attention during the audit. Other matters of lesser significance have been discussed with the relevant staff during the course of our audit work.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to management and staff for their assistance and co-operation during the course of our audit. If you have any queries on any of the points in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely

Knox Cropper LLP

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Audit Overview

General

The purpose of our audit is to gather sufficient evidence to allow us to conclude that the transactions and balances disclosed in the accounts are unlikely to be materially misstated, to establish that disclosures reflected in the accounts comply with the requirements of legislation and relevant accounting standards, to assess whether the accounting policies adopted are appropriate and consistently applied and to assess whether judgements exercised and estimates made in the preparation of the accounts are fair and reasonable.

Audit Report

We confirm that we have completed the audit to our satisfaction and intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the Financial Statements. This means that we have no material reservations over the figures or information disclosed in the financial statements.

The wording of our audit report is in accordance with the standard text for unqualified audit reports prescribed by the Financial Reporting Council. Our report also includes a section which is specific to this audit setting out our response to the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities arising from non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

Estimates and Judgments

The key estimates and judgments made by management affecting the financial statements are as follows.

- Post Retirement Obligations
- Valuation of Investment Properties
- Bad Debt Provision

We have concluded that management have exercised judgments and calculated estimates in a fair and reasonable way.

Accounting Policies and Disclosures

The accounting policies adopted by the company are in line with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices and are, in all material respects, appropriate to its operations and comply with FRS 102 and SORP 2018 for Social Housing Providers.

Adequate consideration was given to the potential impact of changes in legislation and accounting standards which arose during the year. There were no changes in the current year, and the form and content of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 remain consistent with the previous year.

Professional Ethics and Independence

We confirm our compliance with Ethical Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council. There are no matters in relation to our audit engagement which we consider should be brought to your attention.

We also confirm that we have evaluated our firm's independence in connection with the audit and implemented appropriate safeguards to ensure there are no factors affecting our independence or objectivity and thus our ability to continue to act as auditor. These included:

- The self-review threat arising from our assistance with the preparation of the financial statements;
- The self-review and management threat arising from processing journal adjustments;

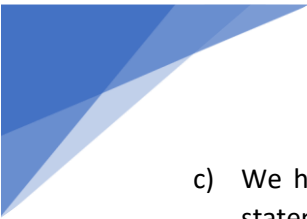
These however have been properly addressed by appropriate safeguards, namely:

- A separate person, who was not involved in the audit, prepared the accounts based on the information provided by the finance team at Safer Places;
- Journal adjustments being approved by the directors in writing;

Other Audit Matters

In accordance with UK auditing standards, we confirm the following matters in relation to our audit of the financial statements:

- a) We have not identified or been made aware of any incidents of fraud or suspected fraud. We would emphasise that our work as auditor is not intended to identify any instances of fraud of a non-material nature and should not be relied upon for this purpose.
- b) We have not identified or been made aware of any incidents of non-compliance with laws and regulations which could have a material impact on the financial statements.



Safer Places: Audit Findings Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

- c) We have not identified or been made aware of any related party transactions other than matters which have been disclosed in the financial statements.
- d) We have received all requested third-party confirmations which represent an essential element of our audit evidence.
- e) Apart from the matters set out in this report, there were no significant matters discussed with management during the audit which we are required to bring to your attention. There were no significant disagreements with management, or any limitations placed on the scope of our work. No significant difficulties were encountered during the audit.

Materiality and Audit Adjustments

Materiality

Materiality is used both to plan the nature and extent of audit testing and to evaluate the effect of misstatement. In accordance with ISA (UK) 260 'Communication with those charged with governance', we are obliged to include details in this report of all unadjusted errors which are below materiality unless they are clearly trivial. Whilst our audit procedures are designed to identify misstatements which are material to our audit opinion, we also report to those charged with governance and management any uncorrected misstatements of lower value errors to the extent that our audit identifies these.

Omissions or misstatements are regarded as material if they would reasonably influence the users of the financial statements. The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgement.

Our assessment of materiality for the parent and component entities for the year ended 31 March 2024 was calculated as follows:

	Parent £	Subsidiary £	Explanation
Overall Materiality for the Financial Statements	59k	4.8k	Accounts materially misstated where total errors exceed this value
Performance Materiality	44k	3.6k	Work performed to capture individual errors at this level.
Triviality Level	2.9k	0.2k	Unadjusted errors above this level are reported.

Audit Adjustments

All material adjustments arising from our audit work have been discussed with management and appropriately reflected in the financial statements. The adjustments agreed are included in an appendix to this letter.

We confirm that no further misstatements were detected during the audit which remain uncorrected in the financial statements other than matters which are both individually and cumulatively below performance materiality. A schedule of unadjusted errors is also included with this report.

Key Audit Risks and Conclusions

The following schedule sets out the key risks which we identified as part of our audit planning. It sets out our approach to ensuring that these risks did not give rise to any material misstatement in the financial statements and our audit findings.

Risk	Audit Approach	Audit Findings
1 Revenue Recognition & Completeness of income Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a presumed risk of fraud in relation to revenue recognition. The presumption is that the Association could adopt accounting policies or recognise income in such a way as to lead to a material misstatement in the reported revenue position.	Rental income will be reviewed against approved rental rates and resident numbers adjusting for voids. Substantive testing will be performed on a sample of the population to verify that residents are being processed correctly. A sample of housing benefit will also be tested on a sample basis to Council generated reports for accuracy and completeness.	We are satisfied that, following our work and our discussions with management, income has been appropriately accounted for.
2 Recoverability of rent arrears and the reasonability of the doubtful debt provision By its nature, the accommodation provided to victims of domestic abuse is often short-term which leads to an increased risk of rent arrears not being collected and housing benefit not being recoverable.	We will test recoverability of debtors by agreeing amounts due to receipts after the year end. We will consider the adequacy of the doubtful debt provision, considering the status (current/former resident) of debtors and the age of the debt.	Rent arrears were tested for recoverability and provision discussed with client. We reviewed individual arrears balances for recoverability and identified no issues with the actions being taken by the company to manage arrears.
3 Restricted Funds Fund accounting can be a complex area, and with the large number of restricted funds in Safer Places there is a risk that income could be incorrectly classified as unrestricted, and also that ineligible expenditure could be spent from restricted funds.	We will review grant restrictions as part of the Income audit procedures by agreeing to the grant agreements. Our expenditure testing will challenge expenditure set against restricted funds to ensure that only expenditure which fits the terms of the restriction has been allocated to that fund.	We are satisfied that restricted income is fairly classified and that only genuine restricted expenditure has been allocated to the funds.

4 Investment Property Valuation

FRS 102 requires investment properties to be revalued at each reporting date. There is a risk that the properties will not reflect the market value at the year end.

We will ensure the Trustees have considered the valuation of the Investment Properties, including seeking professional guidance. We will challenge any assumptions made against market conditions to ensure fair value in the financial statements.

The investments have not been revalued during the current year due to issues with the estate agents. We have reviewed the market values of similar properties in the area which have recently been sold and also looked at estimated values of the properties based on market conditions. Both properties on this basis are included in the accounts at a slightly lower value, however, management would prefer to be prudent given these values are only estimates and the state of properties internally is not known. We are satisfied that the figure in the accounts is reasonable but would recommend that a professional valuation is undertaken in the next financial year.

5 Management override of Controls

Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a presumed risk that management and directors have the ability to process transactions or make adjustments to financial records outside of the normal financial control processes. Such transactions could lead to a material misstatement.

Due to the size and nature of the entity, the potential for management override of controls is considered a significant risk. This will be addressed by the review of journal entries processed in the accounting records, and the investigation of all significant and unusual transactions identified from our review of the accounting records.

No instances of management override of controls were detected by our audit procedures. Journal entries were found to be appropriate and in accordance with supporting documentation or management calculations.

6 Identification of all related party transactions

The risk of material misstatement of related party relationships and transactions can arise due to a failure by entities to identify or disclose related party relationships and transactions, whether by lack of understanding or knowledge of relationships that fall within the definition, or by using unidentified related parties to cover up fraudulent activities or financial reporting.

We will review the details of related party transactions prepared by the Board and obtain representation from the Board that the register accurately and completely discloses all related party transactions. We will review our audit work to identify any previously unidentified related parties and related party transactions.

No additional related party transactions were identified during the course of our work. We are satisfied disclosure of related party transactions in the financial statements is complete.

Safer Places: Audit Findings Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

7 Going Concern

As auditors we are required to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about the validity of management's use of the going concern basis in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and to conclude whether there is material uncertainty about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

We will review the going concern position of the Charity by reviewing the budgets and cashflow forecasts for the period of at least 12 months from the date of signing the accounts.

We are satisfied that the Charity has sufficient funds to cover liabilities as they fall due over the next 12 months.

8 Staff Costs

Staff costs are one of the largest expenses of the organisation and as such if there are errors these could be material to the accounts.

We will review payroll records and ensure that reconciliations between payroll reports and the accounting system are accurate. We will review any PAYE and pension balances, if any, at the year end and ensure they are being paid across in a timely manner

We noted during our testing one instance of pension payments being paid late. This appears to be a one-off occurrence and was paid shortly after the deadline.

Our testing of the payroll records did not identify any further issues.

Internal Control Observations and Recommendations

We are required to report to you, in writing, significant deficiencies in the internal controls and the internal control environment that we have identified during the course of our audit. These matters are limited to those which we have concluded are of sufficient importance to be reported to you. Our audit cannot necessarily be expected to disclose all deficiencies in the system and, as a result, the matters reported may not be the only ones which exist.

We have categorised the internal control deficiencies using a colour-scale rating system. The key to which is as follows:

Control weakness is not significant but we recommend that it be addressed to comply with good practice	
Control weakness is serious and needs to be addressed	
Control weakness is of critical importance and needs to be addressed as a priority	

Safer Places: Audit Findings Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Matters Brought Forward from the Previous Year

Risk Rating	Observation	Recommendation	Management Response
	1 Purchase Ledger Postings Instances of duplication of postings of expenditure invoices in Xero were identified during the course of our work. Whilst these amounts were clearly trivial in value, it identified a control deficiency in that a Xero control would have to have been overridden in order to create postings to the same supplier with the same invoice number.	We recommend that Xero controls are adhered to in order to prevent duplicate postings. Where errors are made during posting, these should be referred to the line manager for prompt and correct resolution.	These were isolated cases due to error. Xero controls will be complied with going forward to avoid any discrepancies in the accounting records. Due to the timing of the previous year's audit, there remained some minor instances in the current year under review which had already occurred.

Matters Arising in Current Year

	1 Subsidiary Bank Accounts Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC deposit funds are held in Flagstone accounts in the name of Safer Places.	We recommend that the deposit accounts are changed to reflect the legal title of the owner, namely Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC.	Deposit accounts will be opened in the name of the subsidiary company and funds transferred accordingly.
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Emerging Issues

Companies House Reform

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act, which became law on 26 October 2023, has introduced significant changes to the way Companies House will operate, changing its role from a passive recipient of information to an active gatekeeper, charged with ensuring that information held on the register is valid and accurate. Some changes start on 4 March 2024, but most will take over a year to fully implement as they require additional legislation and resources. Key changes include:

- Identification Checks: Directors and those filing returns must verify their identities.
- Filing Information: Only verified company officials or authorised service providers can file documents.
- Directors and Members: Corporate shareholders are only allowed if all their directors are verified natural persons. Companies no longer need to maintain a director register.
- Registered Address: Companies must have an address that can receive mail. PO Box addresses won't be acceptable, and companies must also register an email address.
- Statutory Accounts: Over 2-3 years, all accounts must be filed using software.
- Companies House Role: It will actively monitor and verify company information to prevent economic crime. From a passive recipient of information to an active gatekeeper, charged with ensuring that information held on the register is valid and accurate.

Proposed changes to Financial Reporting

FRS 102 is subject to a periodic review at least every five years. The first periodic review, the Triennial Review 2017, was completed in December 2017, with an effective date of 1 January 2019, and remains applicable. The first periodic review, the Triennial Review 2017, was completed in December 2017, with an effective date of 1 January 2019, and remains applicable. The second periodic review commenced in March 2021 and following consultation in 2023 resulted in the publication of amendments in March 2024. The amendments include: a new model of revenue recognition; a new model of lease accounting; and various other incremental improvements and clarifications to provide greater consistency and alignment to international accounting standards. The effective date of the amendments is 1 January 2026.

Social Housing Rent Increases

Social housing rents are expected to rise by more than inflation over the next decade as part of government plans to boost affordable housebuilding and shore up the finances of registered providers. The chancellor, Rachel Reeves, is working on plans to introduce a 10-year formula to calculate social rent on

homes in England that will result in rents increasing every year by the rate of the consumer prices index – which is now 2.2% – plus 1%, removing an existing cap on rises. Reeves is expected to announce the plan at her first budget, on 30 October.

National Cyber Security Strategy 2022-2030

The government's National Cyber Security Strategy aims to enhance the UK's digital security. A draft Code of Practice on cyber-security governance was published in January 2024 to help directors and senior leaders strengthen their defences against cyber threats, placing cyber security on par with financial and legal risks. It covers regular cyber-awareness training for staff, regularly updating organisational comprehensive plans for responding and recovering from cyber breaches, advocating for regular penetration testing to identify and address vulnerabilities and encouraging organisations to obtain "Cyber Essentials" certification.

Changes on Holiday pay process

A recent court decision has simplified the rules for holiday pay, particularly for workers with irregular hours. The Supreme Court has confirmed that holiday pay liabilities can be retroactive for up to two years, necessitating careful planning by employers to avoid errors. New regulations define irregular hours and part-year workers, specifying that leave must be accrued at 12.07% of hours worked and can be paid in instalments, though this is optional. The regulations also detail how leave can be carried forward for workers who are sick or on statutory leave like maternity or paternity, allowing unused leave and pay to be carried forward to the next leave year. These changes aim to provide clarity and simplify the holiday pay process for both employers and employees.

Class 1A NIC on benefit in kind

Starting April 2026, payrollrolling benefits and paying Class 1A NIC on BIK via payroll will be mandatory, aiming to simplify tax reporting and reduce administrative burdens.

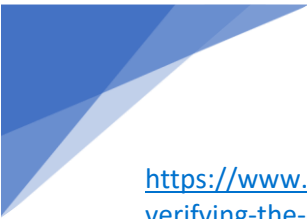
Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation's (OFSI) guidance

All UK entities, including charities, must comply with financial sanctions. The OFSI provides guidance on ensuring compliance, particularly important given the increased sanctions due to the Ukraine conflict.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-faqs>

Know your donor – key questions for trustees

All charities should know their donors and think carefully about whether or not to accept donations. Charity Commission's Compliance Toolkit and Know Your Donor Questions provide useful tools for due diligence for charities to assess the risks of accepting a donation, including reputational risks.



Safer Places: Audit Findings Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/protecting-charities-from-harm-compliance-toolkit#chapter-2:-charities:-due-diligence,-monitoring-and-verifying-the-end-use-of-charitable-funds>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550694/Tool_6.pdf

My Charity Commission Account

Launched in 2023, My Charity Commission Account provides trustees, managers, and accountants with tailored support and information, facilitating access to online services such as updating charity details and submitting annual returns.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/setting-up-my-charity-commission-account>

Letter of Representation

International auditing standards require us to obtain, from the directors, a number of specific representations and also confirmation of any other material representation given to us during the course of our audit which forms part of our audit evidence. The representations should be made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and expertise.

The following is the full list of representations which we will require to be formally provided to us in a letter, signed on behalf of the directors, prior to signing our audit report.

Confirmation of Responsibilities

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees under the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction 2022 for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Housing SORP).
2. We confirm that all accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit, in accordance with your terms of engagement, and that all the transactions undertaken by the company have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all management and Directors' meetings, have been made available to you. We have given you unrestricted access to persons within the Association in order to obtain audit evidence and have provided any additional information that you have requested for the purposes of your audit.
3. We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that:
 - so far as each Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you as auditors are unaware; and
 - each Director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Estimates and Judgments

4. We confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and source data used by us in making accounting estimates, and their disclosure in the financial statements, are appropriate and in compliance with the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of FRS 102.
5. We confirm that all known actual or possible litigation and claims, the implication of which should be considered when preparing the financial statements, have been disclosed to you and have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with FRS102 and the Act.

Post Balance Sheet Events and Commitments

6. We confirm that there have been no events since the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of the figures in the financial statements, or inclusion of a note thereto, other than those matters which have already been disclosed or included in the financial statements.
7. We confirm that the company has not contracted for any capital expenditure other than as disclosed in the financial statements.
8. We confirm that we have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

Related Parties

9. We confirm that we are aware of the definition of a related party as set out in FRS102 and the Housing SORP.
10. We confirm that we have disclosed to you all related parties and related party transactions relevant to the company and that we are not aware of further related party transactions other than those already disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of FRS102 and the Act.
11. We confirm that the company has not had, at any time during the year, an arrangement, transaction or agreement to provide credit facilities for directors, nor to provide guarantees of any kind on behalf of the directors, except as disclosed in the financial statements.

Laws, Regulations and Contractual Agreements

12. We confirm that we are not aware of any possible or actual instance of non-compliance with those laws and regulations which provide a legal framework within which the Association conducts its operations, non-compliance with which could affect the financial statements.
13. The company has complied with all aspects of contractual and other agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

Internal Control and Fraud

14. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of controls to prevent and detect fraud and we confirm that we have assessed the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud and that we have made this assessment available to you. We also confirm that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, there have been no significant deficiencies in internal control during the year.

Safer Places: Audit Findings Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. We confirm that we have disclosed to you our knowledge of any actual or suspected instances of fraud involving management, employees with a significant role in internal control, and others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. We also confirm that we have disclosed to you our knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements, which have been communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.

Going Concern

16. We confirm that, having considered financial projections which reflect the company's expectations and intentions for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are expected to be approved, in our opinion, the company's financial statements should be prepared on the going concern basis.

Uncorrected Misstatements

17. We confirm that, in our opinion, the effects of any uncorrected misstatements which have been set out in the Audit Findings Report, are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Matters

18. All grants, donations and other incoming resources, receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms and conditions in the application of such incoming resources.
19. We confirm that we have informed you of the details of all correspondence with the company's regulators during the year and subsequently, in particular, the details concerning non-compliance with financial and regulatory matters.

Signed for and on behalf of the Directors of Safer Places

Director

Date

SAFER PLACES

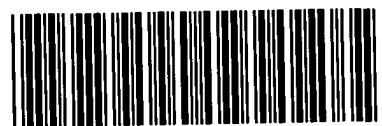
England & Wales - Charity number 1018832

Accounts

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Regulator of Social Housing number	4761

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COMPANIES HOUSE

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Governing document	The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
Known as	Safer Places
Registered office	PO Box 2489 16-20 Bush House Bush Fair Harlow Essex CM18 6NS
Auditors	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Billericay Commercial Centre Lloyds Commercial 89 High Street Billericay Essex CM12 9AT
Trustees	• Douglas Wildey • Chloe Ahmed (resigned 25 October 2022) • Gift Kapswara • Lorraine Larman • Laila Abraham (resigned 25 October 2022) • Sian Chambers • Claire Arnold • Kathy Osborne • Sean Carroll (appointed 25 October 2022)
Secretary	Allison Gardner

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Structure Governance and Management

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of Safer Places and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C and Safer Properties Limited.

Safer Places is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Charitable Company is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (Reg No 4761).

Our governing documents are our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Trustees are elected from our membership at our Annual General meeting. Our Trustees serve for a period of three years and then stand down or seek nomination and re-election. In line with good governance guidance Trustees do not normally serve for more than three terms. However, it was agreed that Douglas Wildey continue as a Trustee since he brings a level of specialist expertise to the board which is highly valued and would be difficult to replace.

Our membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives set out in our Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Trustees shall admit to membership of the company. An application for membership may be approved or rejected by the Trustees. The Trustees have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

We welcome nominations from organisations who are members of Safer Places.

Safer Places has no prohibition on clients becoming Members or Trustees providing they are able to meet the eligibility requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of these roles.

It is the policy of Safer Places to ensure that all Trustees are eligible and have sufficient and appropriate skills to serve. All members wishing to become Trustees undergo a competency-based selection process and are required to complete a Declaration of Eligibility and a Declaration of Interests annually.

Once appointed Trustees participate in an induction process which, includes induction to the company as well as to the role of Trustee. Ongoing training relevant to the role of Trustee is provided.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Safer Places for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Housing SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Group and charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Our Trustees are also responsible for the following:

- Setting the strategic direction of Safer Places, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and meeting the needs for which it was established.
- Ensuring Safer Places complies with company and charity requirements.
- Ensuring that Safer Places does not breach the rules set out in its governing documents and remains true to its charitable purpose.
- Making sure Safer Places complies with all requirements of other legislation, which govern the activities of the company.
- Preventing the misuse of company funds or assets.
- Ensuring that company funds and assets are used reasonably and only in the furtherance of the company's objectives.
- Avoiding any activity that might place the company's assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Taking special care in investing the company's funds or borrowing funds on behalf of the company.
- Using their personal skills and experience to ensure the company is well run and efficient.
- Considering getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the company or where Trustees may be in breach of their duties.

Day to day management of Safer Places is delegated to the Chief Executive who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets at least five times per year.

Staff attend Board Meetings and advise on all matters but do not vote.

Statement on the registered social housing provider's internal control systems

The Board takes an active interest in all internal control and corporate governance matters, and aims to meet the highest standards. The Board accepts the principles in the National Housing Federation Code of Governance, which go well beyond internal financial control.

This statement is confined to internal financial control. Internal financial control means the controls established in order to provide reasonable assurance of:

- the safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or dispositions; and
- the maintenance of proper accounting records and the reliability of financial information used with the company or for publication

Statement

The Board acknowledges its primary responsibility for the company's system of internal financial control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. However, such a system can only provide reasonable and never absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board has established, and intends to continue development of, key procedures designed to provide effective internal financial control. These are the high-level procedures and processes by which the Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

The company's internal financial control and monitoring procedures include:

- clear responsibilities on the part of line and financial management for the maintenance of good financial controls and the production of accurate and timely financial management information
- the control of key financial risks through clearly laid down authorisation levels and proper segregation of duties
- detailed monthly budgeting and reporting of income and expenditure, with regular review by management of variances from budgets
- reporting on compliance with financial controls and procedure (for the year end) by external auditors.

These reports are reviewed by the Finance and the Board prior to the use of interim and annual reports.

Code of Governance and Governance and Financial Viability Standard

Safer Places has adopted the Charity Governance Code as it best reflects the objectives and aims of the organisation as a registered charity. The Board undertake a 5-year external audit against the Charity Code of Governance and review the compliance internally on an annual basis. We can report that there are no outstanding actions or non-compliance against the code and the outcome of the prior audit was that the auditor considered the charity to be well governed.

The Board confirms Safer Places is compliant with the Governance and Financial Viability Standard.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Safer Places are:

"The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse, including stalking and harassment; to provide education for their future benefit; to educate those who work with victims of domestic violence and to provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing, or at risk of domestic violence, stalking and harassment."

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Safer Places vision is a society where everyone lives a life free from fear and abuse.

Mission

Safer Places exists to drive down the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual abuse and to support those who use our services in their journey to recovery, resilience and independence.

Values

These are the values we promise to uphold so we never lose sight of our mission:

Client Led – We empower our clients to exercise choice and control of their support. We ensure client's voices are heard and that they impact our decision making and shape our services

Accessible – We work inclusively with our clients, partners and communities. Anyone who is at risk of experiencing abuse can access our services when, how and where they need them.

Respectful – We adopt a trauma informed, holistic approach to support. We listen and believe, are non-judgemental and open and honest about what we can and cannot do.

Effective – We deliver high quality services that work for our clients. Our practice is informed by our clients, research, evidence and learning from experts by experience.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Review of 2022/23

2022/2023 was a busy and exciting year. As life returned to almost normal following the pandemic restrictions, we took stock of how much we had learned and how much our operating environment had changed. As participants of the Thrive program run by The Cranfield Trust and funded for us by Essex Community Foundation, we embarked on a detailed review of our 5-year strategy for 2023-2028 with Trustees and Officers working together over a series of events. The work resulted in the identification of five main strategic themes from which our work programme and objectives for the next 5 years flow. Across the year as the work progressed, we implemented changes consistent with the emerging strategic direction and these included:

- The opening of a refuge for women from minority communities. This is principally occupied by women from South Asian countries.
- The establishment of Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC. This had been running previously as Brighter Futures at Safer Places. The organisation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Safer Places and had grown substantially over the last two years and so we needed to strengthen the governance and strategic management of the organisation and to invest in future growth. To that end, and in the light of changes implemented following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 additional staff were recruited including a senior trainer dedicated to the development of training in the delivery of services to children who are now recognised in law as victim of domestic abuse in their own right.
- We reviewed the senior management structure and appointed an Assistant Director, Children and Young People.
- We established a communications team comprising of a senior communications officer and two graduate placements from Charity Works. The team has made a significant impact and we will retain those on placement now as permanent members of staff. We also recruited a performance analyst and along with the communications team we are now able to better understand our performance, to hear victims' voices more clearly, to reach hidden victims more successfully and to demonstrate and communicate our impact better.
- In response to our recognition of the pressures all statutory services are working under resulting in a reduction in capacity for multiagency safeguarding and support we employed an additional designated safeguarding lead officer enabling us to have one for each county to strengthen our capacity to advocate for and ensure that the needs of our clients are met. This new approach has shown strong benefits at both the individual case and policy level.
- We introduced a new IT system for the running of "back office" functions which enabled us to make savings on processing costs.
- We undertook an audit of our estate and began a program of renovation and upgrading which has much improved the accommodation we offer.

We also successfully applied for the continuation of funding for our Essex refuges and successfully bid for funding for our community support services in Hertfordshire. As lead partner in the consortium providing Safe accommodation services for Hertfordshire, we mobilised the consortium and the services. We have worked with SAHWR in the past and the longstanding good working relationship continued, unfortunately one of the consortium members had to withdraw because of being unable to meet the specification but the new working relationship with Druglink has been excellent and we can confirm that together what we can offer is much greater than the sum of what we could without this collaboration which is paying dividends in terms of our learning as well as enabling women who in the past could not be managed within our services to receive a service jointly provided by Druglink and Safer Places.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

It has been a busy year for HR – the Domestic Abuse Act linked additional funding has meant we have had to recruit many additional staff at the same time as all other organisations such as ours are doing the same. We have been successful in part because we are able to offer training and trainee posts through our CIC, but it has certainly been challenging and we have benefitted from our third Charity Works graduate placement who has worked so hard on recruitment but also enabled us to much improve our recruitment process and HR reporting and monitoring. She too wishes to remain at the end of the placement, and we will be offering her a permanent contract.

Our own annual staff survey and Investors in People Assessment this year were cause for celebration reflecting how committed, engaged, empowered and well managed staff feel. This is very reassuring since Safer Places staff truly are its greatest asset. Our staff pull together and strive for excellence and in so doing help transform the lives of thousands of people every year.

Our Beneficiaries and Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees are aware and mindful of the Charities Commission guidance. Safer Places has delivered public benefit in line with the objects and activities of the organisation through the delivery of our core services.

Over the last year Safer Places has delivered Public Benefit in line with the objects of the charity in the following ways:

To relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from domestic abuse including stalking and harassment

- We received a total of 4083 referrals of which 1443 were for refuge/safe accommodation
- We were able to accommodate 543 of the 1443 single people and families referred for refuge / safe accommodation within our properties in Essex and Hertfordshire
- 733 children and young people came into our refuges with their mother. We did receive some referrals for male victims with children (8) but at the time of referral we did not have accommodation available that was suitable as it was all occupied since the accommodation used for males is in dispersed single units and we will use those for whoever needs them when available. We will be expanding designated provision for males in the coming year.
- Within our community services which we deliver in Hertfordshire we supported 1081 adults and 1296 children
- Our specialist stalking support service supported 315 adults and 367 children
- Our specialist IDVA who works with victims who have no recourse to public funds which is paid for by The Pilgrims Trust supported 82 adults with 100 children

During the year we secured the contract to continue delivering safe accommodation services for Hertfordshire and the contract was extended to provide more resources to support children as victims in their own right and to provide therapeutic services to both adults and children. From July 2022 we were able to recruit a range of qualified therapists to work with clients and their children within our safe accommodation and refuges in Hertfordshire which meant we could enhance our offer aimed at relieving distress and suffering, supporting healing and the building of resilience. We offered group and 1:1 therapeutic service for adults and children. This included a variety of different therapeutic interventions and specialisms including art and drama therapy, therapeutic groups for women and for families, one to one counselling and psychotherapy including delivery by a range of therapists who speak the first languages of those in our services who do not speak English well. We continued to run our own in-house CBT based Triple R program in Essex and Hertfordshire and placement counsellors continued to deliver support to all other clients in those areas where we did not have funding for the extensive provision delivered by postgraduate, graduate and level 4 qualified therapists in Hertfordshire.

The outcomes we supported our clients to achieve demonstrate the impact on our beneficiaries and are as set out below. Further details of our impact during 2022/23 are set out in the impact report accompanying this report.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

	Hertfordshire services beneficiaries (clients)	Essex Services beneficiaries (clients)
Felt safer after using the services	95%	79%
Reported improved health and wellbeing	92%	83%
Reported they had maintained or increased their support networks	95%	77%
Had access or maintained employment	49%	39%
Engaged with the CBT based RRR program	47%	31%
Had reduced depression clinical depression scores	89%	64%

To provide education for their future benefit

We continued to run our psychoeducational CBT based RRR Domestic Abuse group program. This is a 12-week program in four modules which covers Risk, Recovery and Resilience and Impact on Children. We sustained a very high level of uptake of the program which is highly valued by participants and those who refer to us. This year we had more staff delivering the program and it was delivered face to face in groups and online, during the working week and outside normal working hours, to women and to men and where necessary on a 1:1 basis. Participants describe the program as life changing and describe their experience as like a light being turned on. Referrers include participation in the program within Child Protection and Children in Need plans because they have witnessed the impact of it. We have also delivered many additional educational programs and interventions including programs around substance misuse, parenting, wellbeing, healthy eating, sleep hygiene, mindfulness and most recently maths' skills. We also run homework clubs as part of our refuge routine and employ learning support assistants able to assist children of all ages with their homework and to help mothers to do so.

To educate those who work with victims of Domestic Abuse

This year our Training services became a Community Interest Company, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC. (SPPDTCIC). The organisation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Safer Places with all profit deployed to enhance the direct client services to beneficiaries of Safer Places services. In 2022/23 SPPDTCIC delivered the following:

Professional Training for the domestic abuse sector (IDVA, ISVA, ISAS accredited qualifications at level 3 and level 4)	151 people from across the UK achieved their professional qualifications
Bespoke courses for people from different associated professions e.g., police, housing, social work, Local Authorities	22 courses with 596 participants
Eventbrite	9 short courses with 65 participants
Free webinars	11 sessions with 1277 participants
Healthy Relationships/ Crucial crew training for years 6 –10 children in schools	1501 participants

To provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing or at risk of Domestic Abuse stalking and harassment

Safe accommodation has been provided for 543 adults and 733 children and additional resettlement support has been provided to these families and single people on return to the community. In addition, we have provided housing navigators to work with Local Authority Housing Departments to assist in assessing and finding suitable accommodation to victims who could not or chose not to enter refuge / our safe accommodation.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Value for Money (VFM)

Each year the Charity used a range of data to measure VFM progress against the housing sector. The results help influence investment decisions and provide the regulators and other stakeholders with information on the progress of the Charity, whilst also ensuring compliance with the regulatory VFM standard. The charity has measured itself against the Housemark Sector Scorecard 2021/22 results (median figures, for Cost Per Unit the Supported Housing result has been used due to being more comparable to Safer Places).

Metric	2023	2022	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	68.53%	30.60%	5.70%	Safer Places holds its housing stock on operating leases. Fixed assets represent the value of improvements carried out and, additions therefore represent a greater proportion of book value.
New supply % (social)	0.00%	0.00%	1.20%	Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year.
New supply % (non-social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gearing	(758.4)%	(1,683.1)%	35.80%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	N/A	1,497.47%	181.90%	Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit, which was nil for 2023.
Social Housing Cost Per Unit	£14,813	£13,497	£8,171	The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base.
Operating Margin (social housing)	(14.66)%	(0.14)%	22.20%	The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing loss of rent through vacancies. Safer Places has seen reductions to the amount of Housing Benefit chargeable for clients due to local authority adjustments to service charge allowances, putting further pressure on margins.
Operating Margin (overall)	4.30%	6.94%	20.20%	
Return on Capital Employed	7.82%	12.12%	2.80%	Whilst the lease-based housing provision means Safer Places has lower level of capital employed, the nature of its income streams and activities means it generates a lower return than organisations providing solely housing.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the board to provide sufficient reserves to:

- Ensure continuity of provision for a limited period in the event of a large variation in income in order that further income can be sourced or a reduction in service planned and implemented so as to minimise risk to our clients.
- Pay the annual sums associated with reducing the deficit for which we are responsible related to our membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Provide a refurbishment fund so that we can sustain our continuous planned upgrade and refurbishment programme.

Reserves will therefore be held:

1. Working Capital – with sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating at current service level for a period of three months
2. Refurbishment – to undertake a rolling programme to sustain the quality of our accommodation and services.
3. Property acquisition - the Trustees are currently reviewing refuge requirements across operational areas and are considering investment to improve provision of services in key areas.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. In light of the continued uncertain economic conditions, increased costs related to utilities and the supply chain caused by increased fuel costs are a principal risk to Safer Places.
2. Like many charities, in the mid to long term the organisation must also face the challenge of ensuring adequate funds are available to meet the obligations of its defined benefit pension scheme. We continue to hold assets necessary to manage the fund however the pension obligations remain volatile. The economic conditions again prove challenging not just for the Charity but for the client base and we continue to take action to support clients on financial matters as well.
3. To sustain and enhance income related to the training subsidiary in order to provide enhanced services to the stakeholders. The year reflects that the provision of training has proved a successful venture to date.

Safer Places Investment Policy

It is the policy of Safer Places to achieve the best possible return on investment and therefore two properties were purchased in 2012. The rental return on these properties far exceeds any rate that could be achieved currently through the financial institutions. Cash funds on reserve will be placed on fixed term deposits according to best rates at the time and the need for funds to be available.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Review of Financial position

Safer Places' continued strategy to diversify income and provide fully funded frontline services has resulted in a sustained operating surplus for the group of £192k (2022: surplus 253k), and taking into account investment returns and financing costs achieved a group surplus for the year of £219k (2022: surplus £242k) which will be re-invested to services in the coming financial period to ensure we continue to meet the changing needs of our client base.

Social housing income remained relatively constant showing a slight increase from 2022 due to adjustments in the types & quantity of units provided £1,074,291 (2022: £1,006,513).

The cash position of the group has decreased by £176,753, due to a significant increase in debtors at the year end, the majority of which were paid immediately after the year end. The group and parent charity therefore maintained sufficient cash balances to fulfil its reserves policy at the year end. Investment Properties were determined to be held at fair value and rental income from the properties also remains relatively stable.

Going Concern

The Board has reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees agreed to focus on diversifying income streams during 2020/21 and in 2021/2022 the organisation setup a trading subsidiary to deliver high quality training services within the domestic abuse which continues in 2022/2023 to realise a significant profit. The organisation continues to operate with 6 months operating costs in reserve and has a strong cash balance.

We therefore consider that the future prospects for funding to continue to be encouraging and that we are well placed to secure additional income.

Future plans

During the period we extended our work on Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion which is fundamentally important to the delivery of trauma informed, quality service delivery and we set the following objectives that we will report on

Safer Places EEDI Action Plan 2022-2023

Objective 1 – Our Team

We aim to increase the diversity of our workforce and continue to build an inclusive culture where all staff feels valued, that they belong, and have opportunities to succeed and celebrate our differences

- Ensure representation and inclusivity is a key factor in succession planning for senior management and management positions
 - Baseline and monitor diversity across organisation and individual teams (including agency and volunteers), using data to inform recruitment development
 - Continue to develop recruitment processes so they are accessible and actively encourage a diverse range of applicants, giving value to lived and intersecting experiences
 - Include EDI within the training plan for all staff (including agency and volunteers) to embed and build capability and understanding of EEDI practice and enhance learning across all levels of the organisation
 - Review EEDI performance on an annual basis and publish EEDI report
 - Regularly seek employees' views on EEDI as a static item on the spot-check employee surveys
 - Regularly publicise ways for staff to engage and participate (Daisy, Feedback email inbox etc.)
 - Develop health and well-being strategy with staff
-

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Objective 2 – Our Clients – We will make sure our services are responsive to the individual needs of all survivors so anyone experiencing or at risk of abuse can access our services, when, where and how they need to on an equitable basis of risk, need and choice

- Routinely monitor and reflect on EEDI service data, ensuring data analysis provides insight into the outcomes survivors from different communities achieve as a result of our service
- Identify gaps in service provision through data analysis
- Continually look for ways to develop services by working in partnership with by and for organisations
- Include survivors in all service development

Objective 3 – Our Partners – We will actively seek opportunities to collaborate with by and for organisations and challenge structural inequalities that exclude or marginalise their presence

- Continue to expand partnership network, especially with under-represented by and for organisations
- Seek to support by and for organisations with DA specialism, both in service delivery and training opportunities supporting their need for autonomy and independence
- Share experience and lessons learnt and collaborate with wider sector regarding EEDI (community of practice etc.)

Objective 4 – Community Engagement – We will pro-actively engage with the communities that we serve

- Expand partnerships with community organisations such as places of worship, community centres, youth groups etc. to build a network of connections
- Continue to grow Women's Centre work
- Research and engage with our communities in order to identify their needs

Objective 5– Our communication – We will be clear, accessible, and inclusive in all of our communication both internally and externally

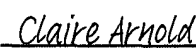
- Continue working on the website to make it more accessible (Recite me)
- Raise awareness of our EDI agenda through Comms strategy
- Ensure all messaging is assessable and inclusive across all platforms for a range of audiences
- Provide comms and engagement support for stakeholder organisations that further evidence our commitment to EEDI
- Reject the use of 'BAME' or 'BME' terms within our reporting, instead using disaggregating information so we can discuss issues with clarity and focus

Auditors

The Auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have indicated that they are willing to be re-appointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board


Claire Arnold (Sep 21, 2023 15:40 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold

Chair of Trustees

Date: September 2023

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in reserves, the consolidated and company statement of financial positions, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 2-3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
 - We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.
-

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds.
- We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to Safer Places and determined that the most significant are the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, and the regulatory standards issued by the Regulator of Social Housing.
- We understood how the Association is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the Association's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements. These included risks associated with revenue recognition, application of accounting estimate, and management override of controls, which were discussed and agreed by the audit team.
- Our approach included agreeing the recognition of income to the terms of tenancy agreements, grant agreements and contracts, reviewing the assumptions used and controls applied in the calculation of accounting estimates, the review of journal entries processed in the accounting records and the investigation of significant and unusual transactions identified from our review of the accounting records.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the board members with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the Group.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken, so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

James Holland-Leader FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

25 September 2023

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	2	3,953,748	3,407,029
Less: Operating costs	3	(3,783,405)	(3,156,039)
Other Income		21,566	2,175
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	191,909	253,165
Interest Receivable and Investment Income		7,611	525
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Liability	17	-	(18,000)
Gain on revaluation of investments	9	(5,774)	6,622
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	24,995	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		218,741	242,312
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability	17	38,000	914,000
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		£256,741	£1,156,312

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
CHANGES IN RESERVES**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2022	-	1,829,935	1,829,935
Total Comprehensive Income	1,413	255,328	256,741
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2023	1,413	2,085,263	2,086,676

The notes on pages 25 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		122,170		74,830
Other fixed assets	7b		43,550		50,720
Investment Properties	8		939,995		915,000
Investments	9		105,863		106,622
			1,211,578		1,147,172
Current assets					
Debtors	10	524,721		214,904	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,165,126		1,341,849	
			1,689,847		1,556,753
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(814,749)		(779,990)	
Net current assets			875,098		776,763
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			2,086,676		1,923,935
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			-		(94,000)
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			£2,086,676		£1,829,935
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		1,413		-
Unrestricted funds	15		2,085,263		1,923,935
Pension reserve	15		-		(94,000)
Total Funds			£2,086,676		£1,829,935

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on.... 19/09..2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold (Sep 20, 2023 15:32 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold - Director

Douglas Wildey
Douglas Wildey (Sep 20, 2023 15:21 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey – Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Housing property assets	7a	122,170	74,830
Other fixed assets	7b	43,550	50,720
Investment Properties	8	939,995	915,000
Investments	9	105,964	106,723
		1,211,679	1,147,273
Current assets			
Debtors	10	600,973	185,553
Cash at bank and in hand		1,017,953	1,340,799
		1,618,926	1,526,352
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(775,001)	(759,890)
Net current assets		843,925	766,462
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities		2,055,604	1,913,735
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17	-	(94,000)
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities		£2,055,604	£1,819,735
Represented by:			
Restricted funds	14	1,413	-
Unrestricted funds	15	2,054,191	1,913,735
Pension reserve	15	-	(94,000)
Total Funds		£2,055,604	£1,819,735

The parent company's total comprehensive income for the year amounted to £235,869 (2022: £1,146,012).
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on... 19/09... 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold

Claire Arnold (Sep 20, 2023 15:32 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey

Douglas Wildey (Sep 20, 2023 15:21 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold - Director

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash generated from Operating Activities	A	(77,568)	617,152
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(101,751)	(47,122)
Purchase of Fixed Asset Investments		-	(100,000)
Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	-
Interest Received		2,596	525
		(99,155)	(146,597)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		(176,723)	470,555
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		1,341,849	871,294
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	£1,165,126	£1,341,849
A. Cashflows from Operating Activities			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		218,741	242,312
Depreciation and losses on disposal		61,581	61,704
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		(309,817)	(85,405)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		34,759	423,688
Interest Receivable		(7,611)	(525)
Net Interest on Pension Liability		-	18,000
Pension Costs/Expense		(56,000)	(36,000)
Gains on revaluation		(19,221)	(6,622)
		£(77,568)	£617,152
B. Analysis of Changes in net funds			
	At 01/04/2022	Cash flows	At 31/03/2023
Cash	£1,341,849	£(176,723)	£1,165,126

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 the Statement of Recommended Practice for Registered Social Housing Providers 2018 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2022.

The Charitable Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board has reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements. The Board has considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the Charity, and is content that the measures taken by the Charity, together with strong reserves and enhanced prospects due to Domestic Abuse Bill changes and the implementation of the government's new domestic abuse strategy, provides adequate forecasting and assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the Financial Statements.

The presentation currency in the financial statements is the pound sterling (£).

(b) Company status

Safer Places is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

(c) Group Financial Statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charitable Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Properties Limited (08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. (13524749), on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Comprehensive Income has not been presented for the parent Charitable Company itself, having taken advantage of the exemption afforded by the Companies Act 2006.

(d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds, which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(e) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is deferred where:

- The donor specifies that the grant must be used in the future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions, which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

For legacies, entitlement is when the impending distribution is probable.

Grants have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services but as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(f) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

	Years	%
Leasehold Refuge Improvements:		
Fabric	40	2.5
Roofs	40	2.5
Kitchens	20	5
Doors and Windows	30	3.33
Bathrooms	25	4
Boilers	15	6.67
Refuge Equipment	5	20
Leasehold Office Improvements	5	20
Furniture and Equipment	5	20
Motor Vehicles	5	20

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(h) Pension costs

The charitable company participates in a group defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. This is a funded scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds.

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments together with any change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service. They are included as part of staff costs. Net interest on the defined benefit liability is shown as a cost in the statement of comprehensive income. The remeasurement of the defined benefit liability is also reported in the statement of comprehensive income, and is shown in more detail in Note 17 to the Accounts.

(i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(j) Investments

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Depreciation is not provided in respect of investment properties.

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

The charitable company's investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Comprehensive Income includes the net gains and losses arising on the revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

(k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties

The following are the critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that the Board has made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Fair value of Investment Properties

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Trustees assess the fair value of the investment properties based on recent market values. In determining the fair value on this basis, the valuation remains sensitive to fluctuations in the property market.

Identification of housing property components

The charity accounts for its expenditure on housing properties using component accounting. Under component accounting, the housing property is divided into those major components which are considered to have substantially different useful economic lives. Judgement is used in allocating property costs between components (land, structure, kitchens, bathrooms etc) and in determining the useful economic lives of each component.

Housing property depreciation is calculated on a component by component basis. The identification of such components is a matter of judgement and may have a material impact on the depreciation charge. The components selected are those which reflect how the major repairs to the property are managed.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to 'technological obsolescence' with regard to IT equipment/software and any changes to decent homes standard requiring frequent replacement of components. The accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2023 was £139,097.

Bad debt provision

A full line by line review of trade debtors is carried out at the end of each month. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the bad debt provisions are as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the provisions do not match the level of debts which ultimately prove to be uncollectible.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties (continued)

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension asset in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends.

A liability of £Nil is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2023 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 17 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Income - Group	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations	29,108	-	29,108	56,174
Children In Need	-	38,798	38,798	38,798
Herts Community Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Other grants	1,960	14,364	16,324	44,866
	<u>£31,068</u>	<u>£53,162</u>	<u>£84,230</u>	<u>149,838</u>
Charitable Activities:				
Refuge rents receivable	1,004,719	-	1,004,719	947,226
Refuge service charges	69,572	-	69,572	59,287
Supporting People Hertfordshire	1,661,822	-	1,661,822	1,504,250
Hertfordshire Community Funding	-	293,251	293,251	-
Tier 2 Housing Support	-	35,060	35,060	-
PCC ISAC Service	-	106,622	106,622	78,000
Advance	49,953	-	49,953	72,961
EDASS	-	290,912	290,912	283,200
CRC Services	-	-	-	25,770
Herts County Council Sunflower	1,650	-	1,650	2,100
Ministry of Housing, CLG	-	99,938	99,938	99,938
Training Services	216,819	-	216,819	142,699
	<u>£3,004,535</u>	<u>£825,783</u>	<u>3,830,318</u>	<u>3,215,431</u>
Investment Properties				
Rents receivable	39,200	-	39,200	41,760
	<u>£3,074,803</u>	<u>£878,945</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>	<u>£3,407,029</u>
Turnover				
	<u>£3,074,803</u>	<u>£878,945</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>	<u>£3,407,029</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Operating costs - Group

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Services to victims seeking support		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,177,737	1,121,254
Professional fees	33,527	30,929
Refuge rents and service charges	432,752	341,724
Refuge running expenses	423,104	317,205
Refuge depreciation	34,836	36,161
Other operating expenses	831,729	557,366
Bad debts	27,571	48,538
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	546,546	465,643
Depreciation	26,745	25,544
Insurance	28,906	25,226
Legal and professional fees	34,336	28,036
Audit fee	10,510	19,700
Meeting expenses	-	-
Other overhead expenses	167,449	129,512
	3,775,748	3,146,838
Other activities		
Investment property management costs	7,657	9,201
Total operating costs	£3,783,405	£3,156,039
Unrestricted Funds	2,905,873	2,540,962
Restricted Funds	877,532	615,077
	£3,783,405	£3,156,039

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4	Accommodation in management	2023	2022
	Social housing income and expenditure:	£	£
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	1,004,719	947,226
	Service charges receivable	69,572	59,287
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,231,791)	(1,007,968)
	Net surplus/(deficit) from social housing activities	£(157,500)	£(1,455)
	Void losses	£185,176	£297,148
	Supported housing	Units 84	Units 74

The RP manages properties on behalf of Swan, Catalyst, L&Q, Housing Associations, registered social housing providers operating in Essex and Herts.

5	Operating surplus/deficit	2023	2022
	This is stated after charging:	£	£
	Trustees' emoluments	-	-
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	13,865	10,425
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	433,029	364,264
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	6,664	12,350
	Depreciation of owned assets	61,581	59,903

6	Staff costs	2023	2022
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,371,591	1,230,546
	Social security costs	121,553	109,019
	Pension costs	152,477	164,553
	Termination payments	-	-
		£1,645,621	£1,504,118

		2023	2022
		No	No
	The average weekly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was:	48	44
	The average number of employees during the year was	54	51

There were two employees whose employee benefits fell in the banding £60,000 to £70,000 and one in the banding £90,000 to £100,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £319,286 (2022: £346,697). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £87,830 (2022: £83,042) and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 17. Employee benefits comprise salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2022: £nil).

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties Group and Parent	Leasehold Refuge Improvements £	Refuge Equipment £	Total £
	Cost:			
	At 1 April	30,318	408,957	439,275
	Additions	50,299	33,430	83,729
	Disposals	-	(316,971)	(316,971)
	At 31 March	<u>80,617</u>	<u>125,416</u>	<u>206,033</u>
	Depreciation:			
	At 1 April	12,930	351,515	364,445
	Charge for the Year	7,601	28,788	36,389
	Disposals	-	(316,971)	(316,971)
	At 31 March	<u>20,531</u>	<u>63,332</u>	<u>83,863</u>
	Net Book Value 31 March 2022	<u>£17,388</u>	<u>£57,442</u>	<u>£74,830</u>
	Net book Value 31 March 2023	<u>£60,086</u>	<u>£62,084</u>	<u>£122,170</u>

7b	Other Fixed Assets Group and Parent	Leasehold Office Improvements £	Furniture and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
	Cost:				
	At 1 April	63,615	390,869	14,094	468,578
	Additions	-	18,022	-	18,022
	Disposals	(52,479)	(321,243)	(14,094)	(387,816)
	At 31 March	<u>11,136</u>	<u>87,648</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,784</u>
	Depreciation:				
	At 1 April	50,986	352,778	14,094	417,858
	Charge for the Year	11,499	13,693	-	25,192
	Disposals	(52,479)	(321,243)	(14,094)	(387,816)
	At 31 March	<u>10,006</u>	<u>45,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,234</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2022	<u>£12,629</u>	<u>£38,091</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£50,720</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2023	<u>£1,130</u>	<u>£42,420</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£43,550</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8	Investment properties Group and Parent	Investment Properties £	Total £
	At 1 April 2022	915,000	915,000
	Change in fair value	24,995	24,995
	At 31st March 2023	<u>£939,995</u>	<u>£939,995</u>

The investment properties have been valued by the Trustees at 31 March 2023 based on current market value which has been assessed on the basis of historic selling prices of similar properties in the location over the course of the financial year.

9	Investments	Group		Parent		
		Investment in unit trust £	Total £	Group Undertakings £	Investment in unit trust £	Total £
	At 1 April 2022	106,622	106,622	101	106,622	106,723
	Additions	5,015	5,015	-	5,015	5,015
	Unrealised gains	(5,774)	(5,774)	-	(5,774)	(5,774)
	At 31 March 2023	£105,863	£105,863	£101	£105,863	£105,964

Investments in group undertakings comprises 100% of the ordinary share capital of Safer Properties Limited (company number: 08704415) and Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC (company number: 13524749, previously called Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC).

The principal activities of the subsidiaries are property investment and the provision of training courses, respectively. Summaries of the trading results are shown below:

	Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C.		Safer Properties Limited	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	217,883	65,669	-	-
Costs of sales	<u>(145,122)</u>	<u>(40,942)</u>	-	-
Gross profit	72,761	24,727	-	-
Administrative expenses	<u>(42,239)</u>	<u>(14,577)</u>	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit	30,522	10,150	-	-
Interest receivable	<u>650</u>	<u>150</u>	-	-
Profit for the financial year	<u>£31,172</u>	<u>£10,300</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>

The aggregate capital and reserves of the subsidiary companies at 31 March 2023 were: Safer Properties Limited £Nil (2022: £Nil), and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. £31,173, (2022: £10,301).

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10 Debtors	Group		Parent	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Social housing rent arrears	120,702	110,660	120,702	110,660
Less provision for doubtful debts	(46,724)	(102,594)	(46,724)	(102,594)
	<u>73,978</u>	<u>8,066</u>	<u>73,978</u>	<u>8,066</u>
Trade debtors	383,458	136,062	327,896	105,811
Other debtors and accrued income	4,927	2,394	138,189	3,294
Prepayments	62,358	68,382	60,910	68,382
	<u>£524,721</u>	<u>£214,904</u>	<u>£600,973</u>	<u>£185,553</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Parent	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	48,627	32,398	48,627	32,398
Trade creditors	41,594	83,950	39,425	83,950
Taxation & social security	44,037	28,366	27,831	28,366
Accruals and deferred income	679,261	633,604	566,497	532,194
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	91,391	81,310
Other creditors	1,230	1,672	1,230	1,672
	<u>£814,749</u>	<u>£779,990</u>	<u>£775,001</u>	<u>£759,890</u>

12 Deferred Income	Group		Parent	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Brought forward	542,298	106,991	443,888	106,991
Other debtors and accrued income	(542,123)	(106,991)	(443,713)	(106,991)
Prepayments	583,979	542,298	478,068	443,888
	<u>£584,154</u>	<u>£542,298</u>	<u>£478,243</u>	<u>£443,888</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Group			
Investments	1,045,858	-	1,045,858
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	873,685	1,413	875,098
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	£2,085,263	£1,413	£2,086,676

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,045,959	-	1,045,959
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	842,512	1,413	843,925
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	£2,054,191	£1,413	£2,055,604

Fund balances at 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Group			
Investments	1,021,622	-	1,021,622
Tangible fixed assets	125,550	-	125,550
Net current assets	776,763	-	776,763
Pension liabilities	(94,000)	-	(94,000)
	£1,829,935	£ -	£1,829,935

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,021,723	-	1,021,723
Tangible fixed assets	125,550	-	125,550
Net current assets	766,462	-	766,462
Pension liabilities	(94,000)	-	(94,000)
	£1,819,735	£ -	£1,819,735

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

14	Restricted Funds – current year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
	Herts Community Foundation	-	293,251	(292,782)	-	469
	EDASS	-	290,912	(290,912)	-	-
	MOJ PCC - Herts	-	106,622	(106,622)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	38,798	(37,854)	-	944
	MHCLG – Essex DA Support	-	99,938	(99,938)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	14,364	(14,364)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	35,060	(35,060)	-	-
		£ -	£878,945	£(877,532)	£ -	£1,413
	Restricted Funds – prior year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	ADVANCE	-	72,961	(72,961)	-	-
	ISAC service	-	78,000	(78,000)	-	-
	Herts Community Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	EDASS	-	283,200	(283,200)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	38,798	(38,798)	-	-
	MHCLG	-	99,938	(99,938)	-	-
	Infection Control Fund	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	14,364	(14,364)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	9,816	(9,816)	-	-
			£615,077	£(615,077)	£ -	£ -

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- (i) **MoJ Extraordinary COVID Funding**
Additional funding to provide staffing capacity to sustain service levels through the pandemic – particularly related to increased referrals and out of hours support.
- (ii) **ISAC Service**
Specialist support service supporting the victims of stalking.
- (iii) **MHCLG Emergency COVID Funding**
Funding by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (iv) **Coronavirus Community Support Fund**
The Charity received a grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund administered by the National Lottery Community Fund.
- (v) **Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme**
Funding by the Essex Community Foundation to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (vi) **Children in Need**
The Charity was awarded a multi-year grant from Children in Need during 2019/20 to cover the costs of employing two Children's Workers for a three-year period.
- (vii) **MHCLG**
These are funds received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which are restricted to the provision of a Complex Needs Refuge and Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker service.
- (viii) **ADVANCE**
Funding received as part of the ADVANCE partnership which works with women in the Criminal Justice System.
- (ix) **Herts Community Foundation**
Funding received to enhance services provided in Hertfordshire. The fund is used to increase children's support staffing, the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House, and for the provision of resettlement support for those leaving refuge.
- (x) **EDASS**
Funding is received for Essex Domestic Abuse Support Services and utilised for the support and education of those in Essex at medium risk of domestic abuse in order to recognise, recover from, and develop resilience against abuse.
- (xi) **Infection Control Fund**
This fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of Covid-19 transmission.
- (xii) **Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project**
This is a social welfare grant from the Pilgrim Trust to support early action projects that improve the life chances of vulnerable women and girls.
- (xiii) **Other Donations & Grants**
This consists of donations received at the Charity's refuges and is utilised on providing support activities to those housed in emergency accommodation.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

15 Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Designated Funds			General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £				
Balance brought forward 1 April 2021	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£774,623	£1,699,623	£(1,026,000)	£673,623
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	260,312	260,312	(18,000)	242,312
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	914,000	914,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(36,000)	(36,000)	36,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2022	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£998,935	£1,923,935	£(94,000)	£1,829,935
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	998,935	1,923,935	(94,000)	1,829,935
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	217,328	217,328	-	217,328
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,160,263	£2,085,263	£ -	£2,085,263

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

15 Unrestricted Funds - Parent

	Designated Funds			General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £				
Balance brought forward 1 April 2021	750,000	175,000	925,000	774,723	1,699,723	(1,026,000)	673,723
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	250,012	250,012	(18,000)	232,012
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	914,000	914,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(36,000)	(36,000)	36,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2022	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£988,735</u>	<u>£1,913,735</u>	<u>£(94,000)</u>	<u>£1,819,735</u>
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	988,735	1,913,735	(94,000)	1,819,735
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	196,456	196,456	-	196,456
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£1,129,191</u>	<u>£2,054,191</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£2,054,191</u>

Building Fund

This fund is to be used for building new refuges on land to be gifted.

Refurbishment Fund

This fund was set up to cover the costs of planned refurbishment work on new and existing properties.

SAFER PLACES **(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

16 Taxation

The nature of the income received and the company's charitable activities means that no corporation tax liability arises on the results for the year. The subsidiary, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC Gift Aids its taxable profits to the company and as such no tax charge is recorded in accordance with FRS 102 paragraph 29.14A.

17 Defined benefit pension schemes

Safer Places participates in a defined benefit pension scheme – Essex Pension Fund operated by Essex County Council. At 31 March 2019, Safer Places had 11 active, 64 deferred pensioners and 19 pensioners in the fund. The Employer pays contributions of 24.5% plus an additional monetary amount each year.

The assets allocation of the fund is as follows:

	2023		2022	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	4,684	57	4,820	60
Gilts	113	1	192	3
Other Bonds	363	4	352	4
Property	656	8	658	8
Cash	270	3	204	3
Alternative Assets	1,268	15	992	12
Other Managed Funds	846	10	810	10
	<u>£8,200</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£8,028</u>	<u>100%</u>

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2023	2022
Retiring today – Males	21.1	21.6
– Females	23.5	23.7
Retiring in 20 years – Males	22.3	23.0
– Females	25.0	25.1

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

CPI Increases	2.90%	3.25%
Salary Increases	3.90%	4.25%
Pension Increases	2.90%	3.25%
Discount Rate	4.80%	2.60%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2023 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2023. The results of these valuations are set out below.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2023

	2023	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	5,255,000	8,122,000	8,340,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>(8,200,000)</u>	<u>(8,028,000)</u>	<u>(7,314,000)</u>
Deficit/(surplus)	(2,945,000)	94,000	1,026,000
Impact of asset ceiling	<u>2,945,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net defined benefit liability/(asset)	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£94,000</u>	<u>£1,026,000</u>

An asset ceiling has been recognised to limit the defined benefit asset to £Nil. While it is possible under LGPS regulations for an employer to receive a refund of surplus, Safer Places is a minor participant in the scheme and does not have sufficient influence to reduce future contributions to the scheme.

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Service Costs	106,000	125,000
Net Interest on defined liability	-	18,000
Administration Expenses	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
	<u>£110,000</u>	<u>£147,000</u>

(c) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	(107,000)	549,000
Changes in demographic assumptions	125,000	-
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	(333,000)	(18,000)
Change in financial assumptions	3,224,000	383,000
Other actuarial gains/(losses) on assets	74,000	-
Changes in effect of asset ceiling	<u>(2,945,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	<u>£38,000</u>	<u>£914,000</u>

(d) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balances of present Value of the defined benefit obligation

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	8,122,000	8,340,000
Current Service Cost	106,000	125,000
Interest Cost	209,000	165,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(125,000)	-
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	333,000	18,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	(3,224,000)	(383,000)
Estimated Benefits Paid	(187,000)	(163,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	<u>21,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>£5,255,000</u>	<u>£8,122,000</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(e) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balance of Fair Value of Funds Assets

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	8,028,000	7,314,000
Interest on Assets	209,000	147,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	(107,000)	549,000
Administration Expenses	(4,000)	(4,000)
Contributions by Employer	166,000	165,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	21,000	20,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(187,000)	(163,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£8,200,000</u>	<u>£8,028,000</u>

(f) Sensitivity Analysis

	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,172	5,255	5,340
Projected Service Costs	54	55	57
 Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,259	5,255	5,251
Projected Service Costs	55	55	55
 Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,337	5,255	5,175
Projected Service Costs	56	55	54
 Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions	 + 1 Year	 None	 -1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,441	5,255	5,076
Projected Service Costs	57	55	53

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2024

	£
Service Cost	55,000
Net Interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	(145,000)
Administration Expenses	4,000
Total Loss/(Surplus)	<u>£(86,000)</u>
Employer Contribution	<u>£140,000</u>

SAFER PLACES **(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £13,524 (2022: (£15,900) from D.Willey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2022: no trustee received any reimbursement of expenses).

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC, an unregistered body. Safer Places acts as paymaster for staff jointly employed by both entities and recharged staff costs amounting to £127,572. Safer Places charged SPPTDCIC a management fee of £4,790 and recharged paid £5,974 of expenses on that company's behalf. The allocation of staff costs was calculated on the basis of time spent by those employees on the activity of the subsidiary with no markup. In addition, the charity collected receipts from customers of the company amounting to £7,900. At the year end, £91,391 was owed by Safer Places to SPPTDCIC.

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Properties Limited, an unregistered body. There were no transactions with Safer Properties during the year. At the year-end £900 (2022: £900) was owed by Safer Properties to Safer Places.

19 Ultimate control

The charity is under no overall control, but is administered by the trustees.

20 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2022 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

Group	<u>Land and Buildings</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire				
Within one year	413,710	241,109	35,139	8,622
Between two and five years	225,655	85,548	42,462	17,243
In more than five years	55,664	-	-	-
	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£77,601</u>	<u>£25,865</u>

Parent	<u>Land and Buildings</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire				
Within one year	413,710	241,109	35,139	8,622
Between two and five years	225,655	85,548	42,462	17,243
In more than five years	55,664	-	-	-
	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£77,601</u>	<u>£25,865</u>

21 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2023 Safer Places had no capital commitments.

SAFER PLACES

England & Wales - Charity number 1018832

Accounts

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Regulator of Social Housing number	4761

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Governing document	The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
Known as	Safer Places
Registered office	PO Box 2489 16-20 Bush House Bush Fair Harlow Essex CM18 6NS
Auditors	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Billericay Commercial Centre Lloyds Commercial 89 High Street Billericay Essex CM12 9AT
Trustees	• Douglas Wildey • Erica Bowen (resigned 25 October 2021) • Chloe Ahmed • Gift Kapswara • Lorraine Larman • Laila Abraham • Sian Chambers (appointed 25 May 2021) • Clare Arnold (appointed 25 May 2021) • Kathy Osborne (appointed 25 May 2021) • Garry Matthews (appointed 25 May 2021, resigned 28 November 2021)
Secretary	Allison Gardner

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022

Structure Governance and Management

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of Safer Places and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C and Safer Properties Limited.

Safer Places is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Charitable Company is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (Reg No 4761).

Our governing documents are our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Trustees are elected from our membership at our Annual General meeting. Our Trustees serve for a period of three years and then stand down or seek nomination and re-election. In line with good governance guidance Trustees do not normally serve for more than three terms. However, it was agreed that Douglas Wildey continue as a Trustee since he brings a level of specialist expertise to the board which is highly valued and would be difficult to replace.

Our membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives set out in our Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Trustees shall admit to membership of the company. An application for membership may be approved or rejected by the Trustees. The Trustees have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

We welcome nominations from organisations who are members of Safer Places.

Safer Places has no prohibition on clients becoming Members or Trustees providing they are able to meet the eligibility requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of these roles.

It is the policy of Safer Places to ensure that all Trustees are eligible and have sufficient and appropriate skills to serve. All members wishing to become Trustees undergo a competency-based selection process and are required to complete a Declaration of Eligibility and a Declaration of Interests annually.

Once appointed Trustees participate in an induction process which, includes induction to the company as well as to the role of Trustee. Ongoing training relevant to the role of Trustee is provided.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Safer Places for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Housing SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Group and charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Our Trustees are also responsible for the following:

- Setting the strategic direction of Safer Places, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and meeting the needs for which it was established.
- Ensuring Safer Places complies with company and charity requirements.
- Ensuring that Safer Places does not breach the rules set out in its governing documents and remains true to its charitable purpose.
- Making sure Safer Places complies with all requirements of other legislation, which govern the activities of the company.
- Preventing the misuse of company funds or assets.
- Ensuring that company funds and assets are used reasonably and only in the furtherance of the company's objectives.
- Avoiding any activity that might place the company's assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Taking special care in investing the company's funds or borrowing funds on behalf of the company.
- Using their personal skills and experience to ensure the company is well run and efficient.
- Considering getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the company or where Trustees may be in breach of their duties.

Day to day management of Safer Places is delegated to the Chief Executive who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets at least five times per year.

Staff attend Board Meetings and advise on all matters but do not vote.

Statement on the registered social housing provider's internal control systems

The Board takes an active interest in all internal control and corporate governance matters, and aims to meet the highest standards. The Board accepts the principles in the National Housing Federation Code of Governance, which go well beyond internal financial control.

This statement is confined to internal financial control. Internal financial control means the controls established in order to provide reasonable assurance of:

- the safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or dispositions; and
- the maintenance of proper accounting records and the reliability of financial information used with the company or for publication

Statement

The Board acknowledges its primary responsibility for the company's system of internal financial control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. However such a system can only provide reasonable and never absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board has established, and intends to continue development of, key procedures designed to provide effective internal financial control. These are the high level procedures and processes by which the Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022

The company's internal financial control and monitoring procedures include:

- clear responsibilities on the part of line and financial management for the maintenance of good financial controls and the production of accurate and timely financial management information
- the control of key financial risks through clearly laid down authorisation levels and proper segregation of duties
- detailed monthly budgeting and reporting of income and expenditure, with regular review by management of variances from budgets
- reporting on compliance with financial controls and procedure (for the year end) by external auditors.

These reports are reviewed by the Finance and the Board prior to the use of interim and annual reports

Code of Governance

Safer Places has adopted the Charity Governance Code as it best reflects the objectives and aims of the organisation as a registered charity. The Board undertake a 5-year external audit against the Charity Code of Governance and review the compliance internally on an annual basis. We can report that there are no outstanding actions or non-compliance against the code and the outcome of the prior audit was that the auditor considered the charity to be well governed.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Safer Places are:

<i>“The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse, including stalking and harassment; to provide education for their future benefit; to educate those who work with victims of domestic violence and to provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing, or at risk of domestic violence, stalking and harassment.”</i>
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Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Safer Places vision is a society where everyone lives a life free from fear and abuse.

Mission

Safer Places exists to drive down the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual abuse and to support those who use our services in their journey to recovery, resilience and independence.

Values

These are the values we promise to uphold so we never lose sight of our mission:

Client Led – We empower our clients to exercise choice and control of their support. We ensure client's voices are heard and that they impact our decision making and shape our services

Accessible – We work inclusively with our clients, partners and communities. Anyone who is at risk of experiencing abuse can access our services when, how and where they need them.

Respectful – We adopt a trauma informed, holistic approach to support. We listen and believe, are non-judgemental and open and honest about what we can and cannot do.

Effective – We deliver high quality services that work for our clients. Our practice is informed by our clients, research, evidence and learning from experts by experience.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022

Review of 2021/22

In spite of the continuing concerns around Covid 19 2021/22 was a good year for Safer Places. The changes we had made as a result of the pandemic were embedded during 2020/21 and we had been forced, as all organisations were, to think differently about how we delivered services and operated as an organisation. This made us implement at pace changes, that with hindsight, we needed to make which would have otherwise taken many years. 2021/22 was the year in which we built on changes implemented in the previous year to further develop our offer to our beneficiaries.

For example:

- We closed a large, shared facility refuge in Harlow and moved clients into smaller properties rented from private landlords in 2020/21 in order to ensure we could accommodate clients safely but then in 2021/22, through our work with the WISH Foundation and others, we were able to upgrade provision as new properties were purchased and refurbished to replace those we had acquired in haste. This means we have replaced an old-style shared facility 16-unit refuge which was no longer fit for purpose with a cluster of high-quality dispersed accommodation appropriate for the 21st century which is flexible and better meets the diverse needs of the whole population
- We put onto a permanent footing change to our hours of operation to enable more people to reach and engage with our services us in more ways such as live chat SMS and evening group programs online which we trialled in the previous year and had proven very popular with clients and enabled us to reach groups we would not have reached otherwise.
- Our training department continued to grow and we provided training to professionals across the UK including as a major provider of sector specific accredited training (IDVA, ISVA and ISAC) and the training of professionals in associated fields (Police, NHS, Social Care, Probation) as well as awareness raising program delivery such as J9 and work in schools and universities. Such was the growth and success of the training department that the business was transferred into a Community Interest Company "Brighter Future" which is wholly owned by Safer Places and we are able to dedicate profits from this company to improving our client services.
- From the start of the pandemic, we had been keen to do all we could to support our staff. This continued during 2021/22 and whilst we had thought that remote working could lead to a fracturing of relationships between teams and departments, the reverse was true. On the one hand staff worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible service delivery to clients and to support each other whilst at an organisational level the senior team were prioritising communication, consultation and frequent risk assessment involving one to one discussion of the personal circumstances and concerns of individuals. As a result, relationships and teamwork across the organisation were strengthened. We all got to know and understand each other better because everyone was equally close and accessible to each other. This has made us a much more inclusive organisation, staff engagement is improved and mutual trust and respect have grown. This is influencing how staff are managed and the level of discretion to be given to local seniors and managers.

Just as we established a different way of working with our clients and our staff so we developed a more collaborative approach working with other organisations. We developed a number of partnerships including with CHESS Homeless in Chelmsford with whom we run the Safe Haven project for women whose interests are not best serviced within a refuge e.g., single short stay clients approaching the council who are victims of domestic abuse who are supported by the Housing IDVA. We are also working with CHESS to provide services to male victims in Essex and have a male IDVA / ISAS who has been embedded within that service so we can, together, improve the response to homeless male victims of domestic abuse.

We also established a partnership with the Hertfordshire Asian Women's Association (HAWA) and have learned a great deal as a result and we have secured a property which we will run with their support for Women from the BAME community. HAWA have provided us with invaluable advice and this has enabled us to recruit a workforce which better reflects the communities we serve

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We also established a partnership with Drug Link as we were conscious of the limitations of our Hope House provision because we lacked the experience and skills to safely manage some of the women at greatest need because of the extent of their substance misuse. We ran a pilot project with Drug Link providing a women only unit and experienced recovery staff working alongside our specialist domestic abuse staff. This is meeting a need for service that we had been unable to fulfil and this partnership will continue.

We also became part of the ADVANCE partnership which works with women in the Criminal Justice System. We deliver housing advice as part of that partnership as well as providing bases for the Advance teams in Essex and Hertfordshire

Separate from our work with the Advance Partnership our work with women offenders has also extended and a property has been purchased and awaits a planning permission appeal to enable us to move forward with the establishment of a service for women offenders leaving prison or as an alternative to prison. We will be providing support to the residents and running the service. The building has been purchased by a benefactor and the project has the full support of the Criminal Justice and associated agencies within Essex. Further partnership work with the probation service is progressing and we continue to work with them to support women offenders through our Women's Centres and providing opportunities for completing unpaid work requirement. Plans for the establishment of a community café in Hertfordshire have progressed and we are currently awaiting the installation of a commercial kitchen within our new women's centre in Hertfordshire funded by the Ministry of Justice.

The new Domestic Abuse Act became law in April 2021. The Act brought in changes to facilitate major change in the way that domestic abuse is dealt with in the UK ranging from new definitions, the recognition of children as victims in their own right, the creation of new offences, new duties for statutory bodies including housing and local authorities, the establishment of a national commissioner for domestic abuse reporting to parliament, new sanctions for perpetrators including new orders, special measures and changes in procedures in all courts and many other changes that will, if implemented well, substantially change the way domestic abuse is dealt with and improve services to victims. As part of the Act, from April 1st 2021, Local Authorities are required to fund support within Safe Accommodation within their area. As Safer Places was not funded by Essex County Council, we had struggled to sustain our Essex refuge provision even though we are the major provider of Safe Accommodation in Essex. There were delays in additional funding being provided to support this new duty and so we had to continue to raise funds through bidding but eventually funding was secured and at last the future of our Essex refuges was secured. We anticipate this will be the case until recommissioning occurs in two years' time and we are working closely with Essex County Council to play our full part in helping to develop their strategy and in collaboration with other Essex agencies.

Also, in 2021/22 we bid for additional funding from Hertfordshire and this enabled us to enhance our services by increasing children's support staffing, continuing the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House and increasing staff to be able to provide resettlement support to those leaving refuge. We were very fortunate to be able to recruit some excellent staff who have brought much to the organisation and we also ran a trainee scheme, recruiting many new graduates or people with appropriate experience who we trained over a six-month period and will be retaining within our services as qualified staff.

Towards the end of the year Hertfordshire County Council tendered the provision of safe accommodation services for the county and we submitted a bid to provide these services as lead provider in a consortium made up of St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge and Drug Link and with a close working relationship with Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (Stevenage). We were delighted to secure this contract which will run from July 1st 2022.

All in all, it has been a very successful year and we look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm, and in a better position and as a better organisation than we were at the beginning of the year. For this we are grateful to our excellent Trustee board, staff and volunteers, partners and supporters and to those we support from whom we learn so much and witness a level of courage, determination and achievement against the odds that inspires us all.

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Our Beneficiaries and Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees are aware and mindful of the Charities Commission guidance. Safer Places has delivered public benefit in line with the objects and activities of the organisation through the delivery of our core services.

- During the year we responded to 3583 referrals
- 234 clients and 345 children and young people commenced and completed a stay in one of our refuges between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022
- 614 new clients were accepted into Outreach services between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022, whilst 902 clients were in Outreach services during the same period . These clients received a package of services which included regular one to one support geared to their assessed needs through an individualised safety and support plan delivered by an IDVA
- There were 204 clients completed their episode of support from our specialist service for stalking victims (ISAS) whilst 415 clients were referred into ISAS services between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022 showing the continuing growth in the demand for these specialist services
- 515 clients attended our CBT based Triple R recovery programme
- 148 professional qualifications for the sector (IDVA , ISVA and ISAS) were obtained by people from across the UK. On average every qualified practitioner will be able to effectively support 80-100 victims per year and so the benefit of this work is a very substantial and sustainable impact on driving down the impact of domestic abuse
- 931 people participated in short courses and J9 awareness training. This type of training is key to supporting recognition and early intervention to avert the suffering and long term damage that domestic abuse causes to victims but as every incident of domestic abuse is calculated to cost the public purse on average over £34,000 in associated costs, the value of this activity cannot be underestimated and is critical to the delivery of our mission and the delivery of public benefit
- This year we have also implemented a trainee program which enables graduates with relevant degrees or those with extensive relevant experience to join the organisation as a trainee and train and qualify as an IDVA. This has been very successful providing employment and skills within our community and developing staff able to deliver the standard of support required and to progress within the sector

The work of Safer Places is guided by our strategic plan which set outs the strategic objectives we seek to deliver over a 3 to 5 years period and in every year of the plan period we identify objectives in our annual business plan that will build towards the delivery of the objectives within our strategic plan. The first table below sets out the annual plan objectives for 2021/22.

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Review of 2021/2022 (continued)

The one year Business Plan objectives for the year to March 31st 2022

Objective	Outcome
• Increase training business securing and increasing customer base by 20% and sales by 20% from March 31st 2021 and extending range of courses and specialist trainers building brand identity. In 2021 extend the accredited training product offer by one additional discrete qualification and increase the IDVA offer to diploma level IDVA qualification	Achieved and exceeded
• Remodel safe accommodation services to provide a range of options for Safe Accommodation fit for purpose which meets needs across the whole accommodation pathway. In 2021/2 close Altham House and re-provide units in smaller clusters, self-contained and specialist facilities. Increase in units by 15%	Achieved
• Expand the range of services provided to women offenders and in 2021/22 establish at least one accommodation-based services as an alternative to or post discharge from prison to enable women to receive the Trauma informed and community coordinated response required to deliver the outcomes set out in the local women offenders' strategy	Property acquired but project delayed pending planning appeal
• Develop an Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy that covers our team, our communication, our service delivery and our collaboration. In 2021/2 Produce an outline strategic framework, and in year 2021/22 and ensure that language and communication are not a barrier to equal access to our services and that the voices of all are included in the development and delivery of their own support and the development of our services	Achieved
• Produce an achievable budget for the financial year 2021/22 that is break even in terms of profit	Achieved

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Progress against the strategic objectives agreed within our strategy 2017-2022 are set out below with narrative regarding progress in this the final year of the plan account of how we delivered our mission and public benefit in the year.

Objective	Measure
Making sure that the services we deliver in Essex and Hertfordshire are judged as excellent by our clients and our commissioners	All of the performance targets were delivered within our commissioned contracts and we secured a contract for our refuge provision in Essex
Delivering an excellent ISAS (stalking support) service in Hertfordshire which is evaluated externally as delivering better outcomes for victims and is seen as a critical and specialist element of the skill and qualification set required to provide best practice services to clients at high risk	Funding has been secured to continue the service until December 2022 with a view to recommissioning thereafter There is little benchmarking information against which to compare the performance of our service but from other studies we can confidently say that our service has a much higher than average rate of clients feeling safer after engagement with the service and of protective orders being implemented 19 people from 14 different organisations including police forces and local authorities were trained and obtained their level 4 Hertfordshire University accredited qualification as an independent stalking advocacy specialist (ISAS) Whilst 204 victims started and completed an episode of support from the stalking service in the year, there were 450 new referrals which is an indication of the growth in demand for the service which began during the pandemic and has been sustained
Diversifying our accommodation stock and developing new models of the provision of safe accommodation that meet people's needs, provide choice and supports better longer-term outcomes	We continued to acquire more fit for purpose accommodation for victims of domestic abuse including a property which will open shortly which is specifically for Asian women and we entered a new partnership with SADA (Survivors against Domestic Abuse) and with Drug link to extend the range of accommodation and support available within Hertfordshire where we secured the safe accommodation contract as lead provider
Achieving the gold standard as a Trauma Informed organisation and for our Trauma Informed practice by the end of 2022	We secured the bronze award for Trauma informed practice from One Small Thing and were the first in our sector to gain such an award. We delayed progressing up to gold accreditation because there is a new accreditation specifically for our sector being developed which we will consider in due course but in the meantime we have worked on two key areas: We strengthened our focus on Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and set standards we will monitor year on year within this report and we signed up to the Mental Health at Work Commitment and the delivery of the standards

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Maintaining and improving the skills, qualification and professional expertise of our staff and marketing our training to other professionals and services across the UK	IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) – 81 people from 73 different organisations including Domestic Abuse charities, Local Authorities, NHS workers and Social Care workers trained and qualified as IDVAs ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advocate) – 48 people from 32 different organisations including police forces and social care workers trained and qualified as ISVAs ISAS (Stalking Specialist) 19 people from 14 different organisations including police forces and local authorities. Were trained and obtained their level 4 Hertfordshire University accredited qualification as an independent stalking advocacy specialist (ISAS) Short courses –653 people were trained through short courses which included • Healthy relationship talks in schools • Stalking masterclass • DASH risk assessing and safety planning • Black, Asian and minority ethnic victims of domestic abuse J9 Domestic Abuse awareness training was delivered to 278 people
Improving our reach to hidden victims and minority groups including those female victims who are or have been involved with the criminal justice system	We became part of the Advance Partnership working with women involved in the Criminal Justice System under contract to the Ministry of justice. We also await planning permission for the development of a property which will support 6 women leaving prison or living in the accommodation as an alternative to prison. We have also worked successfully with Hertfordshire Asian Women's Association and with their support we are opening a refuge for Asian women and we have diversified our workforce through being able to engage better with different communities. We are increasingly working with the LGBTQ community to increase our engagement with that community so as to develop services to better meet their needs and wishes
Improving the services we offer to children and young people, developing practice and services that are effective for them, including working in partnership with other agencies, taking a whole family perspective including the perpetrator, with the safety and wellbeing of children at the centre	We have been working with partners and academics to better understand the specific needs and wishes of children and young people in refuge and to develop services which best meet the diversity of intersecting needs and wishes they have. In the coming year we will be publishing a comprehensive needs assessment and working closely with our commissioners and partners to develop better pathways and internally delivered services for those we work with

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Highlights of 2021/22

During the year we received a great deal of encouragement from those we serve, our partners and our colleagues. The table below provides a snapshot of the year.

<i>"My babies are home and safe. My ex will not be allowed to be alone with them and all contact will take place in a contact centre ... With the knowledge I have learnt from you, even though I know there is a long road ahead, I also know that we will be ok."</i> (client)	100% of staff say they are proud or very proud to work for Safer Places (staff survey)	"This was a really thought-provoking session and allowed time to consider the many societal and cultural norms which could impact on the likelihood of domestic violence taking place, and on victims not reporting it" (trainee)
Safer Places secured the SAFE cic kite mark for Safeguarding	<i>"The support and services delivered to me were excellent. It was oxygen for me when I felt I was suffocating"</i> (Client)	100% of staff say they have access to the learning and development they need to do their job well (staff survey)
The trainers on the course were really attentive, being aware that some of the content was very distressing. (Trainee)	On average more than 90 people participated in our Triple R recovery program every week	<i>"I don't know what I would have done without Safer Places and especially I. who became my lifeline during this awful experience"</i> (stalking victim)
100% of staff agree or strongly that their manager is a great role model for employees (staff survey)	Survey results for those attending the Triple R recovery program the last quarter showed that for each of the following: Feeling safer; improved self -esteem, reduced feelings of isolation , improved emotional wellbeing and feeling able to reach out between 98 and 99% reported improvements in their answer to each question	"I have always wanted to work with survivors of Domestic Abuse but didn't know how I would even begin to get into it. I completed the J9 training course, which was amazing. I then enquired about further courses and was directed to the IDVA training course" (Trainee)
<i>"You have saved my life, no joke and my sons and so many others the awareness this course has given me and that I will pass on to my nearest and dearest will stay with me for life, you have given me a life skill"</i> (Client)	Every week of the year on average 186 adults and their children are referred or self- refer to Safer Places	SaferPlaces became the first organisation in our sector to secure the Trauma informed practice bronze award
"Another amazing course i have attended via safer places, this training compliments and adds to my IDVA training undertaken with yourselves. I love how informal yet informative the sessions are" (Trainee)	"Safer Places does everything it can to support staff – staff then pass that on in the way they work with each other and their clients" (comment from staff survey)	Participants in the 4 module Triple R program recorded substantial improvements in feelings of safety, self -esteem , feeling isolated and being confident to reach out for support and emotional wellbeing with 100% of participants in the final module on

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		resilience reporting improvements in all four areas
<i>“We are leaving refuge today and the big thing we love about this place – one of the best things is that we can play and there are lots of lovely things to do”</i> Two children saying farewell to staff on leaving refuge)	Safer Places was selected to work with the Disabilities Trust on a research project into Domestic Abuse and Acquired Brain injury. The results of this research could lead to much greater understanding and better support for victims	“This course was brilliant and opened up a whole new world for me. It was directed at me doing the job that I’ve always wanted. Next month I leave my job in a school to go and work as a Health IDVA in a hospital. Thank you Safer Places for changing my life Qualified IDVA trained by Safer Places” (Trainee)

Much has changed over the last three years with the experience of and the new Domestic Abuse Act which has a major impact on the strategic context and resources available for domestic abuse. Trustees and Officers are investing much effort in developing the strategy from 2023-28 in order to take advantage of the opportunities we envisage. The revised strategy will be signed off in November. The following objectives have been agreed for 2022/23 and will make a bridge between the old and new strategic direction for the organisation:

1. Review the Estate and make decisions as to the future arrangements for the provision and maintenance of safe accommodation
2. Design and implement evidence-based children’s services in refuge which meet the specific needs of children in refuge from a combination in house provision and referral to community-based provision and ensures excellent collaboration with statutory agencies and strong advocacy where necessary to ensure safeguarding needs are met
3. Implement the new senior management structure and the new roles reporting to the Head of Policy and Influence and ensure that there is a clear set of KPIs in respect of increasing Safer Places Voice and Visibility beyond the local level and that there are clear communication and social media KPIs and that these are being met
4. Review the Business Plan and governance arrangements for Brighter Futures implementing recommended changes to ensure the long-term development and sustainability of the subsidiary
5. Achieve a balanced budget in 2022/3 & and re-engineer business processing to achieve our Value for Money objective

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Value for Money (VFM)

Each year the Charity used a range of data to measure VFM progress against the housing sector. The results help influence investment decisions and provide the regulators and other stakeholders with information on the progress of the Charity, whilst also ensuring compliance with the regulatory VFM standard. The charity has measured itself against the Housemark Sector Scorecard.

Metric	2022	2021	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	30.60%	11.68%	6.10%	Safer Places holds its housing stock on operating leases. Fixed assets represent the value of improvements carried out and, additions therefore represent a greater proportion of book value.
New supply % (social)	0.00%	0.00%	1.30%	Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year.
New supply % (non-social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gearing	(1,791.8)%	(976.4)%	33.80%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	1,497.47%	1,331.44%	196.10%	Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit.
Social Housing Cost Per Unit	£13,497	£13,689	£4,023	The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base.
Operating Margin (social housing)	(0.14)%	(28.56)%	23.60%	The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing substantial loss of rent through vacancies, reducing the operating margin.
Operating Margin (overall)	6.94%	5.52%	21.50%	
Return on Capital Employed	12.12%	9.05%	2.80%	The ROCE reflects the low operating margin on the Charity's activities.

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Reserves policy

It is the policy of the board to provide sufficient reserves to:

- Ensure continuity of provision for a limited period in the event of a large variation in income in order that further income can be sourced or a reduction in service planned and implemented so as to minimise risk to our clients
- Pay the annual sums associated with reducing the deficit for which we are responsible related to our membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme
- Provide a refurbishment fund so that we can sustain our continuous planned upgrade and refurbishment programme

Reserves will therefore be held:

1. Working Capital – with sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating at current service level for a period of three months
2. Refurbishment – to undertake a rolling programme to sustain the quality of our accommodation and services.
3. Property acquisition - the Trustees are currently reviewing refuge requirements across operational areas and are considering investment to improve provision of services in key areas.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. In light of the current economic conditions, increased costs related to utilities and the supply chain caused by increased fuel costs are a principal risk to Safer Places. This is further exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and these issues will inevitably impact the cost of running services, particularly refuge provisions and office overhead costs. Staff monitor the situation, seeking quotes to ensure best value for all services and utilities in order to mitigate this risk as much as possible.
2. Like many charities, in the mid to long term the organisation must also face the challenge of ensuring adequate funds are available to meet the obligations of its defined benefit pension scheme. We continue to hold assets necessary to manage the fund however the pension obligations remain volatile. The economic conditions again prove challenging not just for the Charity but for the client base and we continue to take action to support clients on financial matters as well.
3. To sustain and enhance income related to the training subsidiary in order to provide enhanced services to the stakeholders. The year reflects that the provision of training has proved a successful venture to date.
4. Covid-19 (coronavirus) which threatened our ability to provide refuge spaces in an isolated environment during the pandemic. We closed a large, shared facility refuge in Harlow and moved clients into smaller properties rented from private landlords in 2020/21 in order to ensure we could accommodate clients safely. In 2021/we were able to upgrade provision as new properties were purchased and refurbished to replace those we had acquired in haste.

Safer Places Investment Policy

It is the policy of Safer Places to achieve the best possible return on investment and therefore two properties were purchased in 2012. The rental return on these properties far exceeds any rate that could be achieved currently through the financial institutions. Cash funds on reserve will be placed on fixed term deposits according to best rates at the time and the need for funds to be available.

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Review of Financial position

Safer Places' continued strategy to diversify income and provide fully funded frontline services has resulted in a sustained operating surplus for the group of £242k (2021: a surplus of £225) which will be re-invested to services in the coming financial period to ensure we continue to meet the changing needs of our client base. Donations whilst still amounting to a modest proportion of income had increased nearly 33% from 2021.

Social housing income remained relatively constant showing a slight reduction from 2021 due to adjustments in the types & quantity of units provided £1,006,513 (2021: £1,085,647)

The cash position of the group has increased by £470,555, again as a result of the success of training services, and other efforts to diversify our income stream. The charity therefore maintained sufficient cash balances to fulfil its reserves policy at the year end. Investment Properties were determined to be held at fair value and rental income from the properties also remains relatively stable.

Going Concern

The Board has reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees agreed to focus on diversifying income streams during 2020/21 and generating more income through, for example, the sale of our training services. Over 2021/22 this service has developed to meet this challenge and in spite of the restrictions resulting from COVID19, has adapted swiftly to put training online which means that the substantial income planned through the delivery of the national qualifications for the sector in different regions of the country is still being generated, and enabled a return to an operating surplus.

We therefore consider that the future prospects for funding to be encouraging and that we are well placed to secure additional income. The Trustees have also considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the charity. Forecasting of future revenue streams and strong reserves has provided adequate assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the financial statements.

Future plans

During the period we extended our work on Equity , Equality , Diversity and Inclusion which is fundamentally important to the delivery of trauma informed , quality service delivery and we set the following objectives that we will report on

Safer Places EEDI Action Plan 2022-2023

Objective 1 – Our Team

We aim to increase the diversity of our workforce and continue to build an inclusive culture where all staff feels valued, that they belong, and have opportunities to succeed and celebrate our differences

- Ensure representation and inclusivity is a key factor in succession planning for senior management and management positions
- Baseline and monitor diversity across organisation and individual teams (including agency and volunteers), using data to inform recruitment development
- Continue to develop recruitment processes so they are accessible and actively encourage a diverse range of applicants, giving value to lived and intersecting experiences
- Include EDI within the training plan for all staff (including agency and volunteers) to embed and build capability and understanding of EEDI practice and enhance learning across all levels of the organisation
- Review EEDI performance on an annual basis and publish EEDI report
- Regularly seek employees' views on EEDI as a static item on the spot-check employee surveys
- Regularly publicise ways for staff to engage and participate (Daisy, Feedback email inbox etc.)

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- Develop health and well-being strategy with staff

Objective 2 – Our Clients – We will make sure our services are responsive to the individual needs of all survivors so anyone experiencing or at risk of abuse can access our services, when, where and how they need to on an equitable basis of risk, need and choice

- Routinely monitor and reflect on EEDI service data, ensuring data analysis provides insight into the outcomes survivors from different communities achieve as a result of our service
- Identify gaps in service provision through data analysis
- Continually look for ways to develop services by working in partnership with by and for organisations
- Include survivors in all service development

Objective 3 – Our Partners – We will actively seek opportunities to collaborate with by and for organisations and challenge structural inequalities that exclude or marginalise their presence

- Continue to expand partnership network, especially with under-represented by and for organisations
- Seek to support by and for organisations with DA specialism, both in service delivery and training opportunities supporting their need for autonomy and independence
- Share experience and lessons learnt and collaborate with wider sector regarding EEDI (community of practice etc.)

Objective 4 – Community Engagement – We will pro-actively engage with the communities that we serve

- Expand partnerships with community organisations such as places of worship, community centres, youth groups etc. to build a network of connections
- Continue to grow Women's Centre work
- Research and engage with our communities in order to identify their needs

Objective 5– Our communication – We will be clear, accessible, and inclusive in all of our communication both internally and externally

- Continue working on the website to make it more accessible (Recite me)
- Raise awareness of our EDI agenda through Comms strategy
- Ensure all messaging is assessable and inclusive across all platforms for a range of audiences
- Provide comms and engagement support for stakeholder organisations that further evidence our commitment to EEDI
- Reject the use of 'BAME' or 'BME' terms within our reporting, instead using disaggregating information so we can discuss issues with clarity and focus

We do not intend to return to operating as we were pre-pandemic because there have been some advantages to the new ways of working that we have found that we wish to retain. For example, although some clients enjoy the social interaction of a face-to-face therapeutic group session many have preferred online delivery which they have found more convenient and also less daunting. We have run programmes in the evenings, and this had made them more accessible to some women who wished to participate when their children were in bed. Online delivery has also been very advantageous for people who are disabled for whom attending in person sessions was more difficult. Online meetings have also saved a great deal of time which would otherwise been wasted in travelling across counties to participate. Supporting each other through the pandemic has also brought teams closer together and further improved relationships in the workplace.

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Auditors

The Auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have indicated that they are willing to be re-appointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board

Laila Abraham

[Laila Abraham \(Sep 27, 2022 21:20 GMT+5.5\)](#)

Laila Abraham

Chair of Trustees

Date: September 2022

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in reserves, the consolidated and company statement of financial positions, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2019.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 2-3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds.
- We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to Safer Places and determined that the most significant are the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, and the regulatory standards issued by the Regulator of Social Housing.
- We understood how the Association is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the Association's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements. These included risks associated with revenue recognition, application of accounting estimates, management override of controls and the increased incentive and pressure to commit fraud due to the Covid-19 environment, which were discussed and agreed by the audit team.
- Our approach included agreeing the recognition of income to the terms of tenancy agreements, reviewing the assumptions used and controls applied in the calculation of accounting estimates, the review of journal entries processed in the accounting records and the investigation of significant and unusual transactions identified from our review of the accounting records.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the board members with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the Group.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken, so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

James Holland-Leader FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

September 2022

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	2	3,407,029	2,980,776
Less: Operating costs	3	(3,156,039)	(2,818,907)
Other Income		2,175	2,155
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	253,165	164,024
Interest Receivable		525	343
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Liability	17	(18,000)	(19,000)
Gain on revaluation of investments	9	6,622	-
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	-	80,000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		242,312	225,367
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability	17	914,000	(187,000)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		£1,156,312	£38,367

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
CHANGES IN RESERVES**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2021	-	673,623	673,623
Total Comprehensive Income	-	1,156,312	1,156,312
Transfers between funds	-		
Balance at 31st March 2022	£ -	£1,829,935	£1,829,935

The notes on pages 25 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		74,830		88,095
Other fixed assets	7b		50,720		52,037
Investment Properties	8		915,000		915,000
Investments	9		106,622		-
			1,147,172		1,055,132
Current assets					
Debtors	10	214,904		129,499	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,341,849		871,294	
		1,556,753		1,000,793	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(779,990)		(356,302)	
Net current assets			776,763		644,491
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			1,923,935		1,699,623
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			(94,000)		(1,026,000)
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			£1,829,935		£673,623
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		-		-
Unrestricted funds	15		1,923,935		1,699,623
Pension reserve	15		(94,000)		(1,026,000)
Total Funds			£1,829,935		£673,623

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Laila Abraham
Laila Abraham (Sep 27, 2022 21:20 GMT+5.5)

Douglas Wildey
Douglas Wildey (Sep 28, 2022 14:07 GMT+1)

Laila Abraham - Director

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 25 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		74,830		88,095
Other fixed assets	7b		50,720		52,037
Investment Properties	8		915,000		915,000
Investments	9		106,723		100
			1,147,273		1,055,232
Current assets					
Debtors	10	185,553		130,399	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,340,799		870,394	
		1,526,352		1,000,793	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(759,890)		(356,302)	
Net current assets			766,462		644,491
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			1,913,735		1,699,723
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			(94,000)		(1,026,000)
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			£1,819,735		£673,723
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		-		-
Unrestricted funds	15		1,913,735		1,699,723
Pension reserve	15		(94,000)		(1,026,000)
Total Funds			£1,819,735		£673,723

The parent company's total comprehensive income for the year amounted to £1,146,012 (2021: £38,367).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Laila Abraham - Director

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 25 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Net cash generated from Operating Activities	A	617,152	143,347
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(47,122)	(25,166)
Purchase of Fixed Asset Investments		(100,000)	-
Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	-
Interest Received		525	343
		<u>(146,597)</u>	<u>(24,823)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		470,555	118,524
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		<u>871,294</u>	<u>752,770</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	<u><u>£1,341,849</u></u>	<u><u>£871,294</u></u>

A. Cashflows from Operating Activities

Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	242,312	225,367
Depreciation and losses on disposal	61,704	98,895
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(85,405)	18,102
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	423,688	(60,674)
Interest Receivable	(525)	(343)
Net Interest on Pension Liability	18,000	19,000
Pension Costs/Expense	(36,000)	(77,000)
Gains on revaluation	(6,622)	(80,000)
	<u>£617,152</u>	<u>£143,347</u>

B. Analysis of Changes in net funds

	At 01/04/2021	Cash flows	At 31/03/2022
Cash	<u>£871,294</u>	<u>£470,555</u>	<u>£1,341,849</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 the Statement of Recommended Practice for Registered Social Housing Providers 2018 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2019.

The Charitable Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board has reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements. The Board has considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the Charity, and is content that the measures taken by the Charity, together with strong reserves and enhanced prospects due to Domestic Abuse Bill changes and the implementation of the government's new domestic abuse strategy, provides adequate forecasting and assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the Financial Statements.

The presentation currency in the financial statements is the pound sterling (£).

(b) Company status

Safer Places is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

(c) Group Financial Statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charitable Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Properties Limited (08704415) and Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C. (13524749), on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Comprehensive Income has not been presented for the parent Charitable Company itself, having taken advantage of the exemption afforded by the Companies Act 2006.

(d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds, which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(e) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is deferred where:

- The donor specifies that the grant must be used in the future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions, which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

For legacies, entitlement is when the impending distribution is probable.

Grants have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services but as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(f) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

	Years	%
Leasehold Refuge Improvements:		
Fabric	40	2.5
Roofs	40	2.5
Kitchens	20	5
Doors and Windows	30	3.33
Bathrooms	25	4
Boilers	15	6.67
Refuge Equipment	5	20
Leasehold Office Improvements	5	20
Furniture and Equipment	5	20
Motor Vehicles	5	20

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(h) Pension costs

The charitable company participates in a group defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. This is a funded scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds.

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments together with any change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service. They are included as part of staff costs. Net interest on the defined benefit liability is shown as a cost in the statement of comprehensive income. The remeasurement of the defined benefit liability is also reported in the statement of comprehensive income, and is shown in more detail in Note 17 to the Accounts.

(i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(j) Investments

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Depreciation is not provided in respect of investment properties.

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

The charitable company's investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Comprehensive Income includes the net gains and losses arising on the revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

(k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties

The following are the critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that the Board has made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Fair value of Investment Properties

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Trustees assess the fair value of the investment properties based on recent market values. In determining the fair value on this basis, the valuation remains sensitive to fluctuations in the property market.

Identification of housing property components

The charity accounts for its expenditure on housing properties using component accounting. Under component accounting, the housing property is divided into those major components which are considered to have substantially different useful economic lives. Judgement is used in allocating property costs between components (land, structure, kitchens, bathrooms etc) and in determining the useful economic lives of each component.

Housing property depreciation is calculated on a component by component basis. The identification of such components is a matter of judgement and may have a material impact on the depreciation charge. The components selected are those which reflect how the major repairs to the property are managed.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to 'technological obsolescence' with regard to IT equipment/software and any changes to decent homes standard requiring frequent replacement of components. The accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2022 was £782,303.

Bad debt provision

A full line by line review of trade debtors is carried out at the end of each month. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the bad debt provisions are as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the provisions do not match the level of debts which ultimately prove to be uncollectible.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties (continued)

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension asset in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends.

A liability of £94,000 is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2022 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 17 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2	Income - Group	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	Donations and Legacies				
	Donations	50,110	6,064	56,174	42,294
	Nationwide	-	-	-	12,500
	Children In Need	-	38,798	38,798	42,668
	Herts Community Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
	Infection Control Fund	-	8,000	8,000	16,000
	Coronavirus Community Support	-	-	-	43,288
	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	3,997
	Other grants	18,750	18,116	36,866	61,602
		68,860	80,978	149,838	222,349
	Charitable Activities:				
	Refuge rents receivable	947,226	-	947,226	1,015,764
	Refuge service charges	59,287	-	59,287	69,883
	Supporting People Hertfordshire	1,504,250	-	1,504,250	618,000
	Emergency COVID Funding MoJ	-	-	-	278,527
	Emergency COVID Funding MHCLG	-	-	-	103,570
	EFDC Essex Womens Refuges	-	-	-	16,944
	Essex COVID Recovery & Response	-	-	-	37,000
	PCC ISAC Service	-	78,000	78,000	26,500
	Homeless Link	-	-	-	80,000
	Advance	-	72,961	72,961	-
	EDASS	-	283,200	283,200	-
	CRC Services	25,770	-	25,770	109,585
	Herts County Council Sunflower	2,100	-	2,100	10,773
	Ministry of Housing, CLG	-	99,938	99,938	286,669
	Training Services	142,699	-	142,699	63,452
		2,681,332	534,099	3,215,431	2,716,667
	Investment Properties				
	Rents receivable	41,760	-	41,760	41,760
	Turnover	£2,791,952	£615,077	£3,407,029	£2,980,776

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3 Operating costs - Group

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Services to victims seeking support		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,121,254	1,022,560
Professional fees	30,929	17,782
Refuge rents and service charges	341,724	386,843
Refuge running expenses	317,205	309,119
Refuge depreciation	36,161	71,613
Other operating expenses	557,366	435,752
Bad debts	48,538	37,318
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	465,643	336,337
Depreciation	25,544	27,281
Insurance	25,226	17,480
Legal and professional fees	28,036	13,770
Audit fee	19,700	14,002
Meeting expenses	-	1,323
Other overhead expenses	129,512	119,603
	3,146,838	2,810,783
Other activities		
Investment property management costs	9,201	8,124
Total resources expended	£3,156,039	£2,818,907
Unrestricted Funds	2,540,962	1,924,234
Restricted Funds	615,077	894,673
	£3,156,039	£2,818,907

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

4	Accommodation in management	2022	2021
	Social housing income and expenditure:	£	£
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	947,226	1,015,764
	Service charges receivable	59,287	69,883
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,007,968)	(1,395,700)
	Net surplus/(deficit) from social housing activities	£(1,455)	£(310,053)
	Void losses	£297,148	£139,836
		Units	Units
	Supported housing	74	94

The RP manages properties on behalf of Swan, Catalyst. L&Q, Housing Associations, registered social housing providers operating in Essex and Herts.

5	Operating surplus/deficit	2022	2021
	This is stated after charging:	£	£
	Trustees' emoluments	-	-
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	10,425	12,500
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	364,264	413,601
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	12,350	20,756
	Depreciation of owned assets	59,903	98,895

6	Staff costs	2022	2021
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,230,546	1,101,700
	Social security costs	109,019	99,380
	Pension costs	164,553	130,178
	Termination payments	-	-
		£1,504,118	£1,331,258

		2022	2021
		No	No
	The average weekly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was:	44	40
	The average number of employees during the year was	51	46

There was one employee whose employee benefits fell in the banding £60,000 to £70,000, one in the banding £70,000 to £80,000, and one in the banding £100,000 to £110,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £346,697 (2021: £343,309). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £83,042 (2021: £83,052) and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 17. Employee benefits comprise salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2021: £nil).

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties Group and Parent	Leasehold Refuge Improvements £	Refuge Equipment £	Total £
	Cost:			
	At 1 April	30,318	393,527	423,845
	Additions	-	22,895	22,895
	Disposals	-	(7,465)	(7,465)
	At 31 March	30,318	408,957	439,275
	Depreciation:			
	At 1 April	7,376	328,374	335,750
	Charge for the Year	5,554	28,805	34,359
	Disposals	-	(5,664)	(5,664)
	At 31 March	12,930	351,515	364,445
	Net Book Value 31 March 2021	£22,942	£65,153	£88,095
	Net book Value 31 March 2022	£17,388	£57,442	£74,830

7b	Other Fixed Assets Group and Parent	Leasehold Office Improvements £	Furniture and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
	Cost:				
	At 1 April	63,615	366,642	14,094	444,351
	Additions	-	24,227	-	24,227
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 March	63,615	390,869	14,094	468,578
	Depreciation:				
	At 1 April	38,263	339,957	14,094	392,314
	Charge for the Year	12,723	12,821	-	25,544
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 March	50,986	352,778	14,094	417,858
	Net book value 31 March 2021	£25,352	£26,685	£-	£52,037
	Net book value 31 March 2022	£12,629	£38,091	£-	£50,720

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8	Investment properties Group and Parent	Investment Properties £	Total £
	At 1 April 2021	915,000	915,000
	Change in fair value	-	-
	At 31st March 2022	<u>£915,000</u>	<u>915,000</u>

The investment properties have been valued by the Trustees at 31 March 2022 based on current market value which has been assessed on the basis of historic selling prices of similar properties in the location over the course of the financial year.

9	Investments	Group		Parent		
		Investment in	Total	Group Undertakings	Investment	Total
		unit trust			in unit trust	
		£			£	
At 1 April	-	-	100	-	100	
Additions	100,000	100,000	1	100,000	100,001	
Unrealised gains	6,622	6,622	-	6,622	6,622	
At 31 March	£106,622	£106,622	£101	£106,622	£106,723	

Investments in group undertakings comprises 100% of the ordinary share capital of Safer Properties Limited (company number: 08704415) and Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC (company number: 13524749).

The principal activities of the subsidiaries are property investment and the provision of training courses, respectively. Summaries of the trading results are shown below:

	Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C.		Safer Properties Limited	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	65,669	-	-	-
Costs of sales	(40,942)	-	-	-
Gross profit	24,727	-	-	-
Administrative expenses	(14,577)	-	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit	10,150	-	-	-
Interest receivable	150	-	-	-
Profit for the financial year	<u>£10,300</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£-</u>

The aggregate capital and reserves of the subsidiary companies at 31 March 2022 were: Safer Properties Limited £Nil (2021: £Nil), and Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C. £10,301, (2021: £Nil).

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10 Debtors	Group		Parent	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Social housing rent arrears	110,660	148,632	110,660	148,632
Less provision for doubtful debts	(102,594)	(102,211)	(102,594)	(102,211)
	<u>8,066</u>	<u>46,421</u>	<u>8,066</u>	<u>46,421</u>
Trade debtors	136,062	36,154	105,811	36,154
Other debtors and accrued income	2,394	5,000	3,294	5,900
Prepayments	68,382	41,924	68,382	41,924
	<u>£214,904</u>	<u>£129,499</u>	<u>£185,553</u>	<u>£130,399</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Parent	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	32,398	89,938	32,398	89,938
Trade creditors	83,950	51,029	83,950	51,029
Taxation & social security	28,366	26,764	28,366	26,764
Accruals and deferred income	633,604	188,571	532,194	188,571
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	81,310	-
Other creditors	1,672	-	1,672	-
	<u>£779,990</u>	<u>£356,302</u>	<u>£759,890</u>	<u>£356,302</u>

12 Deferred Income	Group		Parent	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Brought forward	106,991	206,667	106,991	206,667
Released to income	(106,991)	(202,742)	(106,991)	(202,742)
Income deferred in the year	542,298	103,066	443,888	103,066
	<u>£542,298</u>	<u>£106,991</u>	<u>£443,888</u>	<u>£106,991</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13 Analysis of net assets between funds Fund balances at 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Group			
Investments	1,021,622	-	1,021,622
Tangible fixed assets	125,550	-	125,550
Net current assets	776,763	-	776,763
Pension liabilities	(94,000)	-	(94,000)
	<u>£1,829,935</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£1,829,935</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,021,723	-	1,021,723
Tangible fixed assets	125,550	-	125,550
Net current assets	766,462	-	766,462
Pension liabilities	(94,000)	-	(94,000)
	<u>£1,819,735</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£1,819,735</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021			
Group			
Investments	915,000	-	915,000
Tangible fixed assets	140,132	-	140,132
Net current assets	644,491	-	644,491
Pension liabilities	(1,026,000)	-	(1,026,000)
	<u>£673,623</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£673,623</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Parent:			
Investments	915,000	-	915,000
Tangible fixed assets	140,132	-	140,132
Net current assets	644,491	-	644,491
Pension liabilities	(1,026,000)	-	(1,026,000)
	<u>£673,723</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£673,723</u>

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

14	Restricted Funds Group and Parent	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
	ISAC service	-	78,000	(78,000)	-	-
	ADVANCE	-	72,961	(72,961)	-	-
	Herts Community Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	EDASS	-	283,200	(283,200)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	38,798	(38,798)	-	-
	MHCLG	-	99,938	(99,938)	-	-
	Infection Control Fund	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	14,364	(14,364)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	9,816	(9,816)	-	-
		£ -	£615,077	£(615,077)	£ -	£ -
	Restricted Funds – prior year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2021
	MoJ Extraordinary COVID Funding	-	278,527	(278,527)	-	-
	ISAC service	-	26,500	(26,500)	-	-
	MHCLG Emergency COVID Funding	-	103,570	(103,570)	-	-
	Coronavirus Community Support Fund	-	43,288	(43,288)	-	-
	Essex Coronavirus Recovery and Response Programme	-	31,500	(31,500)	-	-
	Nationwide	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	42,668	(42,668)	-	-
	MHCLG	20,901	286,669	(307,570)	-	-
	Epping Forest Fund	-	16,944	(16,944)	-	-
	Infection Control Fund	-	16,000	(16,000)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	2,394	(2,394)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	13,212	(13,212)	-	-
		£20,901	£873,772	£(894,673)	£ -	£ -

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- (i) MoJ Extraordinary COVID Funding**
Additional funding to provide staffing capacity to sustain service levels through the pandemic – particularly related to increased referrals and out of hours support.
- (ii) ISAC Service**
Specialist support service supporting the victims of stalking.
- (iii) MHCLG Emergency COVID Funding**
Funding by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (iv) Coronavirus Community Support Fund**
The Charity received a grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund administered by the National Lottery Community Fund.
- (v) Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme**
Funding by the Essex Community Foundation to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (vi) Nationwide**
The Charity received a grant from the Nationwide Community Grants programme during the 2019/20 financial year to cover the costs of employing a Housing Support Officer for one year. This remaining portion of this grant was recognised and expended during the current financial year.
- (vii) Children in Need**
The Charity was awarded a multi-year grant from Children in Need during 2019/20 to cover the costs of employing two Children's Workers for a three-year period.
- (viii) MHCLG**
These are funds received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which are restricted to the provision of a Complex Needs Refuge and Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker service.
- (ix) Epping Forest Fund**
These are funds received from Epping Outreach and are restricted to Epping Forest victims only. The funds are used within that community for managing risk, developing independent living skills (finance, social and domestic life), mental and physical health issues, emotional wellbeing and support with children and parenting.
- (x) ADVANCE**
Funding received as part of the ADVANCE partnership which works with women in the Criminal Justice System.
- (xi) Herts Community Foundation**
Funding received to enhance services provided in Hertfordshire. The fund is used to increase children's support staffing, the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House, and for the provision of resettlement support for those leaving refuge.
- (xii) EDASS**
Funding is received for Essex Domestic Abuse Support Services and utilised for the support and education of those in Essex at medium risk of domestic abuse in order to recognise, recover from, and develop resilience against abuse.
- (xiii) Infection Control Fund**
This fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of Covid-19 transmission.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

(xiv) Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project

This is a social welfare grant from the Pilgrim Trust to support early action projects that improve the life chances of vulnerable women and girls.

(xv) Other Donations & Grants

This consists of donations received at the Charity's refuges and is utilised on providing support activities to those housed in emergency accommodation.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

15 Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Designated Funds						
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward 1 April 2020	750,000	175,000	925,000	586,355	1,511,355	(897,000)	614,355
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	265,268	265,268	(19,000)	246,268
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(187,000)	(187,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(77,000)	(77,000)	77,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2021	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£774,623</u>	<u>£1,699,623</u>	<u>£(1,026,000)</u>	<u>£673,623</u>
Balance brought forward 1 April 2021	750,000	175,000	925,000	774,623	1,699,623	(1,026,000)	673,623
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	260,312	260,312	(18,000)	242,312
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	914,000	914,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(36,000)	(36,000)	36,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2022	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£998,935</u>	<u>£1,923,935</u>	<u>£(94,000)</u>	<u>£1,829,935</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

15 Unrestricted Funds - Parent

	Designated Funds			General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £				
Balance brought forward 1 April 2020	750,000	175,000	925,000	586,455	1,511,455	(897,000)	614,455
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	265,268	265,268	(19,000)	246,268
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(187,000)	(187,000)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(77,000)	(77,000)	77,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2021	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£774,723	£1,699,723	£(1,026,000)	£673,723
Balance brought forward 1 April 2021	750,000	175,000	925,000	774,723	1,699,723	(1,026,000)	673,723
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	250,012	250,012	(18,000)	232,012
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	914,000	914,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(36,000)	(36,000)	36,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2022	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£988,735	£1,913,735	£(94,000)	£1,819,735

Building Fund

This fund is to be used for building new refuges on land to be gifted.

Refurbishment Fund

This fund was set up to cover the costs of planned refurbishment work on new and existing properties.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

16 Taxation

The nature of the income received and the company's charitable activities means that no corporation tax liability arises on the results for the year and no VAT is recoverable on inputs or payable on outputs.

17 Defined benefit pension scheme

Safer Places participates in a defined benefit pension scheme – Essex Pension Fund operated by Essex County Council. At 31 March 2019, Safer Places had 11 active, 64 deferred pensioners and 19 pensioners in the fund. The Employer pays contributions of 24.5% plus an additional monetary amount each year.

The assets allocation of the fund is as follows:

	2022		2021	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	4,820	60	4,627	63
Gilts	192	3	186	3
Other Bonds	352	4	356	5
Property	658	8	515	7
Cash	204	3	184	3
Alternative Assets	992	12	841	11
Other Managed Funds	810	10	605	8
	£8,028	100%	£7,314	100%

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2022	2021
Retiring today – Males	21.6	21.6
– Females	23.7	23.6
Retiring in 20 years – Males	23.0	22.9
– Females	25.1	25.1

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

RPI Increases	3.55%	3.2%
CPI Increases	2.85%	2.85%
Salary Increases	4.25%	3.85%
Pension Increases	3.25%	2.85%
Discount Rate	2.60%	2.00%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2022 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2022. The results of these valuations are set out below.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2022

	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	8,122,000	8,340,000	6,523,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	(8,028,000)	(7,314,000)	(5,626,000)
Net defined benefit liability	<u>£94,000</u>	<u>£1,026,000</u>	<u>£897,000</u>

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

	2022	2021
	£	£
Service Costs	125,000	94,000
Net Interest on defined liability	18,000	19,000
Administration Expenses	4,000	4,000
	<u>£147,000</u>	<u>£117,000</u>

(c) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balances of present Value of the defined benefit obligation

	2022	2021
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	8,340,000	6,523,000
Current Service Cost	125,000	94,000
Interest Cost	165,000	152,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	-	(71,000)
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	18,000	(91,000)
Change in Financial Assumptions	(383,000)	1,869,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(163,000)	(157,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>£8,122,000</u>	<u>£8,340,000</u>

(d) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balance of Fair Value of Funds Assets

	2022	2021
	£	£
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	7,314,000	5,626,000
Interest on Assets	147,000	133,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	549,000	1,520,000
Administration Expenses	(4,000)	(4,000)
Contributions by Employer	165,000	175,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(163,000)	(157,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£8,028,000</u>	<u>£7,314,000</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(e) Sensitivity Analysis

	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	7,957	8,122	8,291
Projected Service Costs	118	122	125
 Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,131	8,122	8,113
Projected Service Costs	122	122	121
 Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,281	8,122	7,967
Projected Service Costs	126	122	119
 Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions	 + 1 Year	 None	 -1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,703	8,122	7,810
Projected Service Costs	147	122	117

(f) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

	2022 £	2021 £
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	549,000	1,520,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	-	71,000
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	(18,000)	91,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	383,000	(1,869,000)
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	<u>£914,000</u>	<u>£(187,000)</u>

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2022

	£
Service Cost	122,000
Net Interest on deferred liability	2,000
Administration Expenses	4,000
Total Loss	<u>£128,000</u>
 Employer Contribution	 <u>£166,000</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £15,900 (2021: (£14,490) from D.Willey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2021: no trustee received any reimbursement of expenses).

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC, an unregistered body. Safer Places recharged staff costs amounting to £40,624 to Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC and paid £11,895 of expenses on that company's behalf. The recharge of staff costs was calculated on the basis of time spent by those employees on the activity of the subsidiary with no markup. In addition, the charity collected receipts from customers of the company amounting to £133,828. At the year end, £81,310 was owed by the Safer Places to Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC.

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Properties Limited, an unregistered body. There were no transactions with Safer Properties during the year. At the year end £900 (2021: £900) was owed by Safer Properties to Safer Places.

19 Ultimate control

The charity is under no overall control, but is administered by the trustees.

20 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2022 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

Group	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire				
Within one year	241,109	241,109	8,622	8,927
Between two and five years	85,548	135,223	17,243	-
In more than five years				
	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£376,332</u>	<u>£25,865</u>	<u>£8,927</u>
Parent	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire				
Within one year	241,109	241,109	8,622	8,927
Between two and five years	85,548	135,223	17,243	-
In more than five years				
	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£376,332</u>	<u>£25,865</u>	<u>£8,927</u>

21 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2022 Safer Places had no capital commitments.

Safer Places 2022

Final Audit Report

2022-09-28

Created:	2022-09-26
By:	Allison Gardner (allison.gardner@saferplaces.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAuWulAp4A08ryW_GooMP7jbcUAEEG5AmE

"Safer Places 2022" History

 Document created by Allison Gardner (allison.gardner@saferplaces.co.uk)

2022-09-26 - 1:50:44 PM GMT- IP address: 81.154.254.27

 Document emailed to sa443@aol.com for signature

2022-09-26 - 1:52:19 PM GMT

 Email viewed by sa443@aol.com

2022-09-27 - 2:45:35 PM GMT- IP address: 119.161.10.201

 Signer sa443@aol.com entered name at signing as Laila Abraham

2022-09-27 - 3:50:17 PM GMT- IP address: 116.68.78.78

 Document e-signed by Laila Abraham (sa443@aol.com)

Signature Date: 2022-09-27 - 3:50:19 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 116.68.78.78

 Document emailed to dougwilley@talktalk.net for signature

2022-09-27 - 3:50:20 PM GMT

 Email viewed by dougwilley@talktalk.net

2022-09-27 - 4:33:05 PM GMT- IP address: 104.28.86.98

 Signer dougwilley@talktalk.net entered name at signing as D Wildey

2022-09-28 - 1:07:22 PM GMT- IP address: 79.68.128.163

 Document e-signed by D Wildey (dougwilley@talktalk.net)

Signature Date: 2022-09-28 - 1:07:24 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 79.68.128.163

 Agreement completed.

2022-09-28 - 1:07:24 PM GMT

SAFER PLACES

England & Wales - Charity number 1018832

Accounts

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Regulator of Social Housing number	4761



**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number 1018832

Company number 02789572

Governing document The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Known as Safer Places

Registered office PO Box 2489
16-20 Bush House
Bush Fair
Harlow
Essex
CM18 6NS

Auditors Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers Lloyds Bank
Billericay Commercial Centre
Lloyds Commercial
89 High Street
Billericay
Essex
CM12 9AT

Trustees

- Douglas Wildey
- Emma Howarth (resigned 26 May 2020)
- Erica Bowen
- Chloe Ahmed
- Gift Kapswara
- Lorraine Larman
- Laila Abraham
- Helen Marshall (appointed 26 May 2020, retired 10 September 2020)
- Sian Chambers (appointed 25 May 2021)
- Clare Arnold (appointed 25 May 2021)
- Kathy Osborne (appointed 25 May 2021)
- Garry Matthews (appointed 25 May 2021)

Secretary Allison Gardner

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2020

Structure Governance and Management

Safer Places is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Charitable Company is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (Reg No 4761).

Our governing documents are our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Trustees are elected from our membership at our Annual General meeting. Our Trustees serve for a period of three years and then stand down or seek nomination and re-election. In line with good governance guidance Trustees do not normally serve for more than three terms. However it was agreed that Douglas Wildey continue as a Trustee since he brings a level of specialist expertise to the board which is highly valued and would be difficult to replace.

Our membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives set out in our Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Trustees shall admit to membership of the company. An application for membership may be approved or rejected by the Trustees. The Trustees have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

We welcome nominations from organisations who are members of Safer Places.

Safer Places has no prohibition on clients becoming Members or Trustees providing they are able to meet the eligibility requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of these roles.

It is the policy of Safer Places to ensure that all Trustees are eligible and have sufficient and appropriate skills to serve. All members wishing to become Trustees undergo a competency-based selection process and are required to complete a Declaration of Eligibility and a Declaration of Interests annually.

Once appointed Trustees participate in an induction process which, includes induction to the company as well as to the role of Trustee. Ongoing training relevant to the role of Trustee is provided.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Safer Places for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Housing SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Our Trustees are also responsible for the following:

- Setting the strategic direction of Safer Places, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and meeting the needs for which it was established.
- Ensuring Safer Places complies with company and charity requirements.
- Ensuring that Safer Places does not breach the rules set out in its governing documents and remains true to its charitable purpose.
- Making sure Safer Places complies with all requirements of other legislation, which govern the activities of the company.
- Preventing the misuse of company funds or assets.
- Ensuring that company funds and assets are used reasonably and only in the furtherance of the company's objectives.
- Avoiding any activity that might place the company's assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Taking special care in investing the company's funds or borrowing funds on behalf of the company.
- Using their personal skills and experience to ensure the company is well run and efficient.
- Considering getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the company or where Trustees may be in breach of their duties.

Day to day management of Safer Places is delegated to the Chief Executive who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets at least five times per year.

Staff attend Board Meetings and advise on all matters but do not vote.

Statement on the registered social housing provider's internal control systems

The Board takes an active interest in all internal control and corporate governance matters, and aims to meet the highest standards. The Board accepts the principles in the National Housing Federation Code of Governance, which go well beyond internal financial control.

This statement is confined to internal financial control. Internal financial control means the controls established in order to provide reasonable assurance of:

- the safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or dispositions; and
- the maintenance of proper accounting records and the reliability of financial information used with the company or for publication

Statement

The Board acknowledges its primary responsibility for the company's system of internal financial control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. However such a system can only provide reasonable and never absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board has established, and intends to continue development of, key procedures designed to provide effective internal financial control. These are the high level procedures and processes by which the Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

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The company's internal financial control and monitoring procedures include:

- clear responsibilities on the part of line and financial management for the maintenance of good financial controls and the production of accurate and timely financial management information
- the control of key financial risks through clearly laid down authorisation levels and proper segregation of duties
- detailed monthly budgeting and reporting of income and expenditure, with regular review by management of variances from budgets
- reporting on compliance with financial controls and procedure (for the year end) by external auditors.

These reports are reviewed by the Finance and the Board prior to the use of interim and annual reports

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Safer Places are:

"The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse, including stalking and harassment; to provide education for their future benefit; to educate those who work with victims of domestic violence and to provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing, or at risk of domestic violence, stalking and harassment."

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Safer Places vision is a society where everyone lives a life free from fear and abuse.

Mission

Safer Places exists to drive down the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual abuse and to support those who use our services in their journey to recovery, resilience and independence.

Values

These are the values we promise to uphold so we never lose sight of our mission:

Client Led – We empower our clients to exercise choice and control of their support. We ensure client's voices are heard and that they impact our decision making and shape our services

Accessible – We work inclusively with our clients, partners and communities. Anyone who is at risk of experiencing abuse can access our services when, how and where they need them.

Respectful – We adopt a trauma informed, holistic approach to support. We listen and believe, are non-judgemental and open and honest about what we can and cannot do.

Effective – We deliver high quality services that work for our clients. Our practice is informed by our clients, research, evidence and learning from experts by experience.

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Review of 2020/21

Safer Places has been providing accommodation and community based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children for almost 50 years. During this time so much has changed – and as we have learned further, had more measures at our disposal and embraced a multiagency approach to tackling domestic abuse, our practice and services have changed. Most of our clients today are supported in the community although there is still a substantial demand for refuge and safe supported accommodation. We have a better understanding of the nature and impact of domestic and sexual violence on adults and children, about trauma and how best to support recovery. As we understand more about risk and perpetrator typology and have a wide range of evidence based tools and measures which, in conjunction with police and other members of the multi-agency partnership, can deploy to reduce risk and harm and bring perpetrators to Justice. At the time of writing we await the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Bill which holds the promise of transforming the way Domestic Abuse is dealt with in this country. When we were first established the world was very different and refuge was the only option available to women experiencing domestic abuse. Today we recognise the diversity of experience amongst victims, that can affect all ages, genders, sexual identities, cultural and religious backgrounds, socio-economic groups, able bodied and those with physical or mental disabilities. We need to reach and respond to every victim of domestic abuse in a trauma informed manner, supporting them and providing the range of options now available to assist them in being and feeling safe and recovering from their experience. The role of the practitioner has therefore developed and now requires excellent training and supervision. Today we provide that training as one of a small number of organisations accredited to deliver the national sector qualifications and we train hundreds of people across the UK every year, ploughing back the income we generate to ensure the continuous improvement and responsiveness of the services we offer to our clients.

Although domestic abuse is an age old problem abusers today have many more tools at their disposal than perhaps they had in the past. Social Media and other technological innovations have enabled perpetrators to abuse and stalk victims in ways previously not known and stalking and harassment have increased dramatically. We therefore run a specialist stalking service in Hertfordshire which is the largest stalking support service in the country and, working with the University of Hertfordshire department of law, we have developed the only Level 4 Stalking Specialist training in the UK and this is accredited by the University. Stalking is a very important feature in domestic abuse today and is a high risk factor for serious harm or death. Where there has also been sexual violence the risk to victims is very high indeed and we need to work very closely with the police and other agencies to ensure that the victim is fully protected. We have now trained many professionals from across the UK including those who work in our sector as well as many other professions including police, lawyers and NHS workers

The difficulties we faced were however offset by the commitment of our staff, our success in securing additional funding from central government, national and local funders and the overwhelming kindness of strangers who came forward and offered financial and other support. We entered 2021/22 knowing that central government had placed a duty on all Local Authorities to fund the support of victims and their families living in safe accommodation from April 1st 2021. Central Government provided Essex County Council with almost £2.8m to do so, and Hertfordshire County Council with around £2.1m from April 1st even though the Domestic Abuse Bill which led to this change did not receive Royal Assent until April 29th 2021. However we still face uncertainty around the funding of our Essex services as funding has not been yet forthcoming.

At the time of writing the country is just beginning to emerge from the measures to manage the COVID19 pandemic. It goes without saying that this has had an enormous impact on everybody and especially those that we support. Dame Vera Baird, The Victims Commissioner described the pandemic and the impact of the lock down on victims as “the perfect storm” and we certainly felt the impact as we saw an increase in demand of 40% in terms of referrals during 2020/21. At the same time, although provider of the majority of refuge spaces in Essex, we were not in receipt of any funding from the County Council having declined a contract the previous year. The funding mechanism of that contract would not have allowed us to provide the level of safe accommodation needed or deliver the level and range of community support required. So we had the triple challenge of dealing with the impact of the increase in demand which required us to bring on stream additional accommodation, to manage all of our services in such a way as to ensure safety from COVID 19 transmission and then to find the resources required to bridge the funding gap.

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Review of 2020/2021 (continued)

Our Hertfordshire services have continued to thrive over the period and our work with partners and commissioners has only been strengthened by the challenges of the pandemic. We have been able to make headway and further extend and develop our services in Hertfordshire. During the coming year we will be delivering enhanced services to better reach and support all victims of domestic abuse and stalking in Hertfordshire. This is as a result of the additional funds being provided to Hertfordshire by central government and we look forward to what we will be able to achieve for victims and their children with this additional funding. One of the major successes this year has been the development of our training services which have gone from strength to strength. Initially disheartened by the need to cancel training planned to take place in various parts of the country we adapted our training and, thanks to an unexpected but welcome donation, were able to purchase an excellent system that enabled us to deliver high quality training to professionals and therapeutic programmes to victims with all the necessary measures built in to protect anonymity as well as manage a larger group than is easily managed on Zoom. We now provide our accredited professionals training for Independent Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Advocates and Stalking Specialists plus other training for a wide range of associated professionals such as Police, NHS, Social Care and third sector organisations across the UK. This has contributed to our ability to sustain refuge accommodation during this difficult year.

We pride ourselves on being a learning organisation but this year the learning curve has been exceptional – as a result we have grown yet again as an organisation finding new and innovative ways to deliver our services. We understand our priorities better, and have seen the strength of our partnerships within the community and the resilience of our teams achieve together.

Sadly, we have also come to realise just how many women, men and children were living "underneath the radar" suffering violence and abuse for many years for whom the lockdown was the tipping point that finally led to them choosing to take action. This has only strengthened our determination to ensure that our services are as accessible as possible to all who need them, enabling people to seek support earlier and more easily thereby reducing the harm they and their children suffer.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us and our staff and volunteers for their generosity and commitment in 2020/21 which has proven to us what we can enable and empower our clients to see – that out of the worst of circumstances good things can develop.

We would also like to thank everyone who has used our services for supporting us in keeping our staff and each other safe. A special thank you to all our workforce for their consistent commitment.

Highlights of 2020/21 – a snapshot of our year

"Your Covid 19 arrangements have been excellent and we are amazed there has been no cross infection in your refuges" Public Health Doctor	436 women and 728 children stayed in our refuges and safe accommodation	918 people from other organisations attended our masterclasses and other training 98% said the training helped them do their job
We extended our 24 hour helpline to include "live chat" which enabled some of the women at highest risk during lockdown to reach us on line during the night whilst their abuser slept	<i>"I have had 3 of my service users doing the WEWSAR programme and have had nothing but good things come back from them. They have all said they have found it beneficial, especially those who have felt very isolated over the last year."</i> Probation Officer	We implemented a new website, increased our Facebook reach by over 70% in the year and were followed on Twitter by 1186

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We referred 31 adults with support needs and 156 children to Social Care for safeguarding against abuse and neglect	<i>"Myself and baby were overcome by the generosity and kindness"</i> - Refugee Resident on the kindness of strangers at Christmas 2021	We supported 40 women with multiple needs and their children through the Rosie Centre in Harlow during the pandemic
We became preferred providers for the Ministry of Justice (Women offenders) and were part of a successful bid with ADVANCE to deliver support to women in Essex and Herts and to provide both premises and staff for the new teams	<i>"I love living here – everything is so convenient and lovely and it is all helping us to heal"</i> Mother who moved into one of our new properties acquired this year	In our staff survey all of our staff said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their job. The survey was overwhelmingly positive with staff expressing very high levels of pride in Safer Places and a sense of belonging.
People from many different organisations across the UK participated in our modular professionals training with 60 qualifying as IDVAs and Stalking Specialists	On average every week we responded to 311 people new to the service seeking help or advice	We provided support to single women's who were victims of domestic abuse and other factors making them especially vulnerable and multiply disadvantaged
<i>I have enjoyed working with you and the organisation because you were very supportive and always looking after your staff. You are good manager and a mentor with amazing coaching style.</i> Agency worker letter to the service manager on completing assignment	We were selected by local anonymous funders to establish and run a residential service for women involved with or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system. This place opening in the next 12 months is a place they can live with their children and receive the support they need to build a better life and avoid prison or returning to prison preventing the trauma of separation	Replaced a large shared facility refuge with a cluster of more Covid-19 secure properties
<i>I just finished the Triple R course and had a 12 session with jade. She is very professional and passionate about the course and helped me with overall understanding the whole process.</i> <i>The quality of service was 1st class. I am pleased you guys have given me the opportunity to move forward</i>	502 clients attend our group programmes – the majority participated in our CBT based programme but other programmes included our Money Management programme 'Made of Money' and nutrition workshops led by our partners at Danone and job workshops	We were overwhelmed by the kindness of members of the public and organisations during a difficult year and especially two families who had had a daughter murdered as a result of domestic abuse. Your generosity in memory of Grace and Siobhan meant a great deal to us all

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Value for Money (VFM)

Each year the Charity used a range of data to measure VFM progress against the housing sector. The results help influence investment decisions and provide the regulators and other stakeholders with information on the progress of the Charity, whilst also ensuring compliance with the regulatory VFM standard. The charity has measured itself against the Sector Scorecard.

Metric	2021	2020	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	11.68%	53.26%	6.10%	Safer Places holds its housing stock on operating leases. Fixed assets represent the value of improvements carried out and, additions therefore represent a greater proportion of book value.
New supply % (social)	0.00%	0.00%	1.30%	Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year.
New supply % (non-social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gearing	0.00%	0.00%	33.80%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	1,332%	(1,338)%	196.10%	Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit.
Social Housing Cost Per Unit	£13,689	£16,411	£4,023	The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base.
Operating Margin (social housing)	(28.56)%	(29.48)%	23.60%	The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing substantial loss of rent through vacancies, reducing the operating margin.
Operating Margin (overall)	5.18%	(15.24)%	21.50%	
Return on Capital Employed	9.11%	(24.68)%	2.80%	The ROCE reflects the low operating margin on the Charity's activities.

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Reserves policy

It is the policy of the board to provide sufficient reserves to:

- Ensure continuity of provision for a limited period in the event of a large variation in income in order that further income can be sourced or a reduction in service planned and implemented so as to minimise risk to our clients
- Pay the annual sums associated with reducing the deficit for which we are responsible related to our membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme
- Provide a refurbishment fund so that we can sustain our continuous planned upgrade and refurbishment programme

Reserves will therefore be held:

1. Working Capital – with sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating at current service level for a period of three months
2. Refurbishment – to undertake a rolling programme to sustain the quality of our accommodation and services.
3. Property acquisition - the Trustees are currently reviewing refuge requirements across operational areas and are considering investment to improve provision of services in key areas.

Identified risks

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. Failing to secure sufficient funding to sustain Essex based refuges to the year end and lack of certainty about how the new funding duties on local authorities from March 2021 will be implemented
2. Securing funding to be able to meet the additional cost pressures associated with the pandemic whilst facing an increasing demand for services for victims
3. Failure to generate sufficient income from training sales as a result of the pandemic

Safer Places Investment Policy

It is the policy of Safer Places to achieve the best possible return on investment and therefore two properties were purchased in 2012. The rental return on these properties far exceeds any rate that could be achieved currently through the financial institutions. Cash funds on reserve will be placed on fixed term deposits according to best rates at the time and the need for funds to be available.

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Review of Financial position

Safer Places' income made a positive recovery during the year following the cessation of the Essex IDVA contract, and this can largely be attributed to the success of our training services which have gone from strength to strength. Costs continue to be closely monitored despite the additional safety measures taken in the face of the pandemic. This resulted in an operating surplus of £164,024 (2020: a deficit of £378,224). Safer Places intend to continue to provide Domestic Abuse Services in Essex until the upcoming commissioning changes are implemented as a result of the domestic abuse bill.

Social housing income remained stable compared to the prior year as the charity managed to maintain occupancy and reduced losses from voids, despite Covid restrictions.

The cash position of the charity has increased by £118,524, again as a result of the success of training services and reduced arrears. The charity therefore maintained sufficient cash balances to fulfil its reserves policy at the year end. Investment Properties were determined to be held at fair value and rental income from the properties also remains relatively stable.

Beneficiaries of Safer Places in the year – public benefit statement

The Trustees are aware and mindful of the Charities Commission guidance. Safer Places has delivered public benefit in line with the objects and activities of the organisation through the delivery of our core services.

Activities, achievements and public benefit

During 2021/22 we delivered a wide range of direct client services in Essex and Hertfordshire and support for women offenders in Suffolk.

Our objectives coming into 2020/21, in line with our strategic business plan to 2022, were:

Objective	Measure
Making sure that the services we deliver in Essex and Hertfordshire are judged as excellent by our clients and our commissioners	All of the performance targets delivered within our commissioned contracts
Delivering an excellent ISAC (stalking support) service in Hertfordshire which is evaluated externally as delivering better outcomes for victims and is seen as a critical and specialist element of the skill and qualification set required to provide best practice services to clients at high risk	The ISAS service received 275 referrals, a considerable increase on the previous year with the rate of referral increasing during lockdowns Funding was secured to continue the service in 2021/22 Learning and development of the hybrid "SuperIDVA" role— an IDVA qualified additionally as a sexual violence and stalking practitioner 32 professionals from 15 different organisations trained as ISACS
Diversifying our accommodation stock and developing new models of the provision of safe accommodation that meet people's needs, provide choice and supports better longer term outcomes	We decommissioned an old style large refuge with shared facilities which was not COVID safe and out of date and recommissioned new units to replace those lost

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Achieving the gold standard as a Trauma Informed organisation and for our Trauma Informed practice by the end of 2022	Staff have received training and all managers and seniors have had training by One Small Thing. Work has begun to secure Quality Mark as a Trauma Informed service provider Seniors and managers have also been trained in COURAGE which is an accredited model for the delivery of culturally sensitive trauma informed support to victims who may have experienced multiple trauma
Maintaining and improving the skills, qualification and professional expertise of our staff and marketing our training to other professionals and services across the UK	In addition to our training our own staff we have trained 918 professionals who work for other organisations
Improving our reach to hidden victims and minority groups including those female victims who are or have been involved with the criminal justice system	We have provided services to women involved in the Criminal Justice system across three counties and during the pandemic extended reach through the provision of 24/7 live chat, our awareness training campaign amongst shops and businesses (ask for J) and sustaining our women's centre, The Rosie, which is used by around 40 women. We reached 40% more victims than in the same period the year before and a greater proportion came from minority ethnic groups. We also ran our programmes on line and were able to reach more disabled victims than we had in the past
Improving the services we offer to children and young people, developing practice and services that are effective for them, including working in partnership with other agencies, taking a whole family perspective including the perpetrator, with the safety and wellbeing of children at the centre	We worked with the Children's Social Care services across Hertfordshire as part of their Triage panels providing early access to our services for those identified to social care. We provided training in whole family safeguarding based on the Safe and Together Approach to our staff and to professionals from a range of agencies. We secured funding to provide support to children within our Harlow services. We raised funds and made provision for children during lockdown assisting mothers in ensuring they did not miss out when schools were closed

From the start of the year as the pandemic took hold as well as focussing on the objectives above which we had set we needed to sustain the organisation and extend our reach to meet the increasing demand for services arising from the lockdowns. Keeping all of our residents in safe accommodation and our community clients and staff safe was at all times the highest priority in pursuit of our Mission and Purposes.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Supporting our Beneficiaries and delivering Public Benefit

On average every week we responded to 311 new clients seeking support and advice as a result of domestic and sexual abuse. We provided one to one IDVA or ISAC community based support or support in safe accommodation to 1157 victims and their children. Others who contacted us were given advice and guidance, were enrolled onto our group programmes or were signposted or referred into services able to meet their needs for example if they were seeking refuge and we had no space available or if they were seeking accommodation but not at risk from domestic abuse. All victims who made contact had an initial risk assessment undertaken with safety advice given and where necessary referrals we made to Safeguarding or in emergency cases, to the emergency services to summon immediate help. We provided refuge and safe supported accommodation for victims and their children on 17 sites across Hertfordshire and Essex. During the height of the pandemic we had to increase the accommodation to meet demand and at this time we provided 110 units of accommodation and, in partnership with two Homelessness agencies, and funding from Central Government and Homeless-link, we were able to support single homeless abused women in two additional houses providing 8 additional spaces. We accommodated and supported 436 adult victims and 728 children in our accommodation. A case mix analysis illustrated the levels of harm to which the women and children had been exposed prior to admission to our safe accommodation showing that they had been exposed to multiple forms of abuse including :

- Coercive control
- Stalking
- Imprisonment
- Multiple Rapes
- Surveillance through in home technology and third parties
- Emotional abuse
- Torture – by harming children and pets in order to inflict distress on the adult victim
- Physical Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Forced marriage
- "Honour" based abuse

As referrals were so much increased although we extended our safe accommodation we still had to prioritise those most at risk of harm and so those living in our accommodation had suffered a greater level of trauma than would usually be the case.

- We extended our 24 hour telephone helpline adding a live chat service ensuring that , in line with our values , services were made as accessible as possible to those living in lockdown with their abusers
 - We provided 1:1 community support to 506 Hertfordshire victims to increase their safety and support them to recover from the abuse and build their resilience
 - We provided a specialist stalking support service to 275 victims of stalking in Hertfordshire to reduce the risk of harm they faced and mitigate the impact of their experience through supporting their recovery and resilience building
 - We worked closely with Children's Social Care services in Hertfordshire and participated in their Triage assessment panels helping families to address and deal with the risks and impacts of abuse
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- We delivered our 12 week CBT based specialist domestic abuse program and other specialist programs in Essex and Hertfordshire to 502 women enabling them to recognise and understand the impacts of the abuse on themselves and their children, to assist their recovery and prevent the likelihood of them being victimised in future
- On behalf of The Community Rehabilitation Company in Hertfordshire we delivered the Empower and Embrace programme as part of the community sentence requirement for women offenders and we invited this group of women to access our wider services as we recognise the strong correlation between being a victim of domestic and sexual abuse and women offending and the fact that women offenders have suffered more such abuse than any other group in our society
- We supported 40 women who use regularly use the Rosie Women's Centre and sustained this support through the pandemic
- We raised funds and provided equipment and other resources to children in refuge who would otherwise have been disadvantaged during the school closures as they could not have accessed online learning as a result of being in refuge due to domestic abuse
- We provided training to over a thousand people, 918 of those from external agencies
- We fully delivered our staff training plan for the year, migrating all face to face training to online with frontline staff also completing Public Health England funded Psychological First Aid training
- We developed and delivered a training programme and materials for businesses and agencies that could have contact with victims during lockdown so that victims could have more places to disclose and seek help
- We strengthened our staff support arrangements to enable staff to better cope with the challenges they were facing themselves and to be able to continue to support our clients and each other
- We closed a large 15 unit refuge where facilities were shared and we acquired a cluster of domestic sized properties some shared by 2 households and some self-contained to replace the large facility and ensure that women could continue to be safely housed and supported whilst being better protected from COVID19 infection. We are extremely grateful for the funding secured through Essex Community Foundation which enabled us to begin this process working with local landlords. We will be sustaining and expanding this provision long term and are working with Social Investors to enable the purchase of a further property ourselves.

In spite of the challenges of the pandemic we were delighted that the clients we supported achieved the following outcomes:

- Clients physically made safer (use of Enhanced security to home/Occupation Order/Non-Molestation /Restraining Orders/Safety Plans etc.,) 97%
- Clients who feel safer after using the service 91%
- Clients safely resettled into new homes in the community after their refuge stay 81%
- Clients who have maintained or increased their support networks 90%

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- Clients who feel safer after using the service 94%
- Clients who now manage their own or the family finances 96%
- Clients who have found or maintained work or study 35%
- Made progress in addressing Legal Service increased 62%
- Health and Wellbeing improvements 91%

Most of all we are delighted that by working together and with support of our trustees volunteers and partners we were able to keep everyone safe, that there was not cross infection within any of our accommodation or staff groups and that with the generosity of the community we were able to extend our services to meet the increase demand for services. In doing so we kept victims not only from harm from their perpetrator but also from the pandemic. 436 women and 728 children were able to escape from violence and abuse at a time when lockdowns placed most with their abuser, locked down for 24 hours a day. The benefit to our beneficiaries is obvious and substantial, the benefit to the public purse is less obvious but equally substantial – The Home Office report The economic and social costs of domestic abuse Research Report 107 Rhys Oliver, Barnaby Alexander, Stephen Roe and Miriam Wasny January 2019 provides a unit cost for domestic abuse, costing in the full range of costs to all including the police, the courts, the NHS, lawyers, Victim services etc. and the total sum per case amounts to £34, 015. Therefore the impact for victims and the benefit to the public we have achieved this year in preventing further harm and keeping victims and their children safe is very considerable not only for our clients but for the public purse.

Going Concern

The Board has reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees agreed to focus on diversifying income streams during 2020/21 and generating more income through, for example, the sale of our training services. Over 2020/21 this service has developed to meet this challenge and in spite of the restrictions resulting from COVID19, has adapted swiftly to put training online which means that the substantial income planned through the delivery of the national qualifications for the sector in different regions of the country is still being generated, and enabled a return to an operating surplus.

We therefore consider that the future prospects for funding to be encouraging and that we are well placed to secure additional income. The Trustees have also considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the charity. Forecasting of future revenue streams and strong reserves has provided adequate assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the financial statements.

Future plans

As we enter 2021/22 and measures to limit the spread of COVID 19 are relaxing somewhat we remain vigilant and flexible so that we can respond rapidly in the event of any upsurge in infection and the need to take stronger measures. However we do not intend to return to operating as we were pre-pandemic because there have been some advantages to the new ways of working that we have found that we wish to retain. For example although some clients enjoy the social interaction of a face to face therapeutic group session many have preferred online delivery which they have found more convenient and also less daunting. We have run programmes in the evenings and this had made them more accessible to some women who wished to participate when their children were in bed. Online delivery has also been very advantageous for people who are disabled for whom attending in person sessions was more difficult. Online meetings have also saved a great deal of time which would otherwise been wasted in travelling across counties to participate. Supporting each other through the pandemic has also brought teams closer together and further improved relationships in the workplace.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

However we look forward to moving to a hybrid model of working and to working with clients face to face and in groups more often and to seeing each other more often too.

We have agreed the following objectives for 2021/22:

- Increase training business securing and increasing customer base by 20% and sales by 20% from March 31st 2021 and extending range of courses and specialist trainers building brand identity. In 2021 extend the accredited training product offer by one additional discrete qualification and increase the IDVA offer to diploma level IDVA qualification.
- Remodel safe accommodation services to provide a range of options for Safe Accommodation fit for purpose which meets needs across the whole accommodation pathway. In 2021/2 close Altham House and re-provide units in smaller clusters, self-contained and specialist facilities. Increase in units by 15%.
- Expand the range of services provided to women offenders and in 2021/22 establish at least one accommodation based services as an alternative to or post discharge from prison to enable women to receive the Trauma informed and community coordinated response required to deliver the outcomes set out in the local women offenders' strategy.
- Develop an Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy that covers our team, our communication, our service delivery and our collaboration. In 2021/2 Produce an outline strategic framework, and in year 2021/22 and ensure that language and communication are not a barrier to equal access to our services and that the voices of all are included in the development and delivery of their own support and the development of our services.
- Produce an achievable budget for the financial year 2021/22 that is break even in terms of profit.

Auditors

The Auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have indicated that they are willing to be re-appointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board

Laila abraham

Laila abraham (Sep 27, 2021 10:05 GMT+1)

Laila Abraham

Chair of Trustees

Date: 27 September 2021

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in reserves, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2019.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 2-3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
 - We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.
-

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken, so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

James Holland-Leader FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

28th September 2021

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover	2	2,980,776	2,481,218
Less: Operating costs	3	(2,818,907)	(2,865,526)
Other Income		2,155	6,084
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	164,024	(378,224)
Interest Receivable		343	3,522
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Liability	16	(19,000)	(28,000)
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	80,000	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		225,367	(402,702)
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability		(187,000)	356,580
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		£38,367	£(46,122)

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2020	20,901	614,455	635,356
Total Comprehensive Income	(20,901)	59,268	38,367
Transfers between funds	-		
Balance at 31st March 2021	£ -	£673,723	£673,723

The notes on pages 22 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Housing property assets	7a	88,095	149,419
Other fixed assets	7b	52,037	64,442
Investments	8	915,100	835,100
		1,055,232	1,048,961
Current assets			
Debtors	9	130,399	148,501
Cash at bank and in hand		870,394	751,870
		1,000,793	900,371
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(356,302)	(416,976)
Net current assets		644,491	483,395
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities		1,699,723	1,532,356
Defined benefit pension scheme liability		(1,026,000)	(897,000)
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities		£673,723	£635,356
Represented by:			
Reserves			
Restricted funds	13	-	20,901
Unrestricted funds	14	1,699,723	1,511,455
Pension reserve	14	(1,026,000)	(897,000)
		£673,723	£635,356

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Laila Abraham

Laila Abraham (Sep 27, 2021 10:05 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildley

Douglas Wildley (Sep 27, 2021 15:13 GMT+1)

Laila Abraham - Director

Douglas Wildley - Director

The notes on pages 22 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Net cash generated from Operating Activities	A	143,347	(284,072)
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(25,166)	(87,151)
Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	-
Interest Received		343	3,522
		<u>(24,823)</u>	<u>(83,629)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		118,524	(367,701)
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		<u>751,870</u>	<u>1,119,571</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	<u>£870,394</u>	<u>£751,870</u>
A. Cashflows from Operating Activities			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		225,367	(402,702)
Depreciation and losses on disposal		98,895	79,571
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		18,102	78,799
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		(60,674)	(73,798)
Interest Receivable		(343)	(3,522)
Net Interest on Pension Liability		19,000	28,000
Pension Costs/Expense		(77,000)	9,580
Revaluation of investment properties		(80,000)	-
		<u>£143,347</u>	<u>£(284,072)</u>
B. Analysis of Changes in net funds			
	At 01/04/2020	Cash flows	At 31/03/2021
Cash	<u>£751,870</u>	<u>£118,524</u>	<u>£870,394</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 the Statement of Recommended Practice for Registered Social Housing Providers 2018 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2019.

The Charitable Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board has reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements. The Board has considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the Charity, and is content that the measures taken by the Charity, together with strong reserves and enhanced prospects due to Domestic Abuse Bill changes and the implementation of the government's new domestic abuse strategy, provides adequate forecasting and assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the Financial Statements.

The presentation currency in the financial statements is the pound sterling (£).

(b) Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

(c) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds, which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund.

(d) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is deferred where:

- The donor specifies that the grant must be used in the future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions, which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

For legacies, entitlement is when the impending distribution is probable.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(d) Incoming resources (continued)

Grants have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services but as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(e) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

	Years	%
Leasehold Refuge Improvements:		
Fabric	40	2.5
Roofs	40	2.5
Kitchens	20	5
Doors and Windows	30	3.33
Bathrooms	25	4
Boilers	15	6.67
Refuge Equipment	5	20
Leasehold Office Improvements	5	20
Furniture and Equipment	5	20
Motor Vehicles	5	20

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(g) Pension costs

The company participates in a group defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. This is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds.

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments together with any change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service. They are included as part of staff costs. Net interest on the defined benefit liability is shown as a cost in the statement of comprehensive income. The remeasurement of the defined benefit liability is also reported in the statement of comprehensive income, and is shown in more detail in Note 16 to the Accounts.

(h) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(i) Investments

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Depreciation is not provided in respect of investment properties.

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

(j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(l) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(m) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

SAFER PLACES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(n) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties

The following are the critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that the Board has made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Fair value of Investment Properties

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Trustees assess the fair value of the investment properties based on recent market values. In determining the fair value on this basis, the valuation remains sensitive to fluctuations in the property market.

Identification of housing property components

The charity accounts for its expenditure on housing properties using component accounting. Under component accounting, the housing property is divided into those major components which are considered to have substantially different useful economic lives. Judgement is used in allocating property costs between components (land, structure, kitchens, bathrooms etc) and in determining the useful economic lives of each component.

Housing property depreciation is calculated on a component by component basis. The identification of such components is a matter of judgement and may have a material impact on the depreciation charge. The components selected are those which reflect how the major repairs to the property are managed.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to 'technological obsolescence' with regard to IT equipment/software and any changes to decent homes standard requiring frequent replacement of components. The accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2021 was £728,064.

Bad debt provision

A full line by line review of trade debtors is carried out at the end of each month. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the bad debt provisions are as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the provisions do not match the level of debts which ultimately prove to be uncollectible.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension asset in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends.

A liability of £1,026,000 is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2021 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 16 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2 Income	Unrestricted 2021 £	Restricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations	33,766	8,528	42,294	34,497
Nationwide	-	12,500	12,500	37,500
Children In Need	-	42,668	42,668	22,329
Infection Control Fund	-	16,000	16,000	-
Coronavirus Community Support	-	43,288	43,288	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	3,997	-	3,997	-
Other grants	54,524	7,078	61,602	13,255
	<u>92,287</u>	<u>130,062</u>	<u>222,349</u>	<u>107,581</u>
Charitable Activities:				
Refuge rents receivable	1,015,764	-	1,015,764	1,023,181
Refuge service charges	69,883	-	69,883	70,060
Supporting People Hertfordshire	618,000	-	618,000	618,000
Emergency COVID Funding MoJ	-	278,527	278,527	-
Emergency COVID Funding MHCLG	-	103,570	103,570	-
EFDC Essex Womens Refuges	-	16,944	16,944	16,940
Essex COVID Recovery & Response	5,500	31,500	37,000	-
PCC ISAC Service	-	26,500	26,500	-
Homeless Link	80,000	-	80,000	16,000
Uttlesford District Council	-	-	-	16,498
EDASS	-	-	-	88,027
CRC Services	109,585	-	109,585	50,226
Herts County Council Sunflower	10,773	-	10,773	55,042
Ministry of Housing, CLG	-	286,669	286,669	357,491
Training Services	63,452	-	63,452	20,412
	<u>1,972,957</u>	<u>743,710</u>	<u>2,716,667</u>	<u>2,331,877</u>
Investment Properties				
Rents receivable	41,760	-	41,760	41,760
	<u>41,760</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,760</u>	<u>41,760</u>
Turnover	<u>£2,107,004</u>	<u>£873,772</u>	<u>£2,980,776</u>	<u>£2,481,218</u>

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3 Operating costs

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Services to victims seeking support		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,022,560	1,229,588
Professional fees	17,782	40,749
Refuge rents and service charges	386,843	286,999
Refuge running expenses	309,119	213,269
Refuge depreciation	71,613	36,922
Other operating expenses	435,752	315,931
Bad debts	37,318	59,818
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	336,337	430,814
Depreciation	27,281	42,649
Insurance	17,480	17,839
Legal and professional fees	13,770	14,191
Audit fee	14,002	8,938
Meeting expenses	1,323	4,245
Other overhead expenses	119,603	148,653
	2,810,783	2,850,605
Other activities		
Investment property management costs	8,124	14,921
Total resources expended	£2,818,907	£2,865,526
Unrestricted Funds	1,924,234	2,418,072
Restricted Funds	894,673	447,454
	£2,818,907	£2,865,526

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

4	Accommodation in management	2021	2020
	Social housing income and expenditure:	£	£
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	1,015,764	1,023,181
	Service charges receivable	69,883	70,060
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,395,700)	(1,415,488)
	Net surplus from social housing activities	£(310,053)	£(322,247)
	Void losses	£139,836	£205,806
		Units	Units
	Supported housing	94	82

The RP manages properties on behalf of Swan, Catalyst. L&Q, Housing Associations, registered social housing providers operating in Essex and Herts.

5	Operating surplus/deficit	2021	2020
	This is stated after charging:	£	£
	Trustees emoluments	-	-
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	12,500	10,815
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	413,601	305,820
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	20,756	37,826
	Depreciation of owned assets	98,895	79,571

6	Staff costs	2021	2020
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,101,700	1,190,888
	Social security costs	99,380	104,097
	Pension costs	130,178	232,303
	Termination payments	-	12,707
		£1,331,258	£1,539,995

		2021	2020
		No	No
	The average weekly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was:	40	45
	The average number of employees during the year was	46	52

There was one employee whose employee benefits fell in the banding £60,000 to £70,000, one in the banding £70,000 to £80,000, and one in the banding £100,000 to £110,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £343,309 (2020: £319,892). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £83,052 and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 16. Employee benefits comprise salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2020: £nil).

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7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties	Leasehold	Refuge	Total
		Improvements	Equipment	
		£	£	£
Cost:				
	At 1 April	92,728	458,944	551,672
	Additions	-	10,289	10,289
	Disposals	(62,410)	(75,706)	(138,116)
	At 31 March	30,318	393,527	423,845
Depreciation:				
	At 1 April	33,924	368,329	402,253
	Charge for the Year	35,862	35,751	71,613
	Disposals	(62,410)	(75,706)	(138,116)
	At 31 March	7,376	328,374	335,750
	Net Book Value 31 March 2020	£58,804	£90,615	£149,419
	Net book Value 31 March 2021	£22,942	£65,153	£88,095

7b	Other Fixed Assets	Leasehold	Furniture	Motor	Total
		Office	and	Vehicles	
		Improvements	Equipment		£
		£	£	£	
Cost:					
	At 1 April	63,615	351,765	14,094	429,474
	Additions	-	14,877	-	14,877
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 March	63,615	366,642	14,094	444,351
Depreciation:					
	At 1 April	25,540	325,398	14,094	365,032
	Charge for the Year	12,723	14,559	-	27,282
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 March	38,263	339,957	14,094	392,314
	Net book value 31 March 2020	£38,075	£26,367	£-	£64,442
	Net book value 31 March 2021	£25,352	£26,685	£-	£52,037

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8 Investments	Investment Properties £	Group Undertakings £	Total £
At 1 April 2020	835,000	100	835,100
Change in fair value	80,000	-	80,000
At 31st March 2021	<u>£915,000</u>	<u>£100</u>	<u>915,100</u>

The investment properties have been revalued by the Trustees at 31 March 2021 based on current market value which has been assessed on the basis of historic selling prices of similar properties in the location over the course of the financial year.

Safer Properties, a wholly owned subsidiary did not trade during the year under review. Investment at cost £100 (2020: £100).

9 Debtors	2021 £	2020 £
Social housing rent arrears	148,632	130,344
Less provision for doubtful debts	(102,211)	(71,030)
	<u>46,421</u>	<u>59,314</u>
Trade debtors	36,154	35,319
Other debtors and accrued income	5,900	7,612
Prepayments	41,924	46,256
	<u>£130,399</u>	<u>£148,501</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021 £	2020 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	89,938	27,957
Trade creditors	51,029	37,179
Taxation & Social Security	26,764	4
Accruals and deferred income	188,571	351,836
	<u>£356,302</u>	<u>£416,976</u>

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11 Deferred Income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Brought forward	206,667	213,853
Released to income	(202,742)	(213,853)
Income deferred in the year	103,066	206,667
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	£106,991	£206,667
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:			
Investments	915,100	-	915,100
Tangible fixed assets	140,132	-	140,132
Net current assets	644,491	-	644,491
Pension liabilities	(1,026,000)	-	(1,026,000)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	£673,723	£ -	£673,723
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2020 are represented by:			
Investments	835,100	-	835,100
Tangible fixed assets	213,861	-	213,861
Net current assets	462,494	20,901	483,395
Pension liabilities	(897,000)	-	(897,000)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	£614,455	£20,901	635,356
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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13	Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
	MoJ Extraordinary COVID Funding	-	278,527	(278,527)	-	-
	ISAC service	-	26,500	(26,500)	-	-
	MHCLG Emergency COVID Funding	-	103,570	(103,570)	-	-
	Coronavirus Community Support Fund	-	43,288	(43,288)	-	-
	Essex Coronavirus Recovery and Response Programme	-	31,500	(31,500)	-	-
	Nationwide	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	42,668	(42,668)	-	-
	MHCLG	20,901	286,669	(307,570)	-	-
	Epping Forest Fund	-	16,944	(16,944)	-	-
	Infection Control Fund	-	16,000	(16,000)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	2,394	(2,394)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	13,212	(13,212)	-	-
		£20,901	£873,772	£(894,673)	£ -	£ -
13	Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
	Donations	-	4,342	(4,342)	-	-
	Nationwide	-	37,500	(37,500)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	22,329	(22,329)	-	-
	MHCLG	-	357,491	(336,590)	-	20,901
	Epping Forest Fund	-	33,438	(33,438)	-	-
	Other Grants	-	13,255	(13,255)	-	-
		£ -	£468,355	£(447,454)	£ -	£20,901

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- (i) **MoJ Extraordinary COVID Funding**
Additional funding to provide staffing capacity to sustain service levels through the pandemic – particularly related to increased referrals and out of hours support.
- (ii) **ISAC Service**
Specialist support service supporting the victims of stalking.
- (iii) **MHCLG Emergency COVID Funding**
Funding by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (iv) **Coronavirus Community Support Fund**
The Charity received a grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund administered by the National Lottery Community Fund.
- (v) **Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme**
Funding by the Essex Community Foundation to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (vi) **Nationwide**
The Charity received a grant from the Nationwide Community Grants programme during the 2019/20 financial year to cover the costs of employing a Housing Support Officer for one year. This remaining portion of this grant was recognised and expended during the current financial year.
- (vii) **Children in Need**
The Charity was awarded a multi-year grant from Children in Need during 2019/20 to cover the costs of employing two Children's Workers for a three-year period.
- (viii) **MHCLG**
These are funds received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which are restricted to the provision of a Complex Needs Refuge and Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker service.
- (ix) **Epping Forest Fund**
These are funds received from Epping Outreach and are restricted to Epping Forest victims only. The funds are used within that community for managing risk, developing independent living skills (finance, social and domestic life), mental and physical health issues, emotional wellbeing and support with children and parenting.
- (x) **Other Donations & Grants**
This consists of donations received at the Charity's refuges and is utilised on providing support activities to those housed in emergency accommodation.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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14 Unrestricted Funds

	<u>Designated Funds</u>			General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £				
Balance brought forward	750,000	175,000	925,000	586,455	1,511,455	(897,000)	614,455
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	-	-	-	265,268	265,268	(19,000)	246,268
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	(187,000)	(187,000)
Transfer between Funds	-	-	-	(77,000)	(77,000)	77,000	-
Balance carried forward	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£774,723</u>	<u>£1,699,723</u>	<u>£(1,026,000)</u>	<u>£673,723</u>

Building Fund

This fund is to be used for building new refuges on land to be gifted.

Refurbishment Fund

This fund was set up to cover the costs of planned refurbishment work on new and existing properties.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

15 Taxation

The nature of the income received and the company's charitable activities means that no corporation tax liability arises on the results for the year and no VAT is recoverable on inputs or payable on outputs.

16 Defined benefit pension scheme

Safer Places participates in a defined benefit pension scheme – Essex Pension Fund operated by Essex County Council. At 31 March 2019, Safer Places had 11 active, 64 deferred pensioners and 19 pensioners in the fund. The Employer pays contributions of 24.5% plus an additional monetary amount each year.

The assets allocation of the fund is as follows:

	2021		2020	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	4,627	63	3,293	59
Gilts	186	3	242	4
Other Bonds	356	5	341	6
Property	515	7	506	9
Cash	184	3	234	4
Alternative Assets	841	11	648	12
Other Managed Funds	605	8	362	6
	<u>£7,314</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£5,626</u>	<u>100%</u>

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2021	2020
Retiring today – Males	21.6	21.8
Females	23.6	23.7
Retiring in 20 years – Males	22.9	23.2
Females	25.1	25.2

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

RPI Increases	3.2%	2.7%
CPI Increases	2.85%	1.9%
Salary Increases	3.85%	2.9%
Pension Increases	2.85%	1.9%
Discount Rate	2.00%	2.35%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2021 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2021. The results of these valuations are set out below.

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16 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2021

	2021	2020	2019
	£	£	£
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	8,340,000	6,523,000	7,058,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	(7,314,000)	(5,626,000)	(5,842,000)
Net defined benefit liability	<u>£(1,026,000)</u>	<u>£897,000</u>	<u>£1,216,000</u>

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

	2021	2020
	£	£
Service Costs	94,000	189,000
Net Interest on defined liability	19,000	28,000
Administration Expenses	4,000	2,000
	<u>£117,000</u>	<u>£219,000</u>

(c) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balances of present Value of the defined benefit obligation

	2021	2020
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	6,523,000	7,058,000
Current Service Cost	94,000	113,000
Past Service Cost	-	76,000
Interest Cost	152,000	169,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(71,000)	(75,000)
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	(91,000)	(32,000)
Change in Financial Assumptions	1,869,000	(667,000)
Estimated Benefits Paid	(157,000)	(142,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	21,000	23,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>£8,340,000</u>	<u>£6,523,000</u>

(d) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balance of Fair Value of Funds Assets

	2021	2020
	£	£
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	5,626,000	5,842,000
Interest on Assets	133,000	141,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	1,520,000	(445,000)
Other Actuarial Gains	-	29,000
Administration Expenses	(4,000)	(2,000)
Contributions by Employer	175,000	180,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	21,000	23,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(157,000)	(142,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£7,314,000</u>	<u>£5,626,000</u>

SAFER PLACES

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

16 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(e) Sensitivity Analysis

	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,169	8,340	8,515
Projected Service Costs	136	140	144
 Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,350	8,340	8,330
Projected Service Costs	140	140	140
 Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,503	8,340	8,180
Projected Service Costs	144	140	136
 Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions	 + 1 Year	 None	 -1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,703	8,340	7,992
Projected Service Costs	147	140	134

(f) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

	2021 £	2020 £
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	1,520,000	(445,000)
Other Actuarial Gains on Assets	-	29,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	71,000	75,000
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	91,000	32,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	(1,869,000)	667,000
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	<u>£(187,000)</u>	<u>£358,000</u>

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2022

	£
Service Cost	140,000
Net Interest on deferred liability	18,000
Administration Expenses	6,000
Total Loss	<u>£164,000</u>
Employer Contribution	<u>£173,000</u>

17 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £14,490 (2020: (£13,544) from D.Willey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2020: travel expenses reimbursed to two trustees £550).

18 Ultimate control

The charity is under no overall control, but is administered by the trustees.

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19 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2021 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

	<u>Land and Buildings</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	241,109	360,043	8,927	16,875
Between two and five years	135,223	162,823	-	8,659
In more than five years				
	<u>£376,332</u>	<u>£522,866</u>	<u>£8,927</u>	<u>£25,534</u>

20 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2021 Safer Places had no capital commitments.