

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

England & Wales · Charity number 1028528

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02868633
Registered	1993-11-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	10 Edward Close St. Albans AL1 5EN
Phone	07803339046
Email	treasurer@opendoorstalbans.org
Website	www.opendoorstalbans.org

Activities

Objects: 1) THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL NEED AMONG PEOPLE RESIDENT IN HERTFORDSHIRE AND IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT SO AS TO LIMIT THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, THE PROVISIONS OF ACCOMMODATION AT NO COST OR LOW COST 2) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEED BY REASON OF THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Activities: Open Door supports a homelessness night shelter and daytime drop-in for vulnerable people in St Albans. Set up in 1992, the charity aims to ensure that no-one needs to sleep rough in St Albans and generally to improve the life chances of homeless people. Our main activities are to raise funds, primarily from the local community, to support and improve the service and to promote volunteering.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** HERTFORDSHIRE
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£101,143	£132,112	-	-
2024-03-31	£124,856	£150,619	-	-
2023-03-31	£90,171	£121,663	-	-
2022-03-31	£107,273	£143,332	-	-
2021-03-31	£125,660	£123,280	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CARLA WATSON		2025-06-16
JACQUELINE BUTTON		2017-09-01
LINDSEY MCLEOD		
PETER JOHN GRAHAM		
RICHARD UPTON		2018-03-01
Rachel Merelie		2024-11-18
Roger Michael Gosine		2023-11-20

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1028528

Accounts

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

Report of the Directors For the Year ended 31 March 2025

The Directors present their report with the financial statements for the Company¹ for the year ended 31 March 2025.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The Charity's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in its Memorandum of Association, is the relief of those in need, by reason of homelessness or other causes of vulnerability. The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of fundraising and provision of volunteer services for the relief of financial need and the provision of accommodation and support for the homeless in St Albans and Hertfordshire. The Charity works in partnership with Hightown Housing Association (Hightown), which operates and manages the services provided at Open Door Night Shelter. It also provides additional accommodation for homeless people during the winter months; and makes occasional grants to other organisations.

Open Door – St Albans is a registered charity (reg no. 1028528) and company limited by guarantee (no. 02868633).

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

The Open Door – St. Albans Charity contributes to the running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter at 8 Bricket Road, St. Albans. The Shelter benefits from grants from Hertfordshire County Council's Housing-related Support grant, and St Albans City and District Council.

The Shelter gives single ensuite accommodation to up to 12 people each night. The facilities are available either by agency referral or by self-referral. Open Door Night Shelter also provides daytime drop-in services which offer support and advice, including on housing, health care, and the services available from other relevant agencies.

The Open Door Charity supports the Open Door Night Shelter homelessness service, which during 2024/25 supported 49 individuals into more settled housing. The Charity makes grants for specific purposes to supplement public funding, provides volunteers and raises awareness of homelessness issues. Our volunteers make an important contribution to the success of the project. In particular they prepare and serve lunch at the drop-in, and also provide residents and Winter Beds service users with a hot evening meal. Volunteers also provide services for individuals, such as helping those for whom English is a second language, and a number of local businesses give practical help from the donation of food to working to improve the facilities provided and to enhance the environment for residents. These volunteers are recruited and overseen by our Publicity, Fundraising and Administration Coordinator, directly employed by the Charity.

The Charity provides grant funding to Hightown to employ the Safer Streets Outreach Worker, who makes contact with and supports those on the streets, to help rough sleepers to lead a more settled way of life. There are still people sleeping rough in St Albans – during 2024/25, on average 9 rough sleepers were verified at quarterly counts, though the

¹ The Company is a registered charity (number 1028528). In this report, the Company is referred to on occasion as 'the Charity'.

actual number is estimated at 12 to 15, unchanged from the previous year. Many of these have limited options for moving on both because there is a serious shortage of suitable accommodation, and/or because of their particular circumstances and issues.

The Charity also provides food supplies and manages a volunteer team of 70 to prepare lunches and a hot evening meal; these are part funded by Hightown. We meet regularly with Hightown to review service provision through Street Outreach and the Night Shelter, and to consider ways in which services might be developed. Discussions are ongoing to find ways to extend the operating hours of the Night Shelter.

Over the winter months the Charity provides volunteer run direct services to rough sleepers, via the Winter Beds project. This year, the project returned to a city centre, shared sleeping space, hosted by Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Accommodation was provided every night from December 2024 through to the end of March 2025: in total, 9 individuals were accommodated, using 72 volunteers across the season. The service was jointly funded by the Council, with referrals managed by our Safer Streets Outreach worker. The charity is reviewing with Hightown and the Council how we can best provide effective support to rough sleepers over the winter months.

Across these services, volunteers gave almost 4,000 hours of their time during 2024/25, with an estimated value of £45,500.

During the year the Charity continued to fund a counselling scheme, provided by Rephael House, to give access to early therapy for service users at the Night Shelter, those recently moved to supported accommodation, and rough sleepers. The service has been well received by clients, with reasonable levels of engagement, enabling them to begin to address often complex issues, as a prelude to engaging with further support.

The Charity provides small grants to assist resettlement of individuals, although none were made in 2024/25. We occasionally pay rent and services for people in need who have nowhere to stay and have no access to benefits or other public funds, to give some time to find them a place to go.

We continue to maintain strong relationships with other local charities and statutory agencies including St Albans District Council; for example, liaising in the provision of meals to rough sleepers, and in exploring options for our winter provision and for further daytime facilities.

The Charity's funding benefits the direct recipients of the services provided at the Night Shelter and also has indirect impacts on the wider community. We encourage charitable giving by local people, whether through volunteering or through fundraising and donations. Many of our supporters and fundraisers are young people, who want to help homeless and vulnerable people.

Our support for the Night Shelter over many years has helped improve the lives of homeless people, by enabling them to address their personal issues and live more settled lives, in turn helping them to play a fuller part in the local community.

The Directors (who are also trustees of the Charity, appointed by existing trustees) for the year ending March 2025 were:

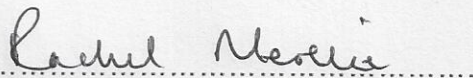
Rachel Merelie (Chairman, from November 2024)
Peter Graham (Vice Chairman and Acting Chair to October 2024)
Lindsey McLeod (Treasurer)
Jacqueline Button (Secretary)
Richard Upton
Andy Thoms
Roger Gosine
Edward Dunn

In addition, Carla Watson has been appointed as a Director and trustee, (from April 2025).

The Directors have complied with the duty laid out in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 22.09.25 and are signed on its behalf by:



Rachel Merelie
Chairman

Charity Registration Number 1028528 (England and Wales)

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total Funds 2024/25 £	Total Funds 2023/24 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	64,549	26,606	91,155	114,066
Investments	2	9,988		9,988	10,790
Total		74,537	26,606	101,143	124,856
Expenditure					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	86,760	26,606	113,366	134,593
Publicity & Admin	3	18,746		18,746	16,026
Total		105,506	26,606	132,112	150,619
Net income/(Expenditure)		(30,969)	-	(30,969)	(25,763)

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Total 2024/25 £	Total 2023/24 £
Current assets			
Debtors	4	20,149	23,048
Cash at bank and in hand		206,358	244,961
Total current assets		<u>226,507</u>	<u>268,009</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(6,109)</u>	<u>(16,642)</u>
Net current assets/ (liabilities)		<u>220,398</u>	<u>251,367</u>
Reserves			
Unrestricted funds:			
General	14	158,956	189,925
Development	14	61,442	61,442
Total Reserves		<u>220,398</u>	<u>251,367</u>

The Company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Rachel Merchi
.....

Approved by the Board on 22/09/25.....

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the 2019 Charities SORP (FRS102).

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Legacies are included in the SoFA when receipt is probable, that is, where there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity, or have been met.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received, at the value of the gift to the charity (if material) provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

2 Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2024/25 £	Total 2023/24 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations and gifts	51,218	-	51,218	64,242
Gift Aid	2,194	-	2,194	2,412
Legacies	-	-	-	2,500
Grants	-	26,606	26,606	27,684
Fundraising	11,137	-	11,137	17,228
Total	64,549	26,606	91,155	114,066
Income from investments				
Interest income	9,988	-	9,988	10,790
Total Income	74,537	26,606	101,143	124,856

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024/25 £	Total 2023/24 £
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Activities undertaken directly:				
Winter Beds Project	10,189	16,206	26,395	35,527
Night Shelter - food provision	3,305	10,400	13,705	12,979
Volunteer Coordination	12,282	-	12,282	11,708
Other Night Shelter support	191	-	191	610
Grant funding of activities:				
Safer Streets Outreach Worker	47,428	-	47,428	45,569
Counselling	13,365	-	13,365	13,200
Druglink pilot	-	-	-	9,500
Night shelter - furniture & equipment	-	-	-	5,500
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities	86,760	26,606	113,366	134,593
Other Costs				
Publicity, Fundraising & Admin Coordinator	12,282	-	12,282	11,708
Other Admin costs	6,464	-	6,464	4,318
Fundraising Costs	-	-	-	-
Total Other Costs	18,746	-	18,746	16,026
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	105,506	26,606	132,112	150,619

4 Debtors and Creditors

The following debtors and creditors were held at 31 March.

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Debtors:		
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	2,178	2,389
St Albans City & District Council	15,000	17,531
Interest	660	928
Prepayment for counselling	<u>2,311</u>	<u>2,200</u>
	20,149	23,048
Creditors:		
Winter Beds	5,658	4,854
Hightown HA – grant for Street Outreach	-	11,392
Other services	<u>451</u>	<u>396</u>
	6,109	16,642

5 Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)

The operating deficit for the year ended 31 March 2025 is £40,957 and the overall deficit after interest earned is £30,969. There were no reporting fees for accountancy, and no directors' emoluments or other benefits accruing to Directors.

6 Restricted Funds

Income given to meet specific expenditure, and the related expenditure, are classified as restricted in the accounts. All such income received in 2024/25 (St Albans District Council contribution to Winter Bed Project, and Hightown contribution to food costs) was fully spent during the year.

7 Taxation

The Company is a registered charity with no trading activities, and therefore not subject to corporation tax.

8 Company Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

9 Related Parties

No transactions have been incurred where trustees hold related party interests.

10 Remuneration

No director or any party related to them has received any remuneration, expenses or other benefit during the year.

11 Employee Costs

The Charity employs one part time member of staff, with total salary, pension and employer's national insurance costs below £25,000. A PAYE scheme is operated in compliance with HMRC regulations.

12 Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

The employee is enrolled in a Defined Contribution pension scheme, to which both employer's and employee's contributions are made.

13 Grants to Other Organisations and Individuals

Grants to other organisations for the provision of homeless support activities at or from the Bricket Road Night Shelter comprise:

	£
Hightown – Safer Streets Outreach Worker	47,428
Rephael House – Counselling	<u>13,365</u>
	60,793

No other grants were made to other organisations and individuals during the financial year.

14 General Reserves

Movements on General Reserves are as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2025 was £158,956, and on the Development Fund was £61,442.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund is held to support the ongoing activities of the charity.

It is the Charity's policy to hold in reserves, as a minimum, the amount needed to meet running costs for 9 months. This reflects the uncertain nature of donations income, and the commitments made to grant funding and specific projects. The Charity's expenditure budget for 2025/26 is £133,000, giving 9 months costs of £99,750.

The current level of the General Fund (£159k) represents a balance built up since 2010, during which time the Charity has benefited from reductions in the net annual running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter services, largely due to increased income from higher occupancy; continued generous donations, legacies and fundraising.

For the last four years, the Charity has run with an annual deficit of £25-30k. This reflects the cost of the Winter Beds project, along with more general cost increases. We are working to cover this shortfall by generating new sources of income, including grants, but we expect the General Fund to continue to reduce in 2025/26 and possibly beyond, until this additional income is achieved.

The Charity also holds a Development Fund account, which at 31 March 2025 stands at £61,442. This fund is used for the development of new projects in line with our charitable objectives; and for the refurbishment and development of

facilities at the Night Shelter, which is leased to Hightown by St Albans City and District Council at a peppercorn rent.

The Trustees recognise the need to use its reserves to help address the continuing issues facing homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, in the St Albans area. Whilst support for the Night Shelter and drop in services provided at 8 Bricket Road remains a core activity, the Charity has the scope to use its reserves to fund and support new initiatives which help vulnerable people in St Albans, particularly the homeless, change their lives for the better, and to find suitable short or long term housing solutions which meet their particular needs. These may be either at or away from Bricket Road, with Hightown and/or in conjunction with other charitable organisations. We are currently exploring options to provide increased support for Night Shelter guests, in partnership with Hightown and the District Council.

We will draw on reserves as we develop the portfolio of new projects based on these research findings and the changing homelessness situation, over the future months and years. We will also extend our fundraising activities to support new ventures where appropriate.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Open Door St Albans

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Open Door – St Albans Charitable Company ('the Company') for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by small companies subject to the small company's regime.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Anne Hutchison BA CA MCT CTA

Address: [Redacted] Highfield Ave, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 9LZ

Date: 5 October 2025

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1028528

Accounts

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

Report of the Directors For the Year ended 31 March 2024

The Directors present their report with the financial statements for the Company¹ for the year ended 31 March 2024.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The Charity's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in its Memorandum of Association, is the relief of those in need, by reason of homelessness or other causes of vulnerability. The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of fundraising for the relief of financial need and the provision of accommodation and support for the homeless in St Albans and Hertfordshire. The Charity works in partnership with Hightown Housing Association (Hightown), which operates and manages the services provided at Open Door Night Shelter. It also provides additional accommodation for homeless people during the winter months; and makes occasional grants to other organisations.

Open Door – St Albans is a registered charity (reg no 1028528) and company limited by guarantee (no 02868633).

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

The Open Door – St. Albans Charity contributes to the running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter at 8 Bricket Road, St. Albans. The Shelter benefits from grants from Hertfordshire County Council's Housing-related Support grant, and St Albans City and District Council.

The Shelter regularly gives single ensuite accommodation to up to 12 people each night. The facilities are available either by agency referral or by self-referral. Open Door Night Shelter also provides daytime drop-in services which offer support and advice, including on housing, health care, and the services available from other relevant agencies.

The Open Door Charity supports the Open Door Night Shelter homelessness service, which during 2023 supported 46 individuals into more settled housing. The Charity makes grants for specific purposes to supplement public funding, provides volunteers and raises awareness of homelessness issues. Our volunteers make an important contribution to the success of the project. In particular they prepare and serve lunch at the drop-in, and also provide residents and Winter Beds users with a hot evening meal. Volunteers also provide services for individuals, such as helping those for whom English is a second language, and a number of local businesses give practical help from the donation of food to working to improve the facilities provided and to enhance the environment for residents. These volunteers are recruited and overseen by our Publicity, Fundraising and Administration Coordinator, directly employed by the Charity.

The Charity provides grant funding to Hightown to employ the Safer Streets Outreach Worker, who makes contact with and supports those on the streets, to help rough sleepers to lead a more settled way of life. There are still people sleeping rough in St Albans – during 2023/24, on average 8 rough sleepers were verified at quarterly counts, though the

¹ The Company is a registered charity (number 1028528). In this report, the Company is referred to on occasion as 'the Charity'.

actual number is estimated at 12 to 15, unchanged from the previous year. Many of these have limited options for moving on both because there is a serious shortage of suitable accommodation, and/or because of their particular circumstances and issues.

The Charity also provides food supplies and manages a volunteer team of 70 to prepare lunches and a hot evening meal; these are part funded by Hightown. We meet regularly with Hightown to review service provision through Street Outreach and the night Shelter, and to consider ways in which services might be developed.

Over the winter months the Charity provides volunteer-run direct services to rough sleepers, via the Winter Beds project. Since the introduction of COVID restrictions, this has been provided in purpose designed accommodation cabins sited at Emmaus St Albans. Accommodation was provided every night from December 2023 and extended to mid April 2024, to ensure provision was available for refugees leaving local hotels. In total, 22 individuals were accommodated, using 60 volunteers. This service was part funded by the Council, who contributed 50% of costs. We are exploring with Emmaus and other local organisations longer term options for the provision of extra winter beds

During the year the Charity continued to fund a counselling scheme, provided by Rephael House, to give access to early therapy for service users at the night shelter, those recently moved to supported accommodation, and rough sleepers. The service has been well received by clients, with relatively good levels of engagement, enabling them to begin to address often complex issues, as a prelude to engaging with further support. The Charity has also made a contribution to a pilot scheme with Druglink, for a part time support worker to work alongside the Street Outreach worker and also to provide drop in and group work activities at the night shelter, for those dealing with substance misuse issues.

The Charity provides small grants to assist resettlement of individuals, although none were made in 2023/24. We occasionally pay rent and services for people in need who have nowhere to stay and have no access to benefits or other public funds, to give some time to find them a place to go.

We continue to maintain strong relationships with other local charities and statutory agencies including St Albans District Council; for example, liaising in the provision of meals to rough sleepers, and in exploring options for our winter provision and for further daytime facilities.

The Charity's funding benefits the direct recipients of the services provided at the Night Shelter and also has indirect impacts on the wider community. We encourage charitable giving by local people, whether through volunteering or through fundraising and donations. Many of our supporters and fundraisers are young people, who want to help homeless and vulnerable people.

Our support for the Night Shelter over many years has helped improve the lives of homeless people, by enabling them to address their personal issues and live more settled lives, in turn helping them to play a fuller part in the local community.

DIRECTORS

The Directors (who are also trustees of the Charity, appointed by existing trustees) for the year ending March 2024 were:

David Lane (Chairman, to January 2024)
Peter Graham (Vice Chairman and Acting Chair from January)
Lindsey McLeod (Treasurer)
Jacqueline Button (Secretary)
Simon Carver (to July 2023)
Rachel McFarlane (to October 2023)
Richard Upton
Andy Thoms
Roger Gosine
Ed Dunn (from September 2023)

The Directors have complied with the duty laid out in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the Board:

Peter Graham
Date:

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total Funds 2023/24	Total Funds 2022/23
	£	£	£	£
Income (see note 2)				
Donations and legacies	86,382	27,684	114,066	85,004
Investments	10,790		10,790	5,167
Total	97,172	27,684	124,856	90,171
Expenditure (see note 3)				
Raising funds			-	-
Charitable activities	95,201	27,684	122,885	95,403
Volunteer Coordinator, Publicity & Admin	27,734		27,734	26,260
Total	122,935	27,684	150,619	121,663
Net income/(expenditure)	(25,763)	0	(25,763)	(31,492)

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
Current assets		
Debtors	23,048	30,485
Cash at bank and in hand	244,961	267,456
Total current assets	<u>268,009</u>	<u>297,941</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(16,642)</u>	<u>(20,811)</u>
Net current assets/ (liabilities)	<u>251,367</u>	<u>277,130</u>
Reserves		
Unrestricted funds:		
General	189,925	215,688
Development	61,442	61,442
Total Reserves	<u>251,367</u>	<u>277,130</u>

The Company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

.....

Approved by the Board on

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the 2019 Charities SORP (FRS102).

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, where there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity, or have been met.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received, at the value of the gift to the charity (if material) provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

2 Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations and gifts	64,242		64,242	50,966
Gift Aid	2,412		2,412	5,681
Legacies	2,500		2,500	5,000
Grants		27,684	27,684	19,422
Fundraising	17,228		17,228	3,935
Total	86,382	27,684	114,066	85,004
Income from investments				
Interest income	10,790		10,790	5,167
Total Income	97,172	27,684	124,856	90,171

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Activities undertaken directly:				
Winter Beds Project	17,997	17,530	35,527	26,729
Night Shelter - food provision	2,825	10,154	12,979	9,136
Other Night Shelter support	610		610	792
Grant funding of activities:				
Safer Streets Outreach Worker	45,569		45,569	44,880
Counselling	13,200		13,200	13,366
Druglink pilot	9,500		9,500	500
Night shelter - furniture & equipment	5,500		5,500	-
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities	95,201	27,684	122,885	95,403
Other Costs				
Volunteer, Publicity, Fundraising & Admin Coordinator	23,416		23,416	20,946
Other Admin costs	4,318		4,318	5,314
Fundraising Costs			-	-
Total Other Costs	27,734	-	27,734	26,260
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	122,935	27,684	150,619	121,663

4 Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)

The operating deficit for the year ended 31 March 2024 is £36,553 and the overall deficit after interest earned is £25,763. There were no reporting fees for accountancy, and no directors' emoluments or other benefits accruing to Directors.

5 Taxation

The Company is a registered charity with no trading activities, and therefore not subject to corporation tax.

6 Company Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

7 Related Parties

No transactions have been incurred where trustees hold related party interests.

8 Remuneration

No director or any party related to them has received any remuneration, expenses or other benefit during the year.

9 Employee Costs

The Charity employs one part time member of staff, with total salary, pension and employer's national insurance costs less than £25,000.

10 Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

The employee is enrolled in a Defined Contribution pension scheme, to which both employer's and employee's contributions are made.

11 Grants to Other Organisations and Individuals

Grants to other organisations for the provision of homeless support activities at or from the Bricket Road Nightshelter comprise:

	£
Hightown Housing Association – Safer Streets Outreach Worker	45,569
- Furniture	5,500
Rephael House – Counselling	13,200
Druglink – Early engagement	<u>9,500</u>
	73,769

No other grants were made to other organisations and individuals during the financial year.

12 General Reserves

Movements on General Reserves are as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2024 was £189,846, and on the Development Fund was £61,442.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund is held to support the ongoing activities of the charity.

It is the Charity's policy to hold in reserves, as a minimum, the amount needed to meet running costs for 9 months. This reflects the uncertain nature of donations income, and the commitments made to grant funding and specific projects. The Charity's expenditure budget for 2024/25 is £124,500, giving 9 months costs of £93,400.

The current level of the General Fund (£190k) represents a balance built up since 2010, during which time the Charity has benefited from reductions in the net annual running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter services, largely due to increased income from higher occupancy; continued generous donations, legacies and fundraising.

For the last three years, the Charity has run with an annual deficit of £25-30k. This reflects the cost of the Winter Beds project, along with more general cost increases. We are working to cover this shortfall by generating new sources of income, including grants, but we expect the General Fund to reduce in 2024/25 and possibly longer, until this additional income is achieved.

The Charity also holds a Development Fund account, which at 31 March 2024 stands at £61,442, and represents the balance of funding following the refurbishment of 8 Bricket Road in 2010. This fund is intended to provide for the long-term refurbishment and development of facilities to support its charitable services, including the premises at 8 Bricket Road, which is leased to Hightown Housing Association by St Albans City and District Council at a peppercorn rent..

The Trustees recognise the need to use its reserves to help address the continuing issues facing homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, in the St Albans area. Whilst support for the night shelter and drop in services provided at 8 Bricket Road remains a core activity, the Charity has the scope to use its reserves to fund and support new initiatives which help vulnerable people in St Albans, particularly the homeless, change their lives for the better, and to find suitable short or long term housing solutions which meet their particular needs. These may be either at or away from Bricket Road, with Hightown and/or in conjunction with other charitable organisations. We continue to fund research into opportunities to improve the coordination of services meeting the needs of people who are homeless or vulnerable, and to develop new support initiatives.

We will draw on reserves as we develop the portfolio of new projects based on these research findings and the changing homelessness situation, over the future months and years. We will also extend our fundraising activities to support new ventures if appropriate.

13 Restricted Funds

Income given to meet specific expenditure, and the related expenditure, are classified as restricted in the accounts. All such income received in 2023/24 (St Albans District Council contribution to Winter Bed Project, and Hightown Housing contribution to food costs) was fully spent in year.

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

Report of the Directors For the Year ended 31 March 2024

The Directors present their report with the financial statements for the Company¹ for the year ended 31 March 2024.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The Charity's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in its Memorandum of Association, is the relief of those in need, by reason of homelessness or other causes of vulnerability. The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of fundraising for the relief of financial need and the provision of accommodation and support for the homeless in St Albans and Hertfordshire. The Charity works in partnership with Hightown Housing Association (Hightown), which operates and manages the services provided at Open Door Night Shelter. It also provides additional accommodation for homeless people during the winter months; and makes occasional grants to other organisations.

Open Door – St Albans is a registered charity (reg no 1028528) and company limited by guarantee (no 02868633).

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

The Open Door – St. Albans Charity contributes to the running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter at 8 Bricket Road, St. Albans. The Shelter benefits from grants from Hertfordshire County Council's Housing-related Support grant, and St Albans City and District Council.

The Shelter regularly gives single ensuite accommodation to up to 12 people each night. The facilities are available either by agency referral or by self-referral. Open Door Night Shelter also provides daytime drop-in services which offer support and advice, including on housing, health care, and the services available from other relevant agencies.

The Open Door Charity supports the Open Door Night Shelter homelessness service, which during 2023 supported 46 individuals into more settled housing. The Charity makes grants for specific purposes to supplement public funding, provides volunteers and raises awareness of homelessness issues. Our volunteers make an important contribution to the success of the project. In particular they prepare and serve lunch at the drop-in, and also provide residents and Winter Beds users with a hot evening meal. Volunteers also provide services for individuals, such as helping those for whom English is a second language, and a number of local businesses give practical help from the donation of food to working to improve the facilities provided and to enhance the environment for residents. These volunteers are recruited and overseen by our Publicity, Fundraising and Administration Coordinator, directly employed by the Charity.

The Charity provides grant funding to Hightown to employ the Safer Streets Outreach Worker, who makes contact with and supports those on the streets, to help rough sleepers to lead a more settled way of life. There are still people sleeping rough in St Albans – during 2023/24, on average 8 rough sleepers were verified at quarterly counts, though the

¹ The Company is a registered charity (number 1028528). In this report, the Company is referred to on occasion as 'the Charity'.

actual number is estimated at 12 to 15, unchanged from the previous year. Many of these have limited options for moving on both because there is a serious shortage of suitable accommodation, and/or because of their particular circumstances and issues.

The Charity also provides food supplies and manages a volunteer team of 70 to prepare lunches and a hot evening meal; these are part funded by Hightown. We meet regularly with Hightown to review service provision through Street Outreach and the night Shelter, and to consider ways in which services might be developed.

Over the winter months the Charity provides volunteer-run direct services to rough sleepers, via the Winter Beds project. Since the introduction of COVID restrictions, this has been provided in purpose designed accommodation cabins sited at Emmaus St Albans. Accommodation was provided every night from December 2023 and extended to mid April 2024, to ensure provision was available for refugees leaving local hotels. In total, 22 individuals were accommodated, using 60 volunteers. This service was part funded by the Council, who contributed 50% of costs. We are exploring with Emmaus and other local organisations longer term options for the provision of extra winter beds

During the year the Charity continued to fund a counselling scheme, provided by Rephael House, to give access to early therapy for service users at the night shelter, those recently moved to supported accommodation, and rough sleepers. The service has been well received by clients, with relatively good levels of engagement, enabling them to begin to address often complex issues, as a prelude to engaging with further support. The Charity has also made a contribution to a pilot scheme with Druglink, for a part time support worker to work alongside the Street Outreach worker and also to provide drop in and group work activities at the night shelter, for those dealing with substance misuse issues.

The Charity provides small grants to assist resettlement of individuals, although none were made in 2023/24. We occasionally pay rent and services for people in need who have nowhere to stay and have no access to benefits or other public funds, to give some time to find them a place to go.

We continue to maintain strong relationships with other local charities and statutory agencies including St Albans District Council; for example, liaising in the provision of meals to rough sleepers, and in exploring options for our winter provision and for further daytime facilities.

The Charity's funding benefits the direct recipients of the services provided at the Night Shelter and also has indirect impacts on the wider community. We encourage charitable giving by local people, whether through volunteering or through fundraising and donations. Many of our supporters and fundraisers are young people, who want to help homeless and vulnerable people.

Our support for the Night Shelter over many years has helped improve the lives of homeless people, by enabling them to address their personal issues and live more settled lives, in turn helping them to play a fuller part in the local community.

DIRECTORS

The Directors (who are also trustees of the Charity, appointed by existing trustees) for the year ending March 2024 were:

David Lane (Chairman, to January 2024)
Peter Graham (Vice Chairman and Acting Chair from January)
Lindsey McLeod (Treasurer)
Jacqueline Button (Secretary)
Simon Carver (to July 2023)
Rachel McFarlane (to October 2023)
Richard Upton
Andy Thoms
Roger Gosine
Ed Dunn (from September 2023)

The Directors have complied with the duty laid out in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the Board:

Peter Graham
Date:

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total Funds 2023/24	Total Funds 2022/23
	£	£	£	£
Income (see note 2)				
Donations and legacies	86,382	27,684	114,066	85,004
Investments	10,790		10,790	5,167
Total	97,172	27,684	124,856	90,171
Expenditure (see note 3)				
Raising funds			-	-
Charitable activities	95,201	27,684	122,885	95,403
Volunteer Coordinator, Publicity & Admin	27,734		27,734	26,260
Total	122,935	27,684	150,619	121,663
Net income/(expenditure)	(25,763)	0	(25,763)	(31,492)

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
	£	£
Current assets		
Debtors	23,048	30,485
Cash at bank and in hand	244,961	267,456
Total current assets	268,009	297,941
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(16,642)	(20,811)
Net current assets/ (liabilities)	251,367	277,130
Reserves		
Unrestricted funds:		
General	189,925	215,688
Development	61,442	61,442
Total Reserves	251,367	277,130

The Company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

.....

Approved by the Board on

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the 2019 Charities SORP (FRS102).

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses.

Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, where there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity, or have been met.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received, at the value of the gift to the charity (if material) provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

2 Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations and gifts	64,242		64,242	50,966
Gift Aid	2,412		2,412	5,681
Legacies	2,500		2,500	5,000
Grants		27,684	27,684	19,422
Fundraising	17,228		17,228	3,935
Total	86,382	27,684	114,066	85,004
Income from investments				
Interest income	10,790		10,790	5,167
Total Income	97,172	27,684	124,856	90,171

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Activities undertaken directly:				
Winter Beds Project	17,997	17,530	35,527	26,729
Night Shelter - food provision	2,825	10,154	12,979	9,136
Other Night Shelter support	610		610	792
Grant funding of activities:				
Safer Streets Outreach Worker	45,569		45,569	44,880
Counselling	13,200		13,200	13,366
Druglink pilot	9,500		9,500	500
Night shelter - furniture & equipment	5,500		5,500	-
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities	95,201	27,684	122,885	95,403
Other Costs				
Volunteer, Publicity, Fundraising & Admin Coordinator	23,416		23,416	20,946
Other Admin costs	4,318		4,318	5,314
Fundraising Costs			-	-
Total Other Costs	27,734	-	27,734	26,260
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	122,935	27,684	150,619	121,663

4 Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)

The operating deficit for the year ended 31 March 2024 is £36,553 and the overall deficit after interest earned is £25,763. There were no reporting fees for accountancy, and no directors' emoluments or other benefits accruing to Directors.

5 Taxation

The Company is a registered charity with no trading activities, and therefore not subject to corporation tax.

6 Company Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

7 Related Parties

No transactions have been incurred where trustees hold related party interests.

8 Remuneration

No director or any party related to them has received any remuneration, expenses or other benefit during the year.

9 Employee Costs

The Charity employs one part time member of staff, with total salary, pension and employer's national insurance costs less than £25,000.

10 Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

The employee is enrolled in a Defined Contribution pension scheme, to which both employer's and employee's contributions are made.

11 Grants to Other Organisations and Individuals

Grants to other organisations for the provision of homeless support activities at or from the Bricket Road Nightshelter comprise:

	£
Hightown Housing Association – Safer Streets Outreach Worker	45,569
- Furniture	5,500
Rephael House – Counselling	13,200
Druglink – Early engagement	<u>9,500</u>
	73,769

No other grants were made to other organisations and individuals during the financial year.

12 General Reserves

Movements on General Reserves are as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2024 was £189,846, and on the Development Fund was £61,442.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund is held to support the ongoing activities of the charity.

It is the Charity's policy to hold in reserves, as a minimum, the amount needed to meet running costs for 9 months. This reflects the uncertain nature of donations income, and the commitments made to grant funding and specific projects. The Charity's expenditure budget for 2024/25 is £124,500, giving 9 months costs of £93,400.

The current level of the General Fund (£190k) represents a balance built up since 2010, during which time the Charity has benefited from reductions in the net annual running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter services, largely due to increased income from higher occupancy; continued generous donations, legacies and fundraising.

For the last three years, the Charity has run with an annual deficit of £25-30k. This reflects the cost of the Winter Beds project, along with more general cost increases. We are working to cover this shortfall by generating new sources of income, including grants, but we expect the General Fund to reduce in 2024/25 and possibly longer, until this additional income is achieved.

The Charity also holds a Development Fund account, which at 31 March 2024 stands at £61,442, and represents the balance of funding following the refurbishment of 8 Bricket Road in 2010. This fund is intended to provide for the long-term refurbishment and development of facilities to support its charitable services, including the premises at 8 Bricket Road, which is leased to Hightown Housing Association by St Albans City and District Council at a peppercorn rent..

The Trustees recognise the need to use its reserves to help address the continuing issues facing homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, in the St Albans area. Whilst support for the night shelter and drop in services provided at 8 Bricket Road remains a core activity, the Charity has the scope to use its reserves to fund and support new initiatives which help vulnerable people in St Albans, particularly the homeless, change their lives for the better, and to find suitable short or long term housing solutions which meet their particular needs. These may be either at or away from Bricket Road, with Hightown and/or in conjunction with other charitable organisations. We continue to fund research into opportunities to improve the coordination of services meeting the needs of people who are homeless or vulnerable, and to develop new support initiatives.

We will draw on reserves as we develop the portfolio of new projects based on these research findings and the changing homelessness situation, over the future months and years. We will also extend our fundraising activities to support new ventures if appropriate.

13 Restricted Funds

Income given to meet specific expenditure, and the related expenditure, are classified as restricted in the accounts. All such income received in 2023/24 (St Albans District Council contribution to Winter Bed Project, and Hightown Housing contribution to food costs) was fully spent in year.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/directors/members of

Charity Name: OPEN DOOR ST ALBANS.

On accounts for the year ended

31 MARCH 2024

Charity no.: 1028528 Company no.: 02868633

Set out on pages

1-10 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 MARCH 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The company's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
• the accounts do not accord with such records; or
• the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: M.E. Parker

Date: 28/8/2024

Name: MELANIE PARKER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: 77 MARSHALS DRIVE ST ALBANS ALI 4RD.

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1028528

Accounts

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

Report of the Directors For the Year ended 31 March 2023

The Directors present their report with the financial statements for the Company¹ for the year ended 31 March 2023.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The Charity's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in the Charity's Memorandum of Association, is the relief of those in need, by reason of homelessness or other causes of vulnerability. The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of fundraising for the relief of financial need and the provision of accommodation and support for the homeless in St Albans and Hertfordshire. The Charity works in partnership with Hightown Housing Association (Hightown), which operates and manages the services provided at Open Door Night Shelter. It also provides additional accommodation for homeless people during the winter months; and makes occasional grants to other organisations.

Open Door – St Albans is a registered charity (reg no 1028528) and company limited by guarantee (no 02868633).

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

The Open Door – St. Albans Charity contributes to the running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter at 8 Bricket Road, St. Albans. The Shelter benefits from grants from Hertfordshire County Council's Housing-related Support grant, and St Albans City and District Council.

The Shelter regularly gives single accommodation to up to 12 people each night. The facilities are available either by agency referral or by self-referral. Open Door Night Shelter also provides daytime drop-in services which offer support and advice, including on housing, health care, and the services available from other relevant agencies.

The Open Door Charity supports the Open Door Night Shelter homelessness service through grants for specific purposes which supplement the public funding, and through the provision of volunteers. Our volunteers make an important contribution to the success of the project. In particular they prepare and serve lunch at the drop-in, and also provide residents and other homeless or vulnerable people with a hot evening meal. Volunteers also provide services for individuals, such as helping those for whom English is a second language, and a number of local businesses give practical help from the donation of food to working to improve the facilities provided and to enhance the environment for residents. These volunteers are recruited and overseen by our Publicity, Fundraising and Administration Coordinator, directly employed by the Charity.

The Charity provides grant funding to Hightown to employ the Safer Streets Outreach Worker, who makes contact with and supports those on the streets, to help rough sleepers to lead a more settled way of life. There are still people sleeping rough in St Albans – during 2022/23, on average 8 rough sleepers were verified at quarterly counts, though the actual number is estimated at 12 to 15. Many of these have limited options for moving on

¹ The Company is a registered charity (number 1028528). In this report, the Company is referred to on occasion as 'the Charity'.

both because there is a serious shortage of suitable accommodation, and/or because of their particular circumstances and issues.

The Charity also provides food supplies and a volunteer team to prepare lunches and a hot evening meal; these are part funded by Hightown. We meet regularly with Hightown to review service provision through Street Outreach and the night Shelter, and to consider ways in which services might be developed.

Over the winter months the Charity provides volunteer-run direct services to rough sleepers, via the Winter Beds project. Since the introduction of COVID restrictions, this has been provided in purpose designed accommodation cabins sited at Emmaus St Albans. Accommodation was provided every night from early December 2022 to early April 2023, with a total of 16 individuals helped, using 66 volunteers. This service was part funded by the Council, who contributed 50% of costs. We are exploring with Emmaus and other local organisations longer term options for the provision of extra winter beds

During the year the Charity continued to fund a counselling scheme, provided by Raphael House, to give access to early therapy for service users at the night shelter, those recently moved to supported accommodation, and rough sleepers. The service has been well received by clients, with relatively good levels of engagement, enabling them to begin to address often complex issues, as a prelude to engaging with further support. The Charity has also made a contribution to a pilot scheme with Druglink, for a part time support worker to work alongside the Street Outreach worker and also to provide drop in and group work activities at the night shelter, for those dealing with substance misuse issues. Some initial work took place in 2022/23, with the project fully under way from April 2023.

The Charity provides small grants to assist resettlement of individuals, and pays rent and services for people in need who have nowhere to stay and have no access to benefits or other public funds, to give an opportunity for staff to find them a place to go.

We continue to maintain strong relationships with other local charities and statutory agencies including St Albans District Council, and local police; for example, liaising in the provision of meals to rough sleepers, and in exploring options for our winter provision and for further daytime facilities.

The Charity's funding benefits the direct recipients of the services provided at the Night Shelter and also has indirect impacts on the wider community. We encourage charitable giving by local people, whether through volunteering or through fundraising and donations. Many of our supporters and fundraisers are young people, who want to help homeless and vulnerable people.

Our support for the Night Shelter over many years has helped improve the lives of homeless people, by enabling them to address their personal issues and live more settled lives, in turn helping them to play a fuller part in the local community.

DIRECTORS

The Directors for the year ending March 2023 were:

David Lane (Chairman)
Peter Graham (Vice Chairman)
Lindsey McLeod (Treasurer)
Jacqueline Button (Secretary)
Kerry Pollard (to October 2022)
Lucy Gaygusuz
Simon Carver
Rachel McFarlane
Richard Upton
Andy Thoms (from October 2022)
Roger Gosine (from December 2022)

The Directors have complied with the duty laid out in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the Board:

David Lane

Date:

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Donations and Grants Received		85,004	107,065
less Expenditure on services		<u>(116,349)</u>	<u>(141,270)</u>
		(31,345)	(34,205)
less Other Operating costs		<u>(5,314)</u>	<u>(2,062)</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2	(36,659)	(36,267)
Interest receivable		<u>5,167</u>	<u>208</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(31,492)	(36,059)
Tax on deficit on ordinary activities	3	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AFTER TAXATION		(31,492)	(36,059)
Retained surplus brought forward		<u>308,622</u>	<u>344,681</u>
RETAINED SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>277,130</u>	<u>308,622</u>

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Year ended 31.3.23		Year ended 31.3.22	
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations Received		60,582		79,384	
Grants		6,240	13,182		27,681
Legacy		5,000		0	
Investment income		5,167		208	
TOTAL INCOME		76,989	13,182	79,592	27,681
RESOURCES USED:					
Homeless support activities:					
- Winter Beds	7	13,547	13,182	17,406	27,681
- Other Support, Bricket Rd		9,927		10,174	
Grants for homeless support, Bricket Rd	9	58,747		60,486	
Grants to other organisations Volunteer & Publicity	9	-		7,537	
Coordinator	8	20,946		17,995	
Administration		5,314		2,053	
Fundraising costs		0	0	0	0
		108,481	13,182	115,651	27,681
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(31,492)	0	(36,059)	0
Fund Balances b fwd		308,622	0	344,681	0
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		277,130	0	308,622	0

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and deposits		267,456	298,424
Debtors	4	30,485	32,029
Total Current Assets		297,941	330,453
LIABILITIES:			
amounts falling due within one year	4	(20,811)	(21,831)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		277,130	308,622
RESERVES (UNRESTRICTED):			
General Fund	10	215,688	247,180
Development Fund		61,442	61,442
TOTAL RESERVES		277,130	308,622

The Company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

.....

Approved by the Board on

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the 2019 Charities SORP (FRS102).
Turnover represents the gross value of donations received.

2 Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)

The operating deficit for the year ended 31 March 2023 is £36,278 and the overall deficit after interest earned is £31,492. There were no reporting fees for accountancy, and no directors' emoluments or other benefits accruing to Directors.

3 Taxation

The Company is a registered charity with no trading activities, and therefore not subject to corporation tax.

4 Debtors and Creditors:

The following debtors and creditors were held at 31 March.

	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Debtors:		
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	3,252	2,717
St Albans City & District Council	13,182	26,554
Others	2,351	91
Prepayment for counselling	2,200	2,667
Prepayment for substance abuse support	9,500	
	<u>30,485</u>	<u>32,029</u>
Creditors:		
Hightown -grants for homeless services	11,220	10,960
Other Services	9,591	10,871
	<u>20,811</u>	<u>21,831</u>

5 Company Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

6 Related Parties

No transactions have been incurred where trustees hold related party interests.

7 Remuneration

During the financial year Lucy Gaygusuz, company Director and charity Trustee, has received payment totalling £6,657 for consultancy work coordinating with the Council, Hightown and other charities on the provision of homeless services, and managing the volunteer-led winter beds.

Apart from these payments, no director or any party related to the has received any remuneration, expenses or other benefit during the year.

8 Employee Costs

The Charity employs one part time member of staff, with total salary, pension and employer's national insurance costs less than £25,000.

The employee is enrolled in a Defined Contribution pension scheme, to which both employer's and employee's contributions are made.

9 Grants to Other Organisations and Individuals

Grants to other organisations for the provision of homeless support activities at or from the Bricket Road Nightshelter comprise:

	£
Hightown Housing Association – Safer Streets Outreach Worker	44,880
Rephael House – Counselling	13,367
Druglink – Early engagement	500
	<u>58,747</u>

No other grants were made to other organisations and individuals during the financial year.

10 General Reserves

Movements on General Reserves are as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2023 was £215,688, and on the Development Fund was £61,442.

Reserves Policy

It is the Charity's policy to aim to have sufficient funds in its General Fund to cover at least the expenditure commitments for the following year. Our budget for known projects and running costs is £132k for 2023/24. The General Fund is held to support the day to day needs of homeless people staying at Open Door Night Shelter, or to enable the Charity to give grants for other activities or projects which support homeless and vulnerable people, within the terms of our charitable purposes and our statutory powers.

The Charity also holds a Development Fund account to provide for the long-term refurbishment and development of facilities to support its charitable services, including the premises at 8 Bricket Road, which is leased to Hightown Housing Association by St Albans City and District Council at a peppercorn rent. This Fund stands at £61,442 as at 31 March 2023, and represents the balance of funding following the refurbishment of 8 Bricket Road in 2010.

The higher level of general reserves was built up following is a series of exceptional circumstances in the period from 2010. During this time, the Charity has benefited from reductions in the net annual running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter services, largely due to increased income from higher occupancy; continued generous donations, legacies and fundraising, and from some unplanned grant income to support certain specific services provided at Open Door.

The Directors' reserves policy in recent years has reflected their concern that a service that relies so heavily on public sector grants risks losing funding in a time of economic uncertainty. Open Door Night Shelter is a valued public service and its public funding has held up well. Grants have indeed been reduced and refocused in recent years, in part to get better outcomes and better value for money for funders, but there has also been recognition that Open Door provides

essential services to vulnerable homeless people and merits continued resourcing. In addition, individuals staying overnight at Open Door benefit from a housing benefit entitlement which covers the basic cost of their room. There remains a risk of further reductions from the current levels of public funding, including changes in the way some services are commissioned and therefore funded.

The Trustees recognise the need to use its reserves to help address the continuing issues facing homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, in the St Albans area. Whilst support for the night shelter and drop in services provided at 8 Bricket Road remains a core activity, the Charity has the scope to use its reserves to fund and support new initiatives which help vulnerable people in St Albans, particularly the homeless, change their lives for the better, and to find suitable short or long term housing solutions which meet their particular needs. These may be either at or away from Bricket Road, with Hightown and/or in conjunction with other charitable organisations. We fully fund the Street Outreach worker, and underwrite the Winter Beds project. We have also initiated a grants programme to deliver our objectives in partnership with other local organisations. During the past year we continued to fund research into opportunities to improve the coordination of services meeting the needs of people who are homeless or vulnerable, and to develop new support initiatives.

We will draw on reserves as we develop the portfolio of new projects based on these research findings and the changing homelessness situation, over the future months and years. We will also extend our fundraising activities to support new ventures if appropriate.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of

Company name
OPEN DOOR ST ALBANS

On accounts for the year
ended

31 MARCH 2023

Charity no.:	1028528	Company no.:	02868633
--------------	----------------	--------------	-----------------

Set out on pages

1-9

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended **31 03 2023**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

**Independent
examiner's statement**

The company's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- * accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- * the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- * the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- * the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: M E Parker

Date: 10 | 8 | 2023

Name: MELANIE PARKER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CG32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners)

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

[Empty box for disclosure details]

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1028528

Accounts

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

Report of the Directors For the Year ended 31 March 2022

The Directors present their report with the financial statements for the Company¹ for the year ended 31 March 2022.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The Charity's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in the Charity's Memorandum of Association, is the relief of those in need, by reason of homelessness or other causes of vulnerability. The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of fundraising for the relief of financial need and the provision of accommodation and support for the homeless in St Albans and Hertfordshire. The Charity works in partnership with Hightown Housing Association (Hightown), which operates and manages the services provided at Open Door Night Shelter. It also makes occasional grants to other organisations.

Open Door – St Albans is a registered charity (reg no 1028528) and company limited by guarantee (no 02868633).

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

The Open Door – St. Albans Charity contributes to the running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter at 8 Bricket Road, St. Albans. The Shelter benefits from grants from Hertfordshire County Council's Housing-related Support grant, and St Albans City and District Council.

The Shelter regularly gives single accommodation to up to 12 people each night. The facilities are available either by agency referral or by self-referral. Open Door Night Shelter also provides daytime drop-in services which offer support and advice, including on housing, health care, and the services available from other relevant agencies.

The Open Door Charity supports the Open Door Night Shelter homelessness service through grants for specific purposes which supplement the public funding, and through the provision of volunteers. Our volunteers make an important contribution to the success of the project. In particular they prepare and serve lunch at the drop-in, and also provide residents and other homeless or vulnerable people with a hot evening meal. Volunteers also provide services for individuals, such as helping those for whom English is a second language, and a number of local businesses give practical help from the donation of food to working to improve the facilities provided and to enhance the environment for residents. These volunteers are recruited and overseen by our Publicity, Fundraising and Administration Coordinator, directly employed by the Charity.

This year the Charity has provided grant funding to Hightown to employ the Safer Streets Outreach Worker, who makes contact with and supports those on the streets, to help rough sleepers to lead a more settled way of life. There are still people sleeping rough in St Albans – during 2021/22, between 5 and 9 rough sleepers were verified at quarterly counts, Many of these have limited options for moving on both because there is a serious shortage of suitable accommodation, and/or because of their particular circumstances and

¹ The Company is a registered charity (number 1028528). In this report, the Company is referred to on occasion as 'the Charity'.

issues. The Charity has also provided some grant funding for food supplies, although since summer 2021 the Charity has organized the purchase of food directly, to better coordinate with the volunteer team preparing lunches and a hot evening meal.

During 2021/22 the Charity funded a pilot counselling scheme, provided by Rephael House, to give access to early therapy for service users at the night shelter, those recently moved to supported accommodation, and rough sleepers. The pilot has been well received by clients, with relatively good levels of engagement, enabling them to begin to address often complex issues, as a prelude to engaging with further support.

The Open Door Charity also contributes towards improvements at the Night Shelter. In 2021 it purchased new furniture for the communal living and dining spaces.

The Charity provides small grants to assist resettlement of individuals, and pays rent and services for people in need who have nowhere to stay and have no access to benefits or other public funds, to give an opportunity for staff to find them a place to go. In the past year we paid some rent arrears accrued in unusual circumstances on behalf of one individual who would otherwise would not have been able to access settled accommodation.

Over the winter months the Charity provides volunteer-run direct services to rough sleepers, via the Winter Beds project. Since the introduction of COVID restrictions, this has been provided in purpose designed accommodation cabins sited at Emmaus St Albans, part funded in 2021/22 by St Albans District Council. Accommodation was provided every night from early December 2021 to early April 2022, with a total of 16 individuals helped, using 77 volunteers. This service was part funded by the Council, who paid for the cabin hire and the provision of night staff; all other costs were met by the Charity.

The Charity's funding benefits the direct recipients of the services provided at the Night Shelter and also has indirect impacts on the wider community. We encourage charitable giving by local people, whether through volunteering or through fundraising and donations. Many of our supporters and fundraisers are young people, who want to help homeless and vulnerable people.

Our support for the Night Shelter over many years has helped improve the lives of homeless people, by enabling them to address their personal issues and live more settled lives, in turn helping them to play a fuller part in the local community.

However we are aware that people are becoming homeless all the time, and not all those moved into accommodation are able to sustain this. To help address these issues, the Charity continues to explore ways of supporting homeless people move into more settled living arrangements and employment: following research into local needs and provision by other charitable and statutory agencies, we have identified homelessness prevention, mental health support, move on accommodation and employment support as potential areas where we may best direct our support. We are actively involved in discussions with local stakeholders, including local council and health services, and local charities, to further explore these opportunities.

We continue to maintain strong relationships with other local charities and statutory agencies, these links having been strengthened through the Coronavirus response. We recognise that in many areas we are working to the same purposes, and continue to liaise for example in the provision of meals to rough sleepers, and in exploring options for further daytime facilities. We also continue to offer grant funding available to other organisations where these will deliver our aims and objectives: during 2021/22 we made a grant to Oysterfields Mother and Baby Unit, via Hightown, to purchase new equipment.

DIRECTORS

The Directors for the year ending March 2022 were:

David Lane (Chairman)
Peter Graham (Vice Chairman)
Lindsey McLeod (Treasurer)
Jacqueline Button (Secretary)
Kerry Pollard
Lucy Gaygusuz
Simon Carver
Rachel McFarlane
Richard Upton

The Directors have complied with the duty laid out in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the Board:

David Lane 

Date: 12.2.22

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Donations and Grants Received		107,065	125,331
less Expenditure on services		<u>(141,270)</u>	<u>(121,086)</u>
		(34,205)	4,245
less Other Operating costs		<u>(2,062)</u>	<u>(2,194)</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2	(36,267)	2,051
Interest receivable		<u>208</u>	<u>329</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(36,059)	2,380
Tax on deficit on ordinary activities	3	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AFTER TAXATION		(36,059)	2,380
Retained surplus brought forward		<u>344,681</u>	<u>342,301</u>
RETAINED SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>308,622</u>	<u>344,681</u>

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds Year ended 31.3.22		Unrestricted Funds Year ended 31.3.21	
		General £	Development Fund £	General £	Development Fund £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations Received		79,384		88,331	
Grant		27,681		32,000	
Legacy				5,000	
Investment income		208		329	
		<u>107,273</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,660</u>	<u>-</u>
RESOURCES USED					
Homeless support activities	8	73,256		54,218	
Grants for Housing costs and Homeless Support	1	60,486		46,868	
Other Grants	9	7,537		20,000	
Administration		2,053		2,194	
Fundraising costs		-		-	
		<u>143,332</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,280</u>	<u>-</u>
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(36,059)		2,380	
Fund Balances brought forward		283,239	61,442	280,859	61,442
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		<u>247,180</u>	<u>61,442</u>	<u>283,239</u>	<u>61,442</u>

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and deposits		298,424	358,273
Debtors		<u>32,029</u>	<u>17,656</u>
Total Current Assets		330,453	375,929
LIABILITIES:			
amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(21,831)</u>	<u>(31,248)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>308,622</u>	<u>344,681</u>
RESERVES (UNRESTRICTED):			
General Fund	10	247,180	283,239
Development Fund		61,442	61,442
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>308,622</u>	<u>344,681</u>

The Company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

.....

Approved by the Board on

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the 2019 Charities SORP (FRS102).

Turnover represents the gross value of donations received.

Grants for housing costs and homeless support are all made to Hightown Housing Association Ltd in support of the Open Door Homelessness Service at 8, Bricket Road, St Albans.

2 Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)

The operating deficit for the year ended 31 March 2022 is £36,267 and the overall deficit after interest earned is £36,059. There were no reporting fees for accountancy, and no directors' emoluments or other benefits accruing to Directors.

3 Taxation

The Company is a registered charity with no trading activities, and therefore not subject to corporation tax.

4 Debtors and Creditors:

The following debtors and creditors were held at 31 March.

	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
Debtors:		
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	2,717	2,962
Legacy	-	5,000
St Albans City & District Council	26,554	-
Others	91	6,856
Prepayment for counselling	<u>2,667</u>	<u>2,667</u>
	32,029	17,485
Creditors:		
Hightown -grants for homeless services	10,960	11,384
Grant approved – Herts Young Homeless	-	10,000
Other Services	<u>10,871</u>	<u>9,864</u>
	21,831	31,248

5 Company Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

6 Related Parties

No transactions have been incurred where trustees hold related party interests.

7 Remuneration

During the financial year Lucy Gaygusuz, company Director and charity Trustee, has received payment totalling £8,127 for consultancy work coordinating with the Council, Hightown and other charities on the provision of homeless services, and managing the volunteer-led winter beds.

Apart from these payments, no director or any party related to the has received any remuneration, expenses or other benefit during the year.

8 Employee Costs

The Charity employs one part time member of staff, with total salary, pension and employer's national insurance costs less than £20,000.

The employee is enrolled in a Defined Contribution pension scheme to which both employer's and employees contributions are made.

9 Grants to Other Organisations and Individuals

During the financial year, the Charity made the following grants:

- Hightown Housing to purchase equipment for a mother and baby unit in St Albans £3,750
- SADC for rent arrears to support the move of a long term homeless person to settled accommodation £3,787

10 General Reserves

Movements on General Reserves are as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2022 was £247,180, and on the Development Fund was £61,442.

Reserves Policy

It is the Charity's policy to aim to have sufficient funds in its General Fund to cover at least the expenditure commitments for the following year. Our budget for known projects and running costs is £118k for 2022/23. The General Fund is held to support the day to day needs of homeless people staying at Open Door Night Shelter, or to enable the Charity to give grants for other activities or projects which support homeless and vulnerable people, within the terms of our charitable purposes and our statutory powers.

The Charity also holds a Development Fund account to provide for the long-term refurbishment and development of facilities to support its charitable services, including the premises at 8 Bricket Road, which is leased to Hightown Housing Association by St Albans City and District Council at a peppercorn rent. This Fund stands at £61,442 as at 31 March 2022, and represents the balance of funding following the refurbishment of 8 Bricket Road in 2010.

The higher level of general reserves was built up following is a series of exceptional circumstances in the period from 2010. During this time, the Charity has benefited from reductions in the net annual running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter services, largely due to increased income from higher occupancy; continued generous donations, legacies and fundraising, and from some unplanned grant income to support certain specific services provided at Open Door.

The Directors' reserves policy in recent years has reflected their concern that a service that relies so heavily on public sector grants risks losing funding in a time of economic uncertainty. Open Door Night Shelter is a valued public service and its public funding has held up well. Grants have indeed been reduced and refocused in recent years, in part to get better outcomes and better value for money for funders, but there has also been recognition that Open Door provides essential services to vulnerable homeless people and merits continued resourcing. In addition, individuals staying overnight at Open Door benefit from a housing benefit entitlement which covers the basic cost of their room. There remains a risk

of further reductions from the current levels of public funding, including changes in the way some services are commissioned and therefore funded.

The Trustees recognise the need to use its reserves to help address the continuing issues facing homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, in the St Albans area. Whilst support for the night shelter and drop in services provided at 8 Bricket Road remains a core activity, the Charity has the scope to use its reserves to fund and support new initiatives which help vulnerable people in St Albans, particularly the homeless, change their lives for the better, and to find suitable short or long term housing solutions which meet their particular needs. These may be either at or away from Bricket Road, with Hightown and/or in conjunction with other charitable organisations. We fully fund the Street Outreach worker, and underwrite the Winter Beds project. We have also initiated a grants programme to deliver our objectives in partnership with other local organisations. During the past year we continued to fund research into opportunities to improve the coordination of services meeting the needs of people who are homeless or vulnerable, and to develop new support initiatives.

We will draw on reserves as we develop the portfolio of new projects based on these research findings and the changing homelessness situation, over the future months and years. We will also extend our fundraising activities to support new ventures if appropriate.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of**

Charity Name

OPEN DOOR-ST ALBANS

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 MARCH 2022

Charity no.:

1028528

Company no.:

02868633

Set out on pages

1-10.

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 MARCH 2022

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

**Independent
examiner's statement**

~~—[The company's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: M. E. Parker. Date: 26/8/2022

Name: MELANIE PARKER.

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: 77 MARSHALS DRIVE
ST ALBANS
AL1 4RD.

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE.

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1028528

Accounts

OPEN DOOR - ST ALBANS

Report of the Directors For the Year end 31 March 2021

The Directors present their report with the financial statements for the Company¹ for the year ended 31 March 2021.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The Charity's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in the Charity's Memorandum of Association, is the relief of those in need, by reason of homelessness or other causes of vulnerability. The principal activity of the Company in the year under review was that of fundraising for the relief of financial need and the provision of accommodation and support for the homeless in St Albans and Hertfordshire. The Charity works in partnership with Hightown Housing Association (Hightown), which operates and manages the services provided at Open Door Night Shelter. It also makes occasional grants to other organisations.

Open Door – St Albans is a registered charity (reg no 1028528) and company limited by guarantee (no 02868633).

How our activities deliver Public Benefit

The Open Door – St. Albans Charity contributes to the running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter at 8 Bricket Road, St. Albans. The Shelter benefits from grants from Hertfordshire County Council's Housing-related Support grant, and St Albans City and District Council.

The Shelter regularly gives single accommodation to up to 12 people each night. The facilities are available either by agency referral or by self-referral. Open Door Night Shelter also provides daytime drop-in services which offer support and advice, including on housing, health care, and the services available from other relevant agencies. In severe weather, the Shelter normally provides 5 temporary beds for homeless people funded by St Albans City and District Council, although due to COVID restrictions these did not operate in winter 2020/21. Instead the Open Door Charity provided volunteer run beds in purpose designed accommodation cabins sited at Emmaus St Albans

The Open Door Charity supports the Open Door Night Shelter homelessness service through grants for specific purposes which supplement the public funding, and through the provision of volunteers. Our volunteers make an important contribution to the success of the project. In particular they prepare and serve lunch at the drop-in, and also provide residents and other homeless or vulnerable people with a hot evening meal. Volunteers also provide services for individuals, such as helping those for whom English is a second language, and a number of local businesses give practical help from the donation of food to working to improve the facilities provided and to enhance the environment for **residents**. From 2020/21 our volunteers have been recruited and overseen by our Publicity, Fundraising and Administration Coordinator, now directly employed by the Charity.

This year the Charity has made grants to Hightown to pay for breakfast for those staying in the Night Shelter, and also to fund the Safer Streets Outreach Worker, who makes

¹ The Company is a registered charity (number 1028528). In this report, the Company is referred to on occasion as 'the Charity'.

contact with and supports those on the streets, to help rough sleepers to lead a more settled way of life. There are still people sleeping rough in St Albans, many of whom have limited options for moving on both because there is a serious shortage of suitable accommodation, and/or because of their particular circumstances and issues.

The Open Door Charity also contributes towards improvements at the Night Shelter.

The Charity provides small grants to assist resettlement of individuals, and pays rent and services for people in need who have nowhere to stay and have no access to benefits or other public funds, to give an opportunity for staff to find them a place to go.

During lockdown, the Charity has worked closely with the Council and Hightown to ensure beds continued to be provided until all known rough sleepers had been offered alternative accommodation. It has also coordinated a multi agency group that includes the Council, Hightown, Centre 33, Communities First and St Albans BID, to ensure the provision of food to those accommodated at the Night Shelter and elsewhere.

Over the winter months the Charity provides volunteer – run direct services to rough sleepers, via the Winter Beds project. The project was initiated in 2017 following an approach from churches in central St Albans concerned about levels of rough sleeping, and is overseen by a management group comprising trustees and other representatives. Due to COVID restrictions this winter, we were unable to run our usual dormitory-style accommodation from Trinity URC, but instead provided accommodation for up to 4 rough sleepers in self-contained cabins, These were located at Emmaus St Albans, who kindly provided space and support. The accommodation was largely funded by a grant from central government, administered via Homelessness Link, with the Charity underwriting the project and meeting the balance of costs. Accommodation was provided every night from early January to mid April 2021, with a total of 17 individuals helped, using 48 volunteers. As most public premises were closed by lockdown during this period, the cabins were supplemented by daytime provision at Trinity URC.

The Charity's funding benefits the direct recipients of the services provided at the Night Shelter and also has indirect impacts on the wider community. We encourage charitable giving by local people, whether through volunteering or through fundraising and donations. Many of our supporters and fundraisers are young people, who want to help homeless and vulnerable people.

Our support for the Night Shelter over many years has helped improve the lives of homeless people, by enabling them to address their personal issues and live more settled lives, in turn helping them to play a fuller part in the local community.

Additional government funding during the Coronavirus crisis has temporarily eased homelessness as accommodation was provided for known rough sleepers. However we are aware that people are becoming homeless all the time, and not all those moved into accommodation are able to sustain this. To help address these issues, the Charity is exploring ways of supporting homeless people move into more settled living arrangements and employment: following research into local needs and provision by other charitable and statutory agencies, we have identified homelessness prevention, mental health support, move on accommodation and employment support as potential areas where we may best direct our support. We are actively involved in discussions with local stakeholders, including local council and health services, and local charities, to further explore these opportunities.

We continue to maintain strong relationships with other local charities and recognize that in many areas we are working to the same purposes. Links have been strengthened through the Coronavirus response, and we are working together to build in these. We

also continue to offer grant funding available to other organisations where these will deliver our aims and objectives. During 2020/21 we made grants to St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge, to support the provision of accommodation for those homeless through domestic abuse, and to Herts Young Homeless, to help fund a support worker at a new transition home for young people.

DIRECTORS

The Directors for the year ending March 2021 were:

Kerry Pollard (Chairman to October 2020)
David Lane (Chairman from October 2020)
Peter Graham (Vice Chairman)
Lindsey McLeod (Treasurer)
Jacqueline Button (Secretary)
Lucy Gaygusuz
Simon Carver
Julie Inglis (to October 2020)
Rachel McFarlane
Richard Upton

The Directors have complied with the duty laid out in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the Board:

David Lane

Date:

Independent examiner's report to the Directors of Open Door – St Albans

To assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, I have examined the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021. These comprise the Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheet and related notes, and are compiled from the books and records and information provided to me.

This report is made to the Company's Board of Directors, as a body, and comprises those financial statements and matters agreed for this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Board of Directors as a body, for my work or for this report.

These statements are compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Susan Ailles

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Donations and Grants Received		125,331	70,720
less Expenditure on services		<u>(121,086)</u>	<u>(69,491)</u>
		4,245	1,229
less Other Operating costs		<u>(2,194)</u>	<u>(3,472)</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2	2,051	(2,243)
Interest receivable		<u>329</u>	<u>1,623</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		2,380	(620)
Tax on deficit on ordinary activities	3	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AFTER TAXATION		2,380	(620)
Retained surplus brought forward		<u>342,301</u>	<u>342,921</u>
RETAINED SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>344,681</u>	<u>342,301</u>

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds	
	Year ended 31.3.21		Year ended 31.3.20	
	General	Development Fund	General	Development Fund
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations Received	88,331		70,720	
Grant	32,000		-	
Legacy	5,000			
Investment income	329		1,623	
	<u>125,660</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,343</u>	<u>-</u>
RESOURCES USED				
Homeless support activities	54,218		5,279	
Grants for Housing costs and Homeless Support	46,868		62,212	
Other Grants	20,000		2,000	
Administration	2,194		3,472	
Fundraising costs	-		-	
	<u>123,280</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,963</u>	<u>-</u>
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES	2,380		(620)	
Fund Balances brought forward	280,859	61,442	281,479	61,442
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	<u>283,239</u>	<u>61,442</u>	<u>280,859</u>	<u>61,442</u>

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and deposits		358,273	352,876
Debtors		17,656	3,630
LIABILITIES:			
amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(31,248)</u>	<u>(14,205)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>344,681</u>	<u>342,301</u>
RESERVES:	6		
General Fund		2283,239	280,859
Development Fund		61,442	61,442
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>344,681</u>	<u>342,301</u>

The Company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

.....

Approved by the Board on

OPEN DOOR – ST ALBANS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the SORP 2015 Accounting and Reporting by Charities. Turnover represents the gross value of donations received. Donations for housing costs are all made to Hightown Housing Association Ltd in support of the Open Door Homelessness Service at 8, Bricket Road, St Albans.

2 Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)

The operating surplus for the year ended 31 March 2021 is £2,380. There were no reporting fees for accountancy, and no directors' emoluments or other benefits accruing to Directors.

3 Taxation

The Company is a registered charity with no trading activities, and therefore not subject to corporation tax.

4 Debtors and Creditors:

The following debtors and creditors were held at 31 March.

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Debtors:		
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	2,962	2,656
Legacy	5,000	-
Others	6,856	975
Prepayment for counselling	2,667	
Creditors:		
Hightown -grants for homeless services	11,384	12,992
Grant approved – Herts Young Homeless	10,000	-
Other Services	9,864	1,213

5 Company Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

6 Related Parties

The following related party interests have been identified, and transactions incurred.

Trustee	Related party	Transaction
Kerry Pollard	Wife is Trustee, St Albans & Hertsmere Women's Refuge	Grant £10,000

7 Remuneration

During the financial year Lucy Gaygusuz, company Director and charity Trustee, has received payment totalling £6,419 for consultancy work scoping new projects, coordinating with the Council, Hightown and other charities the provision of services during lockdown, and management of the volunteer-led winter beds.

Apart from these payments, and the related parties transactions identified in note 6, no director or any party related to the has received any remuneration, expenses or other benefit during the year.

8 General Reserves

Movements on General Reserves are as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2021 was £283,239, and on the Development Fund was £61,442.

Reserves Policy

It is the Charity's policy to aim to have sufficient funds in its General Fund to cover at least the expenditure commitments for the following year. Our budget for known projects and running costs is £95k for 2021/22. The General Fund is held to support the day to day needs of homeless people staying at Open Door Night Shelter, or to enable the Charity to give grants for other activities or projects which support homeless and vulnerable people, within the terms of our charitable purposes and our statutory powers.

The Charity also holds a Development Fund account to provide for the long-term refurbishment and development of facilities to support its charitable services, including the premises at 8 Bricket Road, which is leased to Hightown Housing Association by St Albans City and District Council at a peppercorn rent. This Fund stands at £61,442 as at 31 March 2021, and represents the balance of funding following the refurbishment of 8 Bricket Road in 2010. .

The higher level of general reserves was built up following is a series of exceptional circumstances in the period from 2010. During this time, the Charity has benefited from reductions in the net annual running costs of the Open Door Night Shelter services, largely due to increased income from higher occupancy; continued generous donations, legacies and fundraising, and from some unplanned grant income to support certain specific services provided at Open Door.

The Directors' reserves policy in recent years has reflected their concern that a service that relies so heavily on public sector grants risks losing funding in a time of economic uncertainty. Open Door Night Shelter is a valued public service and its public funding has held up well despite government cuts since 2010. Grants have indeed been reduced and refocused in recent years, in part to get better outcomes and better value for money for funders, but there has also been recognition that Open Door provides essential services to vulnerable homeless people and merits continued resourcing. In addition, individuals staying overnight at Open Door benefit from a housing benefit entitlement which covers the basic cost of their room. There remains a risk of further reductions from the current levels of public funding, including changes in the way some services are commissioned and therefore funded.

The Trustees recognise the need to use its reserves to help address the continuing issues facing homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, in the St Albans area .Whilst support for the night shelter and drop in services provided at 8 Bricket Road remains a core activity, the Charity has the scope to use its reserves to fund and support new initiatives which help vulnerable people in St Albans, particularly the homeless, change their lives for the better, and to find suitable short or long term housing solutions which meet their particular needs. These may be either at or away from Bricket Road, with Hightown and/or in conjunction with other charitable organisations. We fully fund the Street Outreach worker, and underwrite the Winter Beds project. We have also initiated agrants programme to deliver our objectives in partnership with other local organisations, and during 2020/21 made grants of £10,000 each to fund a housing support worker at St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge; and a support worker in a transition home for young people, run by Herts Young Homeless. During the past year we were able to draw on our reserves to respond to emergency needs arising from the COVID pandemic. We also continued to fund research into opportunities to improve the coordination of services meeting the needs of people who are homeless or vulnerable, and to develop new support initiatives.

We will draw on reserves as we develop the portfolio of new projects based on these research findings and the changing homelessness situation, over the future months and years. We will also extend our fundraising activities to support new ventures if appropriate.