ASHIANA NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1042440

Details

Other names	ASHIANA
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02972903
Registered	1994-11-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Suite 204 Oceanair House 750/760 High Road Leytonstone London E11 3AW
Phone	02085390427
Email	info@ashiana.org.uk
Website	www.ashiana.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE AND PREVENT THE POVERTY, DISTRESS SICKNESS AND SUFFERING BY:- 1) PROVIDING SUPPORT TO WOMEN, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY OF ASIAN ORIGIN WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OR ARE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED OR ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SEXUAL ABUSE OR HARM. 2) PROVIDING TEMPORARY HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION TO SUCH WOMEN AND BY ANY OTHER SUCH MEANS AS SHALL FURTHER THE OBJECTS OF THE COMPANY. 3) PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THOSE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OR ARE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED OR ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SEXUAL ABUSE OR HARM. 4) PROVIDING ADVICE, COUNSELLING, SUPPORT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Activities: -Providing support to women, particularly but not exclusively of Asian origin who have been victims of violence, including those who have suffered or are likely to suffer physical, emotional, sexual abuse or harm. -Providing temporary hostel accommodation to such women and by any other such means as shall further the objects of the company.-Providing advice, counselling, support, training.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE LONDON
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,656,350	£2,850,360	£2,463,811	32
2024-03-31	£2,557,158	£2,495,336	£2,657,821	28
2023-03-31	£2,544,474	£2,193,344	£2,595,999	28
2022-03-31	£2,006,621	£1,946,642	£2,244,869	25
2021-03-31	£2,217,326	£1,883,276	£2,184,890	25

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Professor Aisha K Gill	Chair	2024-06-04
ANJUM SHAHEEN BASHIR		
Halima Zaman		2023-11-02
Malkit Kaur Panesar		2026-04-29
SABINA MAHMOOD		
Tanoushka Kaur		2024-06-04

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ASHIANA NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1042440

Accounts

ASHIANA NETWORK

Company No. 02972903 (England & Wales)
Charity no. 1042440

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd
308 Ewell Road
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 7AL

ASHIANA NETWORK

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ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The management committee presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable law and the requirements of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

1. Reference & Administrative Information

Status
The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The board approved a change of company name at a special meeting on 22 February 2006. The name changed from Ashiana Project to Ashiana Network.

Charity Number 1042440

Company Number 02972903

Registered Office and operational address
Oceanaire House, High Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 3AW

Board Members
Sabina Mahmood – Chair
Anjum Bashir
Urmi Medhi (resigned 04-09-2025)
Rashmi Nigam
Halima Zaman
Professor Aisha K Gill (joined 04-06-2024)
Tanoushka Kaur Treasurer (joined 04-06-2024)

Chief Executive
Shaminder Ubhi

Auditors
Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd, 308 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7AL.

Banker

National Westminster Bank Plc.

2. How we are fulfilling the public benefit requirements of the Charities Act 2011

As a registered charity, the public benefits of our work are directly related to our aims, which seek to improve the lives of primarily, South Asian, Turkish & Middle Eastern women, by reducing the impact of domestic violence upon them. Our housing, advocacy, legal, educational, counselling and preventative work provides direct benefit to both the recipients of our services and the public generally through contributing positively to a better society. Our services are free and open to the section of the public who we exist to help.

We plan to introduce an annual audit of our charitable activities as well as consider how to promote public benefit on an ongoing basis.

In forming our objectives, the Trustees confirm that it has given due regard to the Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit.

3. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document
Ashiana Network is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Ashiana Network's business and governance is conducted under the framework of its memorandum of articles of association.

Recruitment and appointment of management committee/training
Board members are selected on the basis of the experience, skills and expertise they bring to further the main objectives of Ashiana. The induction process for new members includes the provision of information on their roles and responsibilities, policy and procedures, meetings with the Director and staff, and site visits. One-third of the board members must resign at each annual general meeting. The retiring members are eligible for re-election.

Risk Management
Ashiana is committed to identifying and managing potential and probable risks that the organisation faces. The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for management of risk, and it is an essential part of the organisation's effective governance. Monitoring known risks enables the Board and Senior Management Team to make informed decisions and take timely action.

The principal risks facing the charity are financial and operational.

Financial:

As a small 'led by and for' specialist provider, Ashiana has limited resources and faces an increasingly competitive external environment. National research Imkaan (2020) shows that 'by and for' organisations faced disproportionate pressures during the pandemic with a 39% reduction in funding due to historical austerity cuts with organisations operating with one-third reduced staffing capacity.

Research conducted by The Centre for Regional, Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University mapped funding for the women and girls sector and found that in 2021, a total of £4.1 billion worth of grants was awarded to charities, but the women and girls sector received just 1.8% of these (Mapping the UK Women and Girls Sector and its Funding: Where Does the Money Go?, Rosa, the National Lottery Community Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation)

A recent study provided in-depth evidence about the contributions, experiences, and challenges of by-and-for organisations in England and Wales. Key findings indicate that 'by-and-for organisations provide a critical anchor and commitment to their communities. A lack of core funding and long-term relationships with funders leads to staff burnout, a heavy reliance on volunteer time, and service precarity for the most marginalised. Resourcing is a significant and multifaceted barrier for by-and-for organisations. The specific challenge they face is that they do not emerge through traditional professional or charity routes and are operating on a shoestring, which means they are coming to an unlevel playing field in terms of securing funding' (New Economics Foundation September 2025).

Payments by local authorities, government bodies, trusts and foundations are often paid in arrears and are based on the achievement of targets and outcomes. This has ongoing impact on cashflow and budgeting.

The on-going cost of living crisis continues to impact Ashiana and its service users. Increasingly, we are having to tap into reserves to fund existing and new initiatives as expenditure pressures mount and income remains stagnant. More recently we have reviewed our organisational structure and staffing levels to reduce the reliance on reserves; this has meant difficult decisions regarding staff redundancies.

A significant portion of our contracts are due to end in March 2026 which poses a major financial risk. Our primary focus is to engage in recommissioning processes and to seek alternative sources of income.

Our plan to reduce and mitigate the risks include:

- Preparing and submitting tenders/applications as necessary
- Maintaining robust Quality Systems
- Ensuring we meet all contractual obligations
- Continue to review organisational structure and staffing
- Having a spread of services by size and service type
- Maintaining good relationships with commissioners/funders
- Being responsive to changes in the market
- Performance monitoring in place
- Robust tendering for our own services
- Remaining competitive in terms of quality of services, value for money and contract price
- Clear messaging about our unique selling point
- Building on partnerships such as the London VAWG consortium and the OYA consortium

Operational:

Operational risks range from recruitment and retention issues, safeguarding, inadequate monitoring and evaluation of projects, lack of contract compliance, inadequate business planning/continuity planning, poor response to national or global emergencies i.e., post-pandemic, cost of living crisis, data breaches, reputation, public policy. We reduce and mitigate these by implementing appropriate policies and procedures, staff induction, training, and supervision. For example, we are responding to the recruitment crisis in the sector by sharing concerns with partners and stakeholders, coming together to seek solutions and share good practice. We ensure processes are in place for all contract compliance and regulatory frameworks e.g., health and safety regulations.

Risk management is ongoing and embedded in governance and operational procedures with the following in place:-

1. Annual Risk Register
This register identifies the potential and probable risks faced by the organisation and each risk is given an impact and likelihood rating, as well as an overall net risk. The SMT monitor the Risk Register on an ongoing basis, and it is reviewed by the Board every quarter.

2. Business Continuity Plan
A Business Continuity Plan is in place that identifies the critical business processes and major risks to these. The plan identifies the control measures in place and the person responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken. The plan is reviewed by the SMT on an ongoing basis.

3. Annual audited accounts of the Company
The financial statements of the organisation are audited on an annual basis to ensure appropriate accounting procedures are in place, financial statements are free from material misstatement or fraudulent activity.

Structure
The Board bears overall responsibility for Ashiana Network. The Board delegates the day-to-day running of the organisation to the CEO, Shaminder Ubhi.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
The remuneration of the charity's key management personnel is set by the Board of Trustees, taking into account the charity's financial position and the amount paid for comparable roles in comparable organisations.

Our Purpose:

- To empower Black and minoritised women, particularly South Asian, Turkish and Middle eastern women who are experiencing VAWG with culturally informed advice, advocacy, counselling, immigration advice and safe housing - enabling them to make positive and informed choices
- To raise awareness of VAWG and carry out preventative work with the community as a whole.

Our Vision

- For all women and girls to have the right to live free from violence and abuse.
- For VAWG to be recognised as a form of systemic violence perpetrated within a heteronormative patriarchy where Black and minoritised women's experiences are compounded by structural inequality.
- For Ashiana to be recognised in its commitment to responding from a rights-led focus, enshrining the principles and ethos of Ashiana as an intersectional feminist, holistic, trauma-informed service.

4. OBJECTIVES

Ashiana runs six refuges with a total of 29 bedspaces; two specifically for women experiencing harmful practices. This multi award winning project was the first of its kind in the UK and is highly innovative in terms of addressing an area of significant need not met in other refuge provision. We designate a number of bedspaces for women with no recourse to public funds across these refuges and provide legal immigration advice. We offer advice, support and counselling services for women and girls who are experiencing VAWG, enabling them to make informed decisions and exit violent relationships.

We deliver a range of awareness raising workshops for people in the community and training on VAWG for professionals in the voluntary and statutory sector.

5. OUR VALUES

Our shared values are embedded in Ashiana; they set out the broad principles within which we all work, make our decisions, strive to deliver the best quality services, and hold each other to account. Our core values are:

I. *CARING & COMPASSIONATE*

We are a caring and compassionate organisation. We show empathy, understanding and patience to anyone who comes in contact with us, including staff, survivors, and agencies to build resilience and strength. Whatever the outcome, being compassionate and caring creates a positive impact and a feeling of empowerment for all women and girls

II. *DIVERSE*

As a specialist 'led by and for'[1] organisation we embed an intersectional approach and anti-racist practice in all our work. We stand for, and operate, within intersectional feminist principles, adopting a holistic and trauma-informed framework that celebrates difference, respect, and representation.

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[1] ***By and For refers to lived experience organisations for example, organisations representing Black and minoritised women and girls and disabled women among other groups of women with specific intersectional needs, that are not met by generic provision because of the nature of the services they require. Staffing, governance, and membership structures of these organisations emerge historically from grassroots struggle and reflect the women and girls they serve.***

III. SOCIAL JUSTICE

Collectively[2] we address social injustice and challenge oppression, structural inequality, and systemic racism. We stand up for women and girls that are so often denied their rights and freedoms. We will always advocate for fairness and equality in all that we do.

IV. COLLABORATION

By collaborating with survivors, agencies, and each other, we can produce the best outcome for women and girls. This approach ensures the voice of women and girls is at the heart of all our work.

6. OUR ETHOS

Women Only Space

We acknowledge that many women at risk of VAWG will want to seek support from 'women' only services where they will also have access to 'women' only space. Our services are trauma informed and we recognize the emotional, psychological, and physical impact of trauma caused by violence and abuse and understanding the nuances within Black and minoritised communities. We provide safe 'women' only spaces to ensure women are not re-traumatised but rather supported in their recovery and resilience.

Ashiana acknowledges that not all women experience VAWG in the same ways, and that Black and minoritised often face racialised abuse, and/or abuse based on discrimination against other aspects of their identities. We also acknowledge that Black and minoritised women experience additional barriers to seeking and accessing support for VAWG. Therefore, all responses to survivors should be adapted to ensure they are safe, accessible, and appropriate for each individual woman.

We acknowledge that many women at risk of VAWG will want to seek support from 'women' only services where they will also have access to 'women' only space. We will also ensure that the needs of Black and minoritised women are addressed across all services in line with the ethos of 'led by and for'. This provides for an environment where women are safer and feel as they are being listened to and heard.

The nature of our services means that, invariably, we tackle poverty, disadvantage, racism, inequality, and social exclusion. The women and girls we support present with complex and multiple needs including self-harming, suicide, depression, eating disorders, insecure immigration status, language needs. Our aim will be to support and advise them in order for them to make informed decisions and choices that enable them to exit violent relationships e.g., reporting to police, pursuing civil/criminal legal cases, taking out injunctions, access to refuges, welfare benefits, health, housing, specialist immigration advice.

Our woman-centred, holistic approach will ensure we meet the needs of our clients. Our support planning, risk assessment and outcomes framework tools are utilised by staff to make assessments, draw up appropriate action plans, manage risk, address needs and monitor progress through regular sessions and reviews; enabling clients is achieve their hopes and aspirations. Every effort is made to ensure the clients feel they are in control of the process and see it as something helpful and empowering.

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[2] ***By 'collective' we mean Ashiana staff working in various roles, either advocating for clients directly or addressing wider policy/practice through our partnerships with stakeholders and other organisations, in particular, 2nd Tier organisations.***

7. ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Ashiana delivers a wide range of specialist services to support women and girls experiencing violence and abuse.

Key activities include:

- Providing crisis and second-stage refuge accommodation, including designated spaces for women with **No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)**
- Rehousing support and move-on preparation, helping women transition safely to independent living
- Specialist intersectional advice and advocacy on complex cases within institutions and statutory services
- Trauma-informed counselling and group-based peer support, promoting mental health and recovery
- Immigration advice and support for women with NRPF, enabling access to legal status and related services
- Community-based support, including educational workshops, self-help and faith groups
- Education and awareness-raising on **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**, including harmful practices

Housing Services Snapshot

- **26 women supported** across 6 refuges (increase from previous year)
- **21 had No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)**
- **First-stage refuges**: Kyra (8-bed, forced marriage), Saranaya (5-bed, forced marriage), Zafina (5-bed), Himaya (3-bed)
- **Second-stage refuges**: Ariana (5-bed), Noorah (3-bed) for lower-intensity support
- **Support provided:** life skills, ESOL classes, immigration advice, counselling, advocacy, resettlement
- **Rising trend:** higher levels of mental health need, including suicidal ideation
- Renovation of **Resource Centre** nearing completion to enhance support delivery

Impact:

Ashiana's refuge pathway provides a safe, culturally sensitive and structured transition for women from crisis to independence. Survivors leave equipped with practical skills, improved confidence and secure immigration status.

Advocacy & Advice Services Snapshot

- **491 women and girls supported** across a range of VAWG issues
- **165 with NRPF**, **151 with language needs**, **53 with disabilities**
- **114 supported with housing**, including **79 homeless**
- Sharp increase in **high-risk cases**: suicidal ideation, non-fatal strangulation, threats to kill, self-harm
- Increase in **sexual abuse disclosures** and **referrals from SOIT officers**
- £6,000 **NatWest Circle Fund** grant supporting women in crisis
- **100 Vodafone SIMs** distributed for survivor safety
- Increased engagement with **young women** through schools and colleges
- Ongoing **advocacy with social services** to secure Section 17 support for women with NRPF

Impact:
Ashiana provides life-saving advocacy for women who are too often silenced by statutory systems. We challenge systemic failures, prevent homelessness, and ensure survivors have safe, informed choices.

Legal Services Snapshot

- **112 women supported** with immigration advice
- **73 achieved positive outcomes** (settled status, humanitarian protection, asylum, lifting of NRPF conditions)
- Specialist advice on complex applications, often outside Legal Aid scope
- Support includes **housing, healthcare, social care, police and court access**
- Partnerships with **Family Law solicitors** for divorce and non-molestation orders (often pro bono due to Legal Aid restrictions)
- Ongoing **training delivered to partner organisations** on immigration law changes
- Key challenges: diminished Legal Aid provision, capacity gaps in immigration & family law

Impact:
Ashiana's Legal Service fills a critical gap, ensuring vulnerable women with insecure status can regularise their stay, access protection, and rebuild safe, independent lives.

Counselling Services Snapshot

- **117 women supported** through one-to-one trauma-informed counselling
- **1,500+ hours** of therapy delivered
- **90% attendance rate** due to hybrid model (online, phone, in-person)
- **6 funded projects**, including *CouRAGEous* (specialist youth counselling for 14+)
- **50+ women on waiting list**; referrals closed twice due to demand
- Rising **complex needs**: multiple abuse histories, safeguarding alerts, mental health crises
- Longer therapy contracts (**20–30 sessions**) improve recovery outcomes

Impact:
Ashiana's counselling service offers accessible, culturally sensitive trauma therapy for women who cannot access mainstream provision. Survivors report reduced trauma symptoms, improved resilience, and stronger recovery.

Service User Feedback

Coming to Ashiana was not an easy decision, but it turned out to be the best decision I ever made. Here, I found safety, support, and respect — everything I needed during a very difficult time.

I want to thank all the caseworkers for their emotional and professional support. You were there for me every step of the way, and each one of you helped me overcome fear and pain.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks especially to my caseworker, who accompanied me to court. I was very scared that day — scared of the situation, of the confrontation, and of everything happening around me. But your presence gave me comfort and strength. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and for standing by me in that important moment. I will never forget it.

I am truly grateful for all the support and services I received at Ashiana. Because of you, I am now able to move forward with confidence and hope

HOUSING SERVICES

Kyra, Saranaya, Noorah, Zafina, Ariana and Himaya

Ashiana currently provides safe, temporary accommodation across six schemes in Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Havering.

Eligibility and Approach

Our refuges support South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women aged 16–35 experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage or harmful practices. Ashiana is proudly led by and for Black and minoritised women, and our culturally sensitive, linguistically diverse approach enables survivors to disclose sensitive issues such as honour-based violence, forced marriage and harmful practices with confidence.

Specialist Refuge Provision

- *Kyra* (8-bed) and *Saranaya* (5-bed) are the only national refuges specialising in forced marriage.
- *Zafina* (5-bed) and *Himaya* (3-bed) provide high-level first-stage support.
- *Ariana* (5-bed) and *Noorah* (3-bed) are second-stage refuges offering lower-intensity support to help women prepare for independent living.

This two-stage pathway provides survivors with stability, safety, and structured transition towards independence.

Support Provided

Residents receive confidential, culturally specific advice and advocacy on legal, financial, housing and personal matters. Support includes:

- Life skills and independence training
- ESOL classes to aid integration
- High levels of emotional support tailored to each woman's needs
- Internal immigration advice from our in-house solicitors
- Access to trauma-informed counselling

In the past year, mental health needs have risen significantly, with increasing numbers of women presenting with suicidal ideation. To meet this demand, we plan to raise funds to reinstate a dedicated Mental Health Support Worker, a role that proved vital before funding ended.

Service Use (April 2024–March 2025)

- **26 new clients accepted** (an increase on the previous year)
- **21 had No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)** – mainly women on spousal, dependant, student, work or visitor visas
- Many women arrived without GP registration, bank accounts, or experience of public transport. Others were restricted from leaving home alone. Staff support them patiently to navigate these barriers and build confidence in a new way of life.

Immigration Support

The presence of two in-house solicitors has transformed outcomes for women with insecure immigration status. Survivors now liaise with a single named professional, avoiding the need to repeat traumatic experiences. Many clients have secured positive outcomes as a direct result of this holistic, in-house service.

Looking Ahead
The renovation of our Resource Centre is nearing completion and will soon provide a dedicated space for client support, training, and community building.

Impact
Ashiana's refuge provision is more than a place of safety: it is a pathway to recovery and independence. By combining accommodation, advocacy, immigration advice, counselling and resettlement support, we empower women to heal from trauma, rebuild their confidence, and transition successfully to independent living.

Service User Feedback:

"Ashiana gave me hope, strength, and a second chance. Without their support, my survival, education, and growth would have been impossible. They changed my life".

ADVOCACY & ADVICE SERVICE

Ashiana provides a trauma-informed, culturally specific advice and advocacy service for Black and minoritised women, particularly those from South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern backgrounds. Our service is person-centred and non-judgemental, enabling women and girls to make informed decisions about their futures, whether they choose to leave an abusive situation or remain in a relationship. We provide robust safety planning and empower women to build confidence in their choices.

Service Delivery (April 2024 – March 2025)
This year, we supported **491 women and girls** experiencing a range of VAWG issues, including:

- **165** with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
- **151** with language support needs
- **53** disclosing disabilities
- **114** requiring housing options support, including **79** who were homeless

Key Trends and Needs

- **Rising risk and complexity**: We have seen sharp increases in high-risk cases involving suicidal ideation, non-fatal strangulation, threats to kill and self-harm. Long NHS counselling waiting lists mean our team carries significant emotional as well as practical support roles.
- **Mental health and trauma**: Many clients present with deep-rooted trauma, often linked to domestic abuse or childhood sexual abuse. Too often, mainstream services silence Black and minoritised women by prescribing medication rather than addressing trauma through therapeutic support.
- **Sexual abuse referrals**: We have seen a significant rise in sexual abuse disclosures and referrals from SOIT officers, showing increasing recognition of our specialist role.

- **Systemic barriers**:
  - Women with NRPF face persistent challenges in securing housing or Section 17 support. Staff frequently challenge social services on unlawful gatekeeping practices, but positive outcomes remain limited.
  - Perpetrators are increasingly "using the system" to accuse women of perpetration, furthering their control.
  - Services often display "victim-blaming" attitudes, expecting women to change behaviour while failing to hold perpetrators accountable.

Practical Safety Innovations

- A £6,000 flexible grant from the NatWest Circle Fund is enabling emergency crisis support.
- 100 donated Vodafone SIMs have been distributed, helping women change numbers to avoid surveillance and stay safe when leaving abuse.

Advocacy and Partnership Work
Our advocacy focuses heavily on women with NRPF, particularly in relation to housing and Section 17 entitlements. Staff are highly skilled in challenging statutory agencies, though systemic failures continue to place significant strain on survivors and on our service. Alongside casework, we promote our work in schools and colleges, increasing awareness among young women, and continue to engage with borough VAWG leads and commissioners to ensure local responses meet women's needs.
Impact

Despite limited resources, Ashiana provides a lifeline for women who would otherwise be silenced or left unsupported. By combining practical advice, advocacy, safety planning and emotional support, we help women navigate complex systems, challenge injustice, and move towards safety, stability and empowerment.

Feedback from our advocate:

One of the client's homelessness applications had been refused by two local authorities and one was now trying to discharge their duties and evict her from the emergency accommodation as well.

After a long process of advocacy and repeated refusals, we linked the client with a housing solicitor, and the case was taken to court for a judicial review. Today, the judge made an interim order saying that the Local Authority cannot evict the client.

The client was packed and ready to leave by 2pm, thinking she had no choice — so this decision was a huge relief for her and her twin children. We'd been waiting since the morning, and getting this news brought such a positive end to the day.

The Council will now need to attend a court hearing on 24th June as the defendant.

The client has shown enormous courage in taking the case this far, and I think she should be so proud of herself for standing her ground.

LEGAL SERVICE

Ashiana's specialist Immigration Service provides free, high-quality legal advice and advocacy for women with insecure immigration status who cannot afford private representation and are often excluded from Legal Aid. Many of our clients are destitute and have **No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)**, leaving them highly vulnerable to further abuse and exploitation.

Delivery and Support

Our team prepares and submits a wide range of immigration applications, from lifting NRPF conditions to complex cases outside the Immigration Rules. We also support women through asylum, settlement, humanitarian protection and change of conditions applications. Alongside immigration advice, clients are assisted to access safe housing, healthcare (including mental health), social care, police reporting and the courts.

Context and Challenges

Immigration law has undergone significant changes in the past year, including the **Migrant Victim Domestic Abuse Concession**, the **Nationality and Borders Act 2022** and the **Illegal Migration Act 2023**. These have affected eligibility, appeal rights and introduced fast-track removal processes. Despite diminishing Legal Aid provision and many firms withdrawing from immigration work, Ashiana continues to bridge this critical gap. Our staff remain fully trained and updated on all legislative changes.

Impact (April 2024 – March 2025)

- **112 women** received immigration advice
- **73 women achieved successful outcomes**, including grants of settled status, humanitarian protection, asylum and lifting of NRPF conditions

Without Ashiana's legal service, many of these women would have remained at risk, unable to secure safety or stability.

Partnerships and Capacity Building

We have established strong links with Family Law solicitors who provide pro bono support for divorce and non-molestation order cases, which are increasingly difficult to access due to Legal Aid restrictions. Ashiana also delivers training on immigration law changes to partner organisations, strengthening sector knowledge and ensuring women across London benefit from accurate, up-to-date advice.

Conclusion

The Legal Service is a vital lifeline, empowering survivors to regularise their status, access protection and begin to rebuild their lives free from abuse.
Service User Feedback:

"When I first came to Ashiana, I didn't have any hopes and felt very deflated with the way my life turned out. Although I was assured by my caseworker that they were working on my case, I felt unable to have any confidence as for so many years, as even my own family members had lied to me. I didn't trust anyone at this stage. However, my caseworker took time to understand my situation and feelings and presented my story to the home office, which eventually led to my successful decision".

COUNSELLING SERVICES

Ashiana provides specialist, trauma-informed counselling for women and girls aged 14+ who have experienced domestic abuse, sexual violence, childhood sexual abuse, or harmful practices including forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation. Counselling is delivered by accredited therapists and trained volunteer counsellors in multiple languages, ensuring cultural and linguistic accessibility. We are a member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

Reach and Impact (April 2024 – March 2025)

- **117 women supported**
- **1,500+ hours of one-to-one therapy delivered**
- Clients from across London, with referrals from Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Tower Hamlets and pan-London partners
- **90% attendance rate** to therapy sessions, with most survivors completing their therapy contracts

Projects and Specialist Work

We currently deliver six funded projects, including the **CouRAGEus Project**, which provides counselling to young women aged 14+. This project focuses on early intervention, prevention and empowerment, building resilience and self-agency among young women, many of whom have witnessed or experienced violence or harmful practices. The project has enabled us to employ specialist youth counsellors with expertise in working therapeutically with young people.

Challenges and Trends

Demand for free, specialist counselling continues to outstrip capacity:

- A **waiting list of over 50 women** has forced us to close referrals twice this year.
- We are seeing rising levels of **complex trauma**, including women with histories of both childhood and adult abuse.
- Increased **safeguarding alerts** reflect both the severity of cases and our vigilance in identifying risks.
- Women often present with acute mental health distress, including suicidal ideation, requiring intensive support.

Innovations and Responses

To address these challenges, we have:

- Adopted a **hybrid therapy model** (online, telephone and in-person), which has significantly reduced missed sessions and increased access for women with childcare, mobility or safety barriers.
- Extended therapy contracts to **20–30 sessions**, leading to deeper recovery and more sustained mental health improvements.
- Strengthened counsellor training and supervision to safeguard staff wellbeing and reduce secondary trauma.
- Continued fundraising to expand capacity and reduce waiting times, aiming to provide longer-term therapy for all who need it.

Impact

Ashiana's counselling service provides a lifeline for women and girls who would otherwise face long NHS waiting lists or culturally inappropriate provision. By offering accessible, specialist trauma-informed therapy, we help survivors recover from abuse, build resilience, and move forward in safety and confidence.

Service User Feedback

'I really don't know what would have happened or what I would have done to myself without my therapist help this past year. Time with my therapist provided me a safe space to work through the darkest thoughts and worst parts of my mind, without judgement and shame.

I now see light at the end of the tunnel, before I received therapy, there was only a dark abyss filled with despair. I feel hopeful about the future ahead, with a newfound desire to create a fulfilling life for myself. I am extremely grateful for the service Ashiana has provided and am sad it must come to an end.

I still have a lot of unresolved issues to work through, but with time and patience I hope to implement all the tools I've learnt over the past year, be kinder to myself and focus on my happiness. Thank you so much'.

EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Our education and training work is conducted at a variety of levels with both statutory and voluntary agencies aimed at raising awareness about VAWG. Workshops, training and support groups are provided on topics such as domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour-based violence.

Ashiana has had a busy and productive period in raising awareness of all forms of VAWG in a variety of settings and in a wide variety of ways. We delivered 6 training sessions to 130 people from educational establishments such as schools and colleges and our service users. The training focused on VAWG and in particular Harmful Practices and Immigration.

We delivered awareness raising sessions for women in our refuges on a range of issues.

8. DEVELOPMENT

We are renovating our second property in Redbridge, which we hope to use as an Office in 2026.

9. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Sustain and enhance existing services to meet increasing demand
- Review and strengthen all aspects of governance
- Develop the *Experts by Experience* model to involve service users in shaping services
- Remodel Ashiana's new property for use as a combined office and Resource Centre
- Build and strengthen partnerships/consortia to improve practice and secure funding
- Explore expansion of services for women with complex mental health needs

10. STAFF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & WELLBEING

Supporting staff wellbeing and managing staffing challenges remains a core focus. Ashiana is operating within a **sector-wide recruitment crisis**, which has impacted some services—for example, during the year we temporarily closed referrals to the advice. legal and counselling services to manage capacity.

To respond, we have introduced innovative roles, such as the *Associate Counsellor*, providing volunteer counsellors with access to training and professional development. Retention is strengthened by ensuring a positive working environment, appropriate support, and competitive benefits, including salary uplifts, annual leave, peer and line manager supervision, clinical supervision, employee assistance programs, informal weekly catchups, and team-building activities.

These initiatives aim to **support staff wellbeing, prevent burnout, and maintain high-quality services** despite increasing complexity of referrals and a challenging operating environment.

11. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Ashiana Network is committed to delivering **safe, high-quality services** across housing, advice, and counselling. We strive to be an outstanding organisation for service users, partners, and stakeholders.

Our quality framework includes:

- **Investors in People (Gold)**
- **National Domestic Violence Service Standards**
- **Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards (Distinction)**
- **Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)**

We are currently awaiting the outcome of our **Level 3 accreditation**. These accreditations underpin our commitment to best practice, continuous improvement, and positive outcomes for all service users.

12. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

Ascent Specialist Refuge

The Ascent Specialist Refuge project is funded by London Councils and was recommissioned in April 2023 for a three-year period to March 2026. Ashiana is the lead partner and Solace Women's Aid, nia Project and IKWRO are delivery partners. Together the partnership provides 39 specialist refuge bedspaces for women with specialist and multiple needs, no recourse to public funds, women with mental health/problematic substance use, sexually exploited and trafficked women.

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Strand (EHP)

The Ascent Ending Harmful Practices is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) and Ashiana is one of 9 delivery partners. The project provides advice and counselling services for those affected by sexual and domestic violence, specifically, Female Genital Mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage and other harmful practices. This work is funded from April 2022 to March 2026.

Ascent Advice & Counselling

The Ascent Advice & Counselling project is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Women & Girls Network, and Ashiana is one of the delivery partners. We provide a range of advice and counselling services to women in London affected by domestic and sexual violence. This work is funded from April 2022 to March 2026.

Casa Project

We commenced delivery of the two-year Move on Programme in October 2019. The funding allows us to support women who access move-on accommodation through this project. The project is funded until March 2026.

Advice & Counselling PLUS

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Solace Women's Aid. This project enables us to expand on our current advice & counselling services. This is funded till 30 September 2025.

DASA – GLA & MOPAC Funded Projects

Mental Health & Webchat

This service provides 1:1 mental health support and group activities for women in our refuges and an online webchat service for women and young girls needing support to exit abusive relationships. This is funded until March 2026.

Second Stage/Move-on Safe Accommodation

This service provides an additional 5 bedspaces of semi-independent accommodation for women moving on from our crisis refuge accommodation. This is funded until March 2026

OYA Refuge, Immigration and Counselling services

Latin American Women's Aid lead on this project with Ashiana, Asha project and LBWP as delivery partners. The two projects include:

1) Refuge case work, immigration and housing advice
2) Therapeutic and counselling services

Ascent GLA Safe Accommodation Project

Asian Women's resource Centre lead on this project. Ashiana is one of the delivery partners providing support to women with NRPF. This funding ends in March 2026.

P&ACT EHP Partnership – (Prevention & Action through Community Engagement & training) Harmful Practices

We are a delivery partner in this project led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre. This project enables us to expand our services for women experiencing harmful practices.

London Holistic Advocacy Wraparound Service – the Life Saving to Life Changing Project

We are a delivery partner in this project which is led by Southall Black Sisters. This project focuses on the provision of support, counselling, legal advice and access to accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds. This funding ends in March 2026.

CouRAGEus Project

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Women & Girls Network. As part of this project, Ashiana delivers Specialist Advocacy for women with multiple needs and BME young women and girls 14-24yrs

WiSER Project

The WiSER Project is led by Solace Women's Aid and as a delivery partner we work with BME women who find it hard to engage with support, who are experiencing violence or abuse and are affected by severe and multiple disadvantages. This project is funded until March 2026.

MHCLG COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund via LAWA

The OYA consortium, comprising of Ashiana, Asha Project, Latin American Women's Refuge and London Black Women's Project, received funding to support its refuge services for the period April to September 2024.

London Borough of Waltham Forest

We were successful in our tender for the re-commissioning of our 13-bed refuge provision in LBWF. The contract is for a three-year term commencing March 2022. A one-year extension was awarded with an end date of March 2027.

Market Place- Waltham Forest

Ashiana is a preferred provider on the Waltham Forest Market Place framework which is led by Solace Women's Aid. This enables us to deliver specialist counselling for women in the borough as and when referrals are made and payment is based on the numbers of clients and sessions delivered.

13. THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED US DURING THE PAST YEAR, IN PARTICULAR:

Asian Women's Resource Centre
Charities Connected
Forced Marriage Unit
Homeless Link
Greater London Authority
GMSP Foundation
Imkaan
Life in London Trust
Latin American Women's Aid
London Borough of Havering
London Borough of Redbridge
London Borough of Waltham Forest
London Councils
London & Quadrant Housing Association
London VAWG Consortium
Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime
Metropolitan Police
Oak Foundation
OYA Consortium
Public Interest Law Centre
Refuge
Solace Women's Aid
Southall Black Sisters
Waltham Forest Liberal Democrats (Secret Santa)
Women's Aid Federation of England
Women & Girls Network
Women's Resource Centre

14. FINANCIAL REVIEW

There was an increase in the activities of the charity in 2024/25. There has been no significant change in the income 3.7%(21.14% 2023/24) from £2,557,158 to £2,656,350 but the expenditure increased by 14.35% (12% 2023/24) from £2,495,336 to £2,850,360..

The total funds held by the charity decreased during the year from £2,657,821 to £2,463,811. These funds are divided for accounting purposes into restricted funds, which represent the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes, and unrestricted funds that are available for the general purposes of the charity. During the year, there was an decrease in the total value of the restricted funds from £23,912 to £492 and an decrease in unrestricted funds from £2,633,909 to £2,463,319..

The principal financial policies adopted during the year are (i) the accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention; (ii) incoming resources relating to grants and material donations are recognised in the period to which they are receivable and (iii) resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis and on the basis that consideration has been received for the expenditure. Full details of the accounting policies adopted during the year are shown in note 1 to the Accounts.

Reserves policy and going concern

The policy of the charity in respect of reserves and major risks is to designate all unrestricted funds where the organisation has been able to identify a timescale for expenditure on specific projects/items. In addition the organisation has established a General Fund for unrestricted funds held by the organisation, which can be used as a contingency against emergency or unplanned expenditure. The Committee believes that by designating funds in this way, they can ensure that the long term plans of the organisation can be realised, and the organisation will be able to fulfil its contractual responsibilities to its staff, funders, users and the wider community.

The reserves fund represents unrestricted general funds which are not committed or tied to any tangible fixed assets held by Ashiana. The Trustees have considered the challenge Ashiana faces with limited, short-term contracts, lack of committed funds and some key services that remain unfunded. As a smaller 'led by and for' organisation we are at further risk of losing contracts, funding and services as we compete against larger generic providers. At the same time, the demand for our specialist services is ever increasing as Black and minoritized women with multiple and complex needs seek our support. Post pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated this situation. It falls on Ashiana to ensure that it has a policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard its financial commitments and to continue to provide essential services to Black and minoritised women in the event that funding is reduced or indeed, completely cut. We will retain sufficient funds in our free reserves to manage short term periods without funding to enable us to deliver services. This will also enable us to plan a service closure slowly so that negative impact to clients is minimised. We will also ensure sufficient funds are retained in our designated fund to enable us to achieve our strategic goal to expand property ownership. Ashiana's forecast reserves through 2023/24 means that the Trustees consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the 2023/24 Annual Report and Financial statements and is confident of Ashiana's ability to remain as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

15. Future Plans

- Sustain and develop existing services
- Review all aspects of Governance
- Develop the Experts by Experience model at Ashiana
- Service development through remodelling Ashiana's new property for use as Office/Resource Centre
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for service
- Explore expansion of our services for women with complex mental health

Asset cover for funds

Note 16 sets out an analysis of the net assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

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

Company law requires the committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the committee members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

Each of the committee members has confirmed that there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the committee members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The committee members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

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

Anjum Bashir

21st October 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

ASHIANA NETWORK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ashiana Network (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

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

K.C. Fisher

Kevin Fisher (Audit Partner)
For and on behalf of Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd
Statutory Auditors
308 Ewell Road
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 7AL

Date: 21st October 2025

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	127,979	623,473	751,452	691,506
Charitable activities	3	423,296	1,453,934	1,877,230	1,828,728
Investments	4	27,668	-	27,668	36,924
Total		578,943	2,077,407	2,656,350	2,557,158
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	68,398	-	68,398	61,461
Charitable activities	6	681,135	2,100,827	2,781,962	2,433,875
Total		749,533	2,100,827	2,850,360	2,495,336
Net income	10	(170,590)	(23,420)	(194,010)	61,822
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	15	(170,590)	(23,420)	(194,010)	61,822
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	2,633,909	23,912	2,657,821	2,595,999
Total funds carried forward	15	£2,463,319	£492	£2,463,811	£2,657,821

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The SOFA includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK
Company No. 2972903 (England & Wales)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		1,060,056		545,056
Current assets					
Debtors	13	451,765		503,315	
Cash at Bank		1,319,360		1,718,258	
		1,771,125		2,221,573	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14a	(140,566)		(108,808)	
Net current assets			1,630,559		2,112,765
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	14b		(226,804)		-
Net assets	16		£2,463,811		£2,657,821
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
- Designated funds	15		2,076,335		1,768,435
- General fund	15		386,984		865,474
Total unrestricted funds			2,463,319		2,633,909
Restricted Funds	15		492		23,912
Total funds			£2,463,811		£2,657,821

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

Approved by the directors and trustees on 21st October 2025 and signed on their behalf.

T Kaur

Tanoushka Kaur

Treasurer

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	(155,037)	211,832
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	27,668	36,924
Purchase of property	(515,000)	-
Net cash (used in) provided by investing Activities	(487,332)	36,924
Cash flow from financing activities		
Repayments of borrowing	(6,529)	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	250,000	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing Activities	243,471	-
Decrease (increase) in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(398,898)	248,756
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,718,258	1,469,502
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	£1,319,360	£1,718,258

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	**2025** **£**	**2024** **£**
Net income for the year	(194,010)	61,822
Interest receivable	(27,668)	(36,924)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	51,550	177,303
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	15,091	9,631
Net cash flow from operating activities	£(155,037)	£211,832

Cash and cash equivalents consist of:	**2025** **£**	**2024** **£**
Cash at bank and in hand	431,820	646,162
Short term deposits	887,540	1,072,096
Total cash and cash equivalent	£1,319,360	£1,469,502

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation
Ashiana Network is a private company (No. 02972903) limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the "Reference and Administrative Information" on page 1 of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds.
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity.
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from performance related grants and contracts is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through delivery of the specified services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure includes all irrecoverable VAT which is included as part of the relevant cost. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises those costs associated with attracting voluntary donations and grants
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs associated with the delivery of the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity and also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support those activities. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

1. Accounting policies/contd...

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are stated at costs less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset, less estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life at the following annual rates:

Computer equipment	33% Straight line

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The charity contributes to Stakeholder Pension Schemes on behalf of its employees. These schemes are defined contribution pension schemes.

Contributions payable under these schemes are charged the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate. The charity has no liability under these schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Debtors and creditors
Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairments are recognised in expenditure.

2. Donations and grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
The Oak Foundation	127,300	-	127,300	118,966
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	-
MHCLG via LAWA	-	51,360	51,360	51,360
OYA REFUGE via LAWA	-	263,320	263,320	263,320
GLA	-	308,793	308,793	250,670
Violence Reduction Unit	-	-	-	-
Other Donations	679	-	679	-
	127,979	623,473	£751,452	£691,506

Of the £691,506 recognised in 2024, £118,966 was unrestricted funds and £572,540 was restricted funds.

In the year to 31 March 2023 we had stated that £24,768 was received from London Councils but was in fact received from the Violence Reduction Unit via Tender Unit.
In the year to 31 March 2024 we had stated that £7,190 was received from London Councils but was in fact received from the Violence Reduction Unit via Tender Unit.
An old grant of £24,405, included in the year ends 2019 and 2020 accounts was fully expended by year end 2022.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
London Councils – Specialist refuge	-	840,000	840,000	840,000
London Councils – other	-	129,945	129,945	128,091
Solace - SLA	-	2,640	2,640	4,960
LBWF – supporting people	127,240	-	127,240	127,240
LB Camden	-	30,476	30,476	27,308
Income from rent	293,820	41,945	335,765	292,878
MOPAC		407,834	407,834	405,146
Other	2,236	1,094	3,330	3,105
	423,296	1,453,934	£1,877,230	£1,828,728

Of the £1,828,728 recognised in 2024, £382,495 was unrestricted funds and £1,446,233 was restricted funds.

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Bank interest	27,668	-	£27,668	£36,924

All of the £36,924 recognised in 2024 was unrestricted funds.

5. Cost of raising funds

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
Fundraising activities – salaries	68,398	-	£68,398	£61,461

All of the £61,461 recognised in 2024 was unrestricted funds.

6. Cost of charitable activities

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
Educational, counselling and prevention work	2,716,704	65,258	£2,781,962	£2,433,875

Of the £2,433,875 expenditure recognised in 2024, £429,789 was charged to unrestricted funds and £2,004,086 was charged to restricted funds.

7. Analysis of direct costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	1,280,642	1,120,844
Grants paid to London Councils Partners	712,721	711,800
Payments to clients with no recourse to public funds	141,064	110,735
Housing Association charges	131,071	15,344
Legal fees	22,060	4,423
Loan interest paid	11,845	
Other direct housing and management costs	417,301	427,776
	£2,716,704	£2,390,922

8. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Office costs	30,719	15,003
Premises costs	24,458	10,255
Consultancy costs	176	8,817
Governance costs (note 9)	9,905	8,878
	£65,258	£42,953

9. Governance costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Audit and accountancy fees	3,920	3,500
Salaries	5,985	5,378
	£9,905	£8,878

10. Net income

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
Depreciation	£Nil	£Nil
Auditors' remuneration	£2,395	£2,425
Trustees' remuneration	£Nil	£Nil
Operating lease rentals	£136,748	£92,927

No trustees were reimbursed any expenses during the year *(2024: none)*.

11. Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	1,175,985	1,025,186
Social security costs	127,398	109,262
Other pension costs	51,642	53,235
	£1,355,025	£1,187,683

The employees who received total employee benefits during the year (excluding employer pension costs) of:

£60,000 - £69,999	3	(2024 – 2)
£80,000 - £89,999	1	(2024 – 1)

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £315,097 (2024 : £288,607).

Under FRS 102, employee benefits includes gross salary, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and benefits in kind.

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was 32 *(2024: 28)*.

No termination payments (2024 - £Nil) were made to members of staff during the year.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £
Cost:	
At 1 April 2024	545,056
Additions	515,000
At 31 March 2025	1,060,056
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2024	-
Charge for the year	-
At 31 March 2025	-
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2025	£1,060,056
At 31 March 2024	£545,056

13. Debtors

Due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
Grants receivable	357,241	463,154
Charges receivable	72,339	35,077
Other debtors	22,185	5,084
	£451,765	£503,315

14 a). Creditors:

Amounts falling due within one year:	**2025** £	**2024** £
Charges - Credit balances	20,916	27,659
Bank loan	16,667	-
Accruals	84,816	81,149
Deferred income – Grants received in advance	18,167	-
	£140,566	£108,808

14 b). Creditors:

Amounts falling due after one year:	**2025** £	**2024** £
Bank loan	£226,804	£Nil

15. Movement in funds

Restricted Funds	**At 1 April 2024** £	**Income** £	**Expenditure** £	**Transfers between Funds** £	**At 31 March 2025** £
Counselling, support & advice	-	94,573	94,573	-	-
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	840,000	-	-
Women against Violence Group	-	51,360	51,360	-	-
Market Place – Waltham Forest	11,506	2,640	14,146	-	-
Harmful practices	-	35,372	35,372	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan OYA Refuge (via LAWA).	-	263,320	263,320	-	-
Circle fund	167	-	-	-	167
Noorah	11,914	41,975	53,889	-	-
WiSER project	-	31,540	31,540	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	50,226	50,226	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	-	190,787	190,787	-	-
CASA project	-	10,160	10,160	-	-
GLA	325	308,793	308,793	-	325
P & ACT	-	39,935	39,935	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	116,726	116,726	-	-
Total restricted funds	23,912	2,077,407	2,100,827	-	492
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	865,474	578,943	542,433	(515,000)	386,984
Designated Funds					
- Furniture renewal	49,000	-	-	-	49,000
- Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
- Salary contingency	265,000	-	-	85,000	350,000
- Property/Service development	877,236	-	207,100	(85,000)	585,136
- Freehold Property	545,056	-	-	515,000	1,060,056
- Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	2,633,909	578,943	749,553	-	2,463,319
Total funds	£2,657,821	£2,656,350	£2,850,360	£Nil	£2,463,811

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

15. Movement in funds (continued)

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	92,719	92,719	-	-
Education & advice	-	7,190	7,190	-	-
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	840,000	-	-
Women against Violence Group	-	51,360	51,360	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	4,403	-	4,403	-	-
Market Place – Waltham Forest	6,546	4,960	-	-	11,506
Harmful practices	-	35,372	35,372	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan	-				
OYA Refuge (via LAWA).	-	263,320	263,320	-	-
Circle fund	167	-	-	-	167
Noorah	(2,702)	40,728	26,112	-	11,914
WiSER project	-	27,308	27,308	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	47,834	47,834	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	486	190,787	191,273	-	-
CASA project	-	9,864	9,864	-	-
GLA	325	250,670	250,670	-	325
P & ACT	-	39,935	39,935	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	116,726	116,726	-	-
Total restricted funds	9,225	2,018,773	2,004,086	-	23,912
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	690,631	538,385	363,542	-	865,474
Designated Funds					
Furniture renewal	49,000	-	-	-	49,000
Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Salary contingency	265,000	-	-	-	265,000
Property/Service development	1,004,944	-	127,708	-	877,236
Freehold Property	545,056	-	-	-	545,056
Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	2,586,774	538,385	491,250	-	2,633,909
Total funds	£2,595,999	£2,557,158	£2,495,336	£Nil	£2,657,821

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report

Section 37 Statement

Grant Aid of £840,000 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 - £840,000) from London Councils for the Ascent Specialist Refuge Partnership.

The following table illustrates how money was allocated across the partnership and that it has been used for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Lead Partner: Ashiana Network	226,415	226,415
Delivery Partner: Solace Women's Aid	272,048	272,048
Delivery Partner: nia project	277,411	277,411
Delivery Partner: IKWRO	64,126	64,126
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salaries	586,547	586,805
Beneficiary Costs:	111,732	112,653
Central Overheads:	74,742	73,551
Other Direct Project Costs:	6,314	6,326
Set Up & Development Costs:	6,720	6,720
Interpretation Costs:	1,000	1,000
Lead Organisation Costs:	52,945	52,945
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

Grant Aid of £51,360 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 - £51,360) from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (covid extension), (via LAWA). The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Cover: Additional Staff Cover	23,400	23,400
Additional COVID-19 Related Costs	14,846	14,846
Office equipment	5,000	5,000
Other Costs:	8,114	8,114
Total:	£51,360	£51,360

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £94,573.48 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 - £92,719) from London Councils (via Women and Girls Network) for the Ascent Counselling and Advice Strand. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Counsellor 0:18	7,333	7,333
Salary: Counsellor 1:2	43,682	43,682
Salary: Specialist Advice Caseworker 0:8	26,205	26,205
Salary: Administrator 0:19	4,727	4,727
Staff travel	416	416
ICT	1,972	1,972
Clinical Supervision	1,137	1,137
Mobile phones/comms	887	887
Overheads	8,214	8,214
Total:	£94,573	£94,573

Grant Aid of £35,371.92 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 £35,371.92) from London Councils (via AWRC) for the Ascent Harmful Practices Strand of the Ascent Strand. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Advice Workers	21,091.92	21,091.92
Salary: Counsellor	12,480.00	12,480.00
Venue and Other Costs	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total:	£35,371.92	£35,371.92

Grant Aid of £57,399 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 £57,399) from GLA/MOPAC (via LAWA) towards specialist counseling for women and children at the refuge. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	47,667	47,667
Other staffing & volunteer costs	8,060	8,060
Indirect costs	1,672	1,672
Total:	£57,399	£57,399

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £205,921 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 £205,921) from GLA/MOPAC (via LAWA) towards specialist services support in the specific areas of housing, immigration, family law, and complex cases at the refuge. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	186,743	186,743
Other staffing & volunteer costs	13,180	13,180
Indirect costs	5,998	5,998
Total:	£205,921	£205,921

Grant Aid of £125,085 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 £119,115.38) from MOPAC (via GLA) towards the delivery of specialist mental health and webchat services. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	102,435	102,435
Other staffing & volunteer costs	5,775	5,775
Direct delivery costs	4,725	4,725
Indirect costs	12,150	12,150
Total:	£125,085	£125,085

Grant Aid of £80,954 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 £62,604) from MOPAC (via GLA) towards the delivery of second stage accommodation. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	69,404	69,404
Other staffing & volunteer costs	4,200	4,200
Direct delivery costs	3,150	3,150
Indirect costs	4,200	4,200
Total:	£80,954	£80,954

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £102,754 was received in 2024/25 (2023/24 £68,911.32) from GLA/MOPAC (via AWRC) towards the delivery of specialist advice and accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	45,715	45,715
Other staffing & volunteer costs	4,692	4,692
Direct delivery costs	33,193	33,193.
Indirect costs	19,154	19,154
Total:	£102,754	£102,754

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund Balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted General £	Unrestricted Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
Freehold Property	-	1,060,056	-	1,060,056
Current assets	754,354	1,016,279	492	1,771,125
Current liabilities	(140,566)	-	-	(140,566)
Long term liabilities	(226,804)	-	-	(226,804)
	£386,984	£2,076,335	£492	£2,463,811

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Fund Balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted General £	Unrestricted Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
Freehold Property	-	545,056	-	545,056
Current assets	974,282	1,223,379	23,912	2,221,573
Current liabilities	(108,808)	-	-	(108,808)
	£865,474	£1,768,435	£23,912	£2,657,821

17. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 Land and Buildings	2024 Land and Buildings
Within one year	131,071	118,559
Within two to five years	-	-
	£131,071	£118,559

18. Taxation

As a registered charity, Ashiana Network is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.

19. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2025 or 2024 other than those set out in note 11 relating to key management personnel.

20. Contingent assets

The charity has been awarded some multi-year grants with specified or implied timeframes which preclude recognition of the full amount. The total amount awarded for future years but not recognised is £2,043,502.

ASHIANA NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1042440

Accounts

ASHIANA NETWORK

Company No. 02972903 (England & Wales)
Charity no. 1042440

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants
Norman House
8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

ASHIANA NETWORK

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ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The management committee presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable law and the requirements of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

1. REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status
The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The board approved a change of company name at a special meeting on 22 February 2006. The name changed from Ashiana Project to Ashiana Network.

Charity Number 1042440

Company Number 02972903

Registered Office and operational address
Oceanaire House, High Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 3AW

Board Members
Sabina Mahmood – Chair
Anjum Bashir
Shivangi Medhi (resigned 08-02-2024)
Urmi Medhi
Rashmi Nigam
Halima Zaman (joined 02-11-2023)
Professor Aisha K Gill (joined 04-06-2024)
Tanoushka Kaur Treasurer (joined 04-06-2024)

Chief Executive
Shaminder Ubhi

Auditors
Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4BW.

Banker

National Westminster Bank Plc.

2. HOW WE ARE FULFILLING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHARITIES ACT 2011

As a registered charity, the public benefits of our work are directly related to our aims, which seek to improve the lives of primarily, South Asian, Turkish & Middle Eastern women, by reducing the impact of domestic violence upon them. Our housing, advocacy, legal, educational, counselling and preventative work provides direct benefit to both the recipients of our services and the public generally through contributing positively to a better society. Our services are free and open to the section of the public who we exist to help.

We plan to introduce an annual audit of our charitable activities as well as consider how to promote public benefit on an ongoing basis.

In forming our objectives, the Trustees confirm that it has given due regard to the Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit.

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Ashiana Network is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Ashiana Network's business and governance is conducted under the framework of its memorandum of articles of association.

Recruitment and appointment of management committee/training
Board members are selected on the basis of the experience, skills and expertise they bring to further the main objectives of Ashiana. The induction process for new members includes the provision of information on their roles and responsibilities, policy and procedures, meetings with the Director and staff, and site visits. One-third of the board members must resign at each annual general meeting. The retiring members are eligible for re-election.

Risk Management
Ashiana is committed to identifying and managing potential and probable risks that the organisation faces. The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for management of risk, and it is an essential part of the organisation's effective governance. Monitoring known risks enables the Board and Senior Management Team to make informed decisions and take timely action.

The principal risks facing the charity are financial and operational.

Financial:

As a small 'led by and for' specialist provider, Ashiana has limited resources and faces an increasingly competitive external environment. National research Imkaan (2020) shows that 'by and for' organisations faced disproportionate pressures during the pandemic with a 39% reduction in funding due to historical austerity cuts with organisations operating with one-third reduced staffing capacity.

Research conducted by The Centre for Regional, Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University mapped funding for the women and girls sector and found that in 2021, a total of £4.1 billion worth of grants was awarded to charities, but the women and girls sector received just 1.8% of these (Mapping the UK Women and Girls Sector and its Funding: Where Does the Money Go?, Rosa, the National Lottery Community Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation)

Payments by local authorities, government bodies, trusts and foundations are often paid in arrears and are based on the achievement of targets and outcomes. This has ongoing impact on cashflow and budgeting.

The on-going cost of living crisis continues to impact Ashiana and its service users. Increasingly, we are having to tap into reserves to fund existing and new initiatives as expenditure pressures mount and income remains stagnant.

A number of our contracts were renewed in 2021/22, and we gained several new contracts for 2022-2024 and through to 2026. The London Councils Specialist Refuge contract was recommissioned in April 2023 and adds some stability until March 2026. However, the short-term nature of many contracts increases overall financial risk. Our plan to reduce and mitigate the risks include:

- Preparing and submitting tenders/applications as necessary
- Maintaining robust Quality Systems
- Having a spread of services by size and service type
- Ensuring we meet all contractual obligations

- Maintaining good relationships with commissioners/funders
- Being responsive to changes in the market
- Performance monitoring in place
- Robust tendering for our own services
- Remaining competitive in terms of quality of services, value for money and contract price
- Clear messaging about our unique selling point
- Building on partnerships such as the London VAWG consortium and the OYA consortium

Operational:

Operational risks range from recruitment and retention issues, safeguarding, inadequate monitoring and evaluation of projects, lack of contract compliance, inadequate business planning/continuity planning, poor response to national or global emergencies i.e., post-pandemic, cost of living crisis, data breaches, reputation, public policy. We reduce and mitigate these by implementing appropriate policies and procedures, staff induction, training, and supervision. For example, we are responding to the recruitment crisis in the sector by sharing concerns with partners and stakeholders, coming together to seek solutions and share good practice. We ensure processes are in place for all contract compliance and regulatory frameworks e.g., health and safety regulations.

Risk management is ongoing and embedded in governance and operational procedures with the following in place:-

1. Annual Risk Register
This register identifies the potential and probable risks faced by the organisation and each risk is given an impact and likelihood rating, as well as an overall net risk. The SMT monitor the Risk Register on an ongoing basis, and it is reviewed by the Board every quarter.

2. Business Continuity Plan
A Business Continuity Plan is in place that identifies the critical business processes and major risks to these. The plan identifies the control measures in place and the person responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken. The plan is reviewed by the SMT on an ongoing basis.

3. Annual audited accounts of the Company
The financial statements of the organisation are audited on an annual basis to ensure appropriate accounting procedures are in place, financial statements are free from material misstatement or fraudulent activity.

Structure
The Board bears overall responsibility for Ashiana Network. The Board delegates the day-to-day running of the organisation to the Director, Shaminder Ubhi.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
The remuneration of the charity's key management personnel is set by the Board of Trustees, taking into account the charity's financial position and the amount paid for comparable roles in comparable organisations.

Our Purpose:

- To empower Black and minoritised women, particularly South Asian, Turkish and Middle eastern women who are experiencing VAWG with culturally informed advice, advocacy, counselling, immigration advice and safe housing - enabling them to make positive and informed choices
- To raise awareness of VAWG and carry out preventative work with the community as a whole.

Our Vision

- For all women and girls to have the right to live free from violence and abuse.
- For VAWG to be recognised as a form of systemic violence perpetrated within a heteronormative patriarchy where Black and minoritised women's experiences are compounded by structural inequality.
- For Ashiana to be recognised in its commitment to responding from a rights-led focus, enshrining the principles and ethos of Ashiana as an intersectional feminist, holistic, trauma-informed service.

4. OBJECTIVES

Ashiana runs four refuges with a total of 21 bed-spaces; two specifically for women aged 16-35 fleeing harmful practices. This multi award winning project was the first of its kind in the UK and is highly innovative in terms of addressing an area of significant need not met in other refuge provision. We designate a number of bedspaces for women with no recourse to public funds across these refuges and provide legal immigration advice. We offer advice, support and counselling services for women and girls who are experiencing VAWG, enabling them to make informed decisions and exit violent relationships.

We deliver a range of awareness raising workshops for people in the community and training on domestic violence for professionals in the voluntary and statutory sector.

5. OUR VALUES

Our shared values are embedded in Ashiana; they set out the broad principles within which we all work, make our decisions, strive to deliver the best quality services, and hold each other to account. Our core values are:

I. *CARING & COMPASSIONATE*

We are a caring and compassionate organisation. We show empathy, understanding and patience to anyone who comes in contact with us, including staff, survivors, and agencies to build resilience and strength. Whatever the outcome, being compassionate and caring creates a positive impact and a feeling of empowerment for all women and girls

II. *DIVERSE*

As a specialist 'led by and for'[1] organisation we embed an intersectional approach and anti-racist practice in all our work. We stand for, and operate, within intersectional feminist principles, adopting a holistic and trauma-informed framework that celebrates difference, respect, and representation.

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[1] ***By and For refers to lived experience organisations for example, organisations representing Black and minoritised women and girls and disabled women among other groups of women with specific intersectional needs, that are not met by generic provision because of the nature of the services they require. Staffing, governance, and membership structures of these organisations emerge historically from grassroots struggle and reflect the women and girls they serve.***

III. SOCIAL JUSTICE

Collectively[2] we address social injustice and challenge oppression, structural inequality, and systemic racism. We stand up for women and girls that are so often denied their rights and freedoms. We will always advocate for fairness and equality in all that we do.

IV. COLLABORATION

By collaborating with survivors, agencies, and each other, we can produce the best outcome for women and girls. This approach ensures the voice of women and girls is at the heart of all our work.

6. OUR ETHOS

Women Only Space

We acknowledge that many women at risk of VAWG will want to seek support from 'women' only services where they will also have access to 'women' only space. Our services are trauma informed and we recognize the emotional, psychological, and physical impact of trauma caused by violence and abuse and understanding the nuances within Black and minoritised communities. We provide safe 'women' only spaces to ensure women are not re-traumatised but rather supported in their recovery and resilience.

Ashiana acknowledges that not all women experience VAWG in the same ways, and that Black and minoritised often face racialised abuse, and/or abuse based on discrimination against other aspects of their identities. We also acknowledge that Black and minoritised women experience additional barriers to seeking and accessing support for VAWG. Therefore, all responses to survivors should be adapted to ensure they are safe, accessible, and appropriate for each individual woman.

We acknowledge that many women at risk of VAWG will want to seek support from 'women' only services where they will also have access to 'women' only space. We will also ensure that the needs of Black and minoritised women are addressed across all services in line with the ethos of 'led by and for'. This provides for an environment where women are safer and feel as they are being listened to and heard.

The nature of our services means that, invariably, we tackle poverty, disadvantage, racism, inequality, and social exclusion. The women and girls we support present with complex and multiple needs including self-harming, suicide, depression, eating disorders, insecure immigration status, language needs. Our aim will be to support and advise them in order for them to make informed decisions and choices that enable them to exit violent relationships e.g., reporting to police, pursuing civil/criminal legal cases, taking out injunctions, access to refuges, welfare benefits, health, housing, specialist immigration advice.

Our woman-centred, holistic approach will ensure we meet the needs of our clients. Our support planning, risk assessment and outcomes framework tools are utilised by staff to make assessments, draw up appropriate action plans, manage risk, address needs and monitor progress through regular sessions and reviews; enabling clients is achieve their hopes and aspirations. Every effort is made to ensure the clients feel they are in control of the process and see it as something helpful and empowering.

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[2] ***By 'collective' we mean Ashiana staff working in various roles, either advocating for clients directly or addressing wider policy/practice through our partnerships with stakeholders and other organisations, in particular, 2nd Tier organisations.***

"Now I think I can protect myself, now I know what DV is, I can protect myself. Before, I couldn't say anything, now I can say loudly it was wrong. They (Ashiana) give us the power...now, I'm waking up"

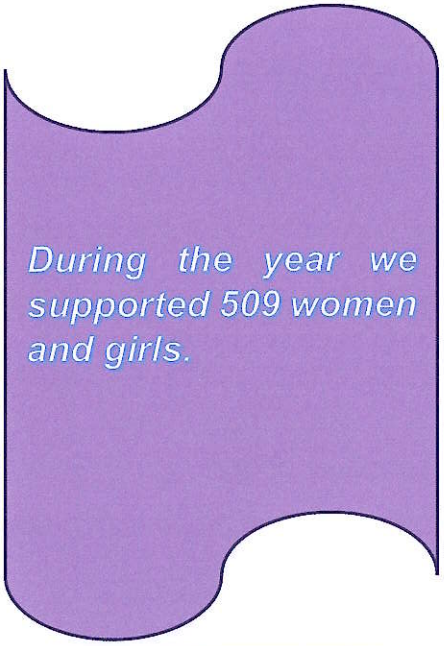
"Thank you for believing in me, offering me advice and encouragement, lending me courage and above all giving me unconditional love. No strings, just heart"

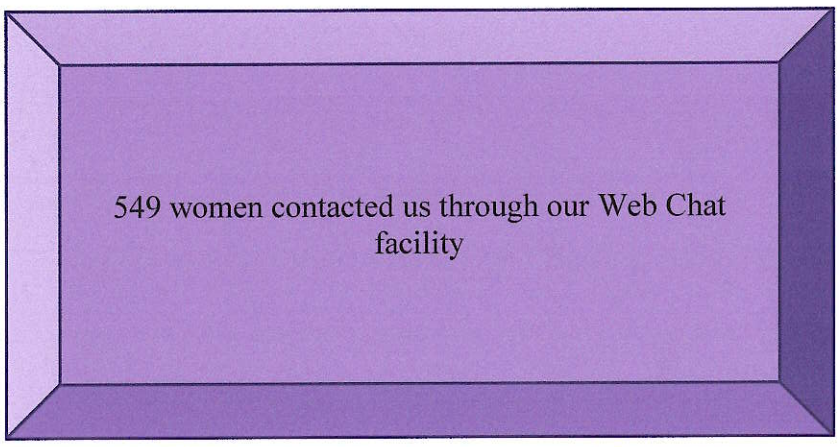
Service Users Feedback

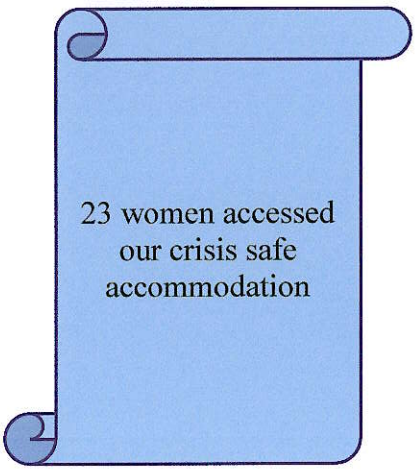
6. ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

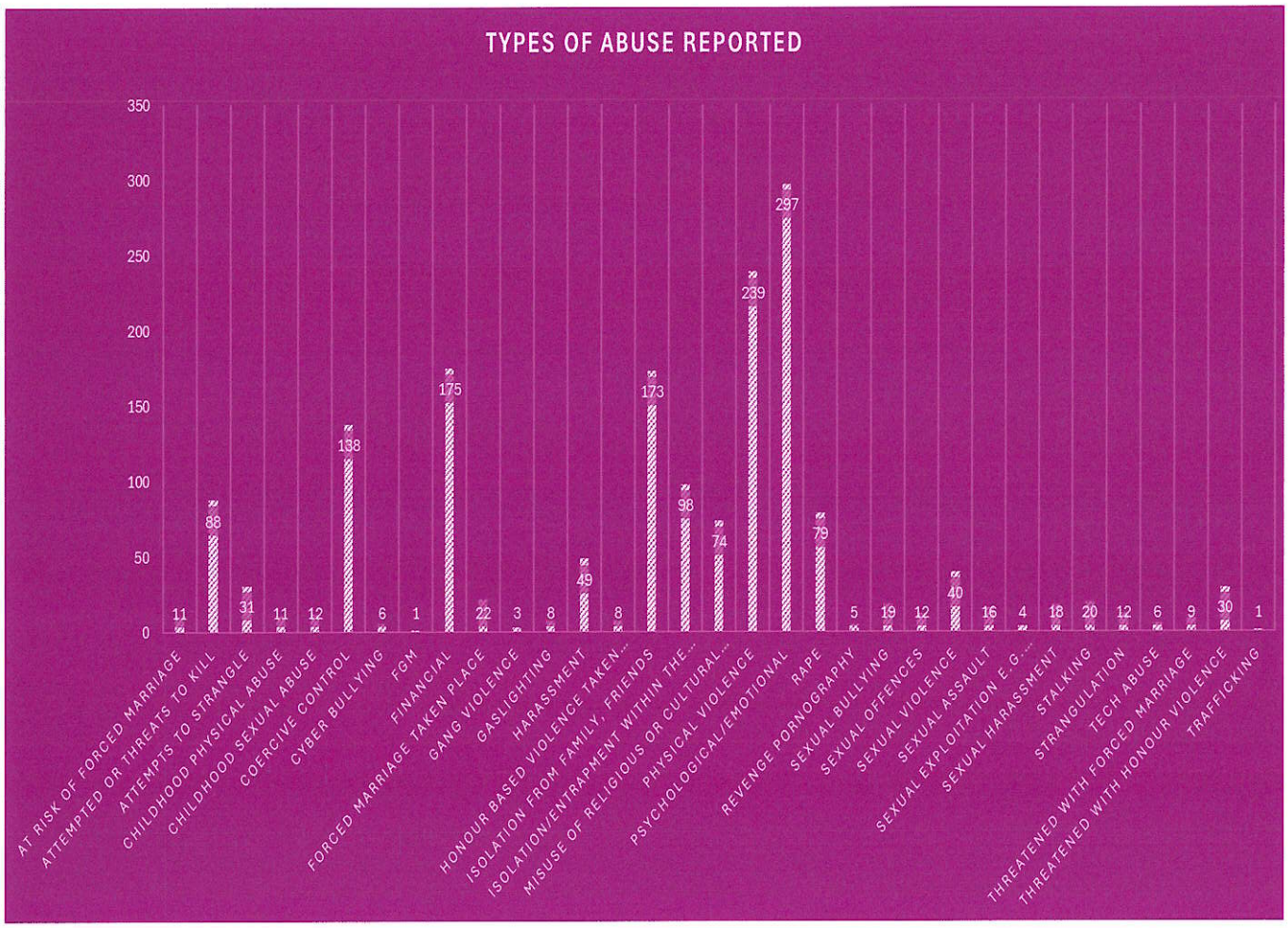
We delivered

- Refuge – crisis accommodation and second stage accommodation with designated bedspaces for women with no recourse to public funds
- Rehousing and move-on preparation for women
- Specialist intersectional advice and institutional advocacy on complex cases
- Trauma informed counselling and group-based peer support
- Specialist immigration advice and support for women with no recourse to Public funds
- Community support e.g., education, self-help groups and faith groups
- Educational and awareness raising on VAWG, including harmful practices

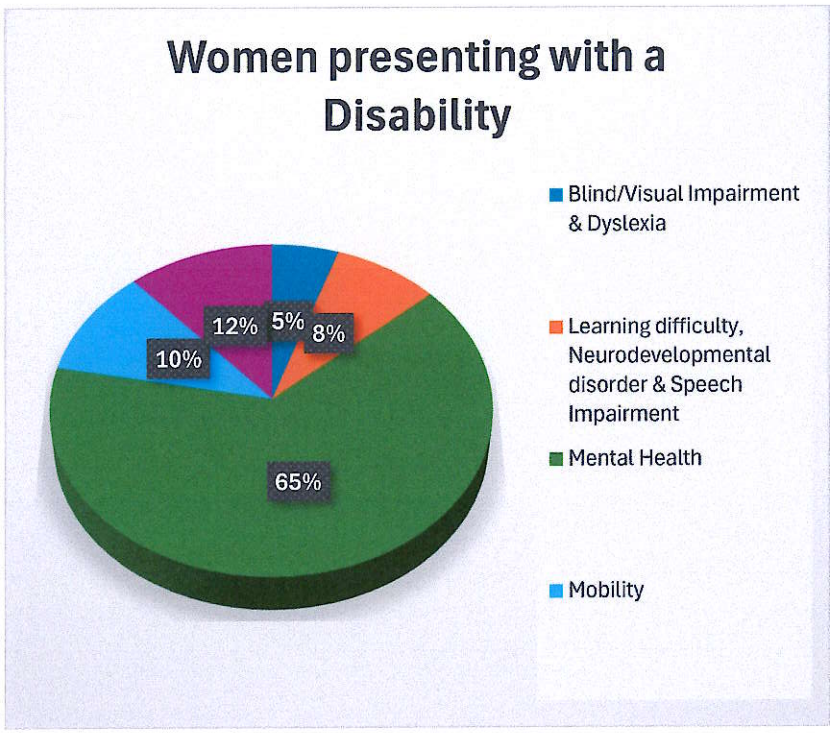






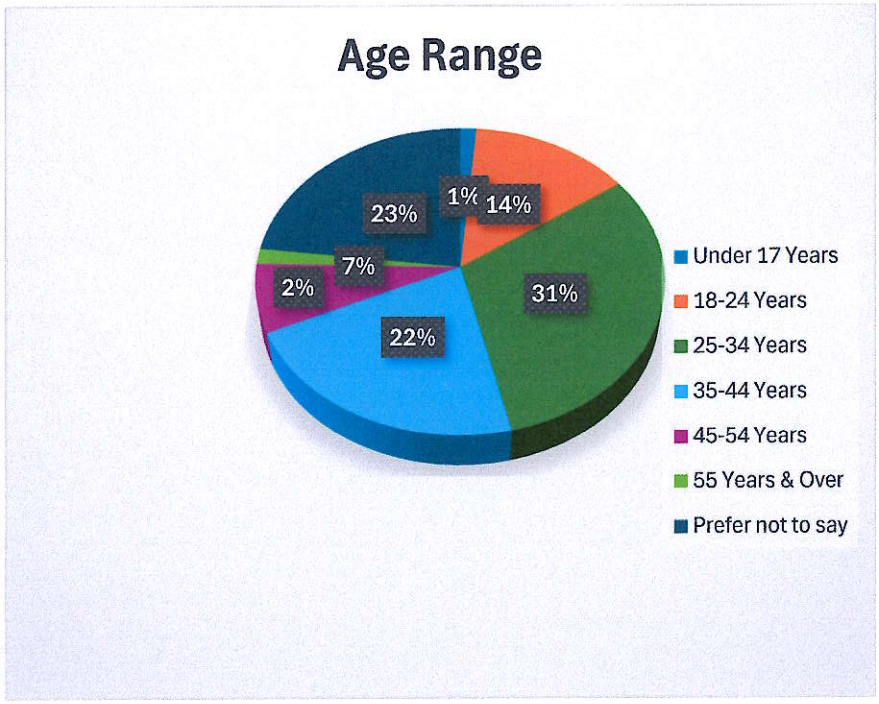


132 women with No Recourse to Public Funds were supported by our In-House Legal Immigration Team



187 Women had No Recourse to Public Funds

375 women were supported by our Advice & Advocacy team



ADVOCACY & ADVICE SERVICE

We provide a culturally specific service for Black & Minoritised women, predominantly women from South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern communities. These are services that's would not be possible at borough level if it wasn't for our team specialisms. We aim to work within a person centred and non-judgemental approach enabling and supporting women and girls to make informed choices about their future and build confidence in their own decision making. We want to see all women and girls safe and exit any abusive situation securely if that is what they seek support for as some women and girls choose not to exit and that itself takes extreme courage.

We will provide advice around safety planning which explores all risk factors that may present as a barrier to a woman exiting safely, however we also know that once a woman is able to exit safely, the risk to her safety significantly increases and our work is to help keep her safe. Our objective is to do this by working with partner agencies to ensure communication is cohesive and work is joint up in a coordinated multi-agency response.

Once risks have been mitigated as far as is reasonably possible, we explore practical options for women and girls regarding their future. We provide a pan London service and look at ways to promote out services and continue to establish referral pathways in addition to linking women with local services where necessary.

We have a diverse staff team which represents the women we service; this is to ensure we remain by and for led in addition to ensuring an in-depth understanding of cultural issues and language. As women, we are already marginalised and our work around intersectionality remains at the core of what we do; we understand the barriers and intersectional needs of our client group. Subsequently, our aim is to bring challenge and change in a wider context; we will continue to advocate for women and girls who have no voice, and the wider changes we want to see is around how funding processes need to be more equitable across the VAWG organisations and acknowledging the work that only by and for specialist organisations can deliver as having representation in a generic organisation does not make it by and for led.

In this last year we have seen a significant increase in high-risk cases which include suicidal ideation, non-fatal strangulation and self-harm. In addition to this, we continue to see a rapid decline in mental health for women and girls, and as waiting lists continue to be closed for counselling services, advocates inadvertently provide a significant amount of emotional support.

For those cases which have been identified as high risk, we follow our safeguarding policies and procedures and refer to MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference). Should a referral meet the MARAC threshold, they would then link the case with the local IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate). However, we do not close the case immediately after referring on but continue to support these clients who are at high risk until their cases are confirmed by an IDVA. This consequently involves holding the risk for a short period of time which at times can be challenging as we provide low to medium support. Should the risk be reduced by an IDVA, we would consider working with the woman around practical needs.

A vast amount of our advocacy work includes working with women who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF). There are two main challenges that we have faced this year regarding our work, one is sourcing immigration solicitors when our own service is at capacity and the other is, ensuring social services provide funding for women who are entitled to S17 support. This requires a high level of advocacy which can cause a great deal of stress and pressure for staff that are working in crises situations to ensure women, and their children are not left street homeless. Staff are highly skilled in challenging social services and obtain successful outcomes, however achieving successful outcomes are few and far between.

We look to make onward referrals to meet the needs of women and girls where the area is not our specialism. We have engaged with local borough officers, VAWG leads and commissioners to ensure local service delivery is appropriate to local needs and not duplicated.

Advocates supported women with housing and challenging gate keeping tactics, working with women who have NRPF, mental health, risk management, substance and/or alcohol abuse, physical il health. The needs of women and girls have become more complex in an increasingly under resourced sector.

Women who have experienced VAWG and trauma are considered to be one of the most vulnerable in society who "have typically fallen through the cracks" of other services and as such we continue to fight for equality and social injustice holding alleged perpetrators and agencies to account.

During the year we supported over **375** women and girls experiencing a range of VAWG issues. **156** women had no recourse to public funds. **131** women had language support needs. **50** women disclosed a range of disabilities. **107** women needed support with housing options and **76** were homeless.

Advocating on behalf of women who make homeless applications to the local authority due to VAWG continues to be difficult despite the Domestic Abuse Act which unfortunately has very little impact on the success of women being accommodated. There are significant delays in communication from local authority and at times, there is no response many months after submitting a homeless application let alone any kind of acknowledgment of the application.

Gatekeeping tactics leave staff frustrated when dealing with emergency crisis for women and children. We have seen more and more women being placed outside of London which means they have been cut off from their support networks. If women refuse the offer from Local Authority, they are seen to be making themselves intentionally homeless and Local Authority will then discharge their duty and close the case. Women are also being placed in hotels for more than 6 weeks which unsuitable living conditions, we have made every effort to challenge these decisions.

We continue to see staff burn out and we are confident that our advocates who are highly skilled and passionate are not necessarily feeling burnt out due to the work and fighting for the cause but more so due to the relentless advocacy that is taking place for our clients trying to push back with local authority housing, social services, the police and the criminal justice system, ensuring they are doing what they are meant to do and not expect the charity sector to pick up statutory duties.

Feedback from our advocate:

"I just got off the phone with a tearful client who has been placed in a very unsuitable emergency accommodation for herself and baby with no hot water on her floor and no lift to her flat...she said "I reported my abuser but I feel like I am the one suffering". It is a reminder that in seeking support and in moving on, girls and women do tend to face a new wave of suffering whilst they find their footing, and the instability they go through can be so debilitating and make them want to return to the abuser. Highlights the emotional support aspect of our work and also the resilience women build in leaving abuse.....Just thought her words were very powerful"
We are pleased to receive a grant from the NatWest circle fund over the years which is a very flexible fund to support women especially through the cost of living crisis and supporting women who are living in hotels and/or temporary accommodation to buy essential items for themselves and their children as women at times leave their abusive situation with their clothes on their back.

HOUSING SERVICES

Kyra, Saranaya, Noorah, Zafina, Ariana and Himaya

Ashiana currently offers temporary safe accommodation across four schemes; however, this will be increasing to 6 schemes in the coming weeks.

The criteria for all schemes are - South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women between the ages of 16-35 who are experiencing Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and Harmful Practices. Ashiana prioritises cultural sensitivity, recognising and respecting the diverse backgrounds of its clients. This inclusive approach ensures that services are tailored to meet the unique cultural and linguistic needs of survivors from diverse communities and has enabled clients to disclose sensitive subjects with confidence as the staff are understanding and aware of different cultural practices/impacts. E.g. Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage, Harmful Practices, etc.

Kyra is an 8-bed shared house, Saranaya, Zafina and Ariana are 5-bed shared houses, and Noorah and Himaya are 3-bed shared houses. Noorah and Ariana are for service users that need a slightly lower level of support. Clients are assessed and moved into Noorah and Ariana from Zafina, Kyra or Saranaya.

Noorah and Ariana are used as second stage refuges and Kyra, Saranaya, Zafina and Himaya are used as first stage refuges. Clients are assessed and moved into Noorah and Ariana from Zafina, Kyra, Saranaya or Himaya. This secondary support helps clients move from the refuge to independent living with practical assistance and ongoing guidance.

During their stay at Ashiana, residents are offered culturally specific support, confidential advice and advocacy regarding their legal, financial, housing and personal situation. Staff empower clients through skills training, education, and advocacy, helping them regain independence and build a brighter future beyond the refuge. Many of the clients have completed ESOL courses to help them integrate into their new environment which in turn, encourages independence.

A high level of emotional support is provided along with practical support and guidance with basic life skills, this is tailored to each individual client's needs. A recent trend that has been observed is that clients are presenting with a higher level of mental health needs.

Throughout the period April 2023 to March 2024, we accepted 23 new clients at our refuges. It has been a very exciting year at Ashiana for a number of reasons. Over the course of the year, construction works were carried out on the property that Ashiana had purchased. In late 2023, Ashiana expressed an interest in purchasing another property and the purchase was successful. Ashiana are now proud owners of two properties! The second property that Ashiana has purchased will be used as a Resource Centre. This is a huge achievement for not only the organisation, but also the sector.

Ashiana provides internal immigration support, helping clients navigate complex immigration processes and access necessary resources to secure their legal status. This integrated approach ensures that clients receive holistic support for their immigration-related needs within the refuge.

Over the past year, 15 women who have accessed the service had no recourse to public funds. They have either entered the UK on a spousal visa, dependant visa, student visa, work visa or visitor's visa. They either may have been in the UK for a long period of time, or alternatively they may have been in the UK for a short period of time, however the issues still remain the same. Some are not permitted to leave the house unaccompanied, some have not registered with a GP, some have never used public transport, and almost all of them do not have a bank account. Clients are supported to navigate around these issues and are supported with basic life skills. At times this can be a lengthy process as this may be a completely different way of life for them, however the support workers give the clients the time, guidance and support to meet their needs.

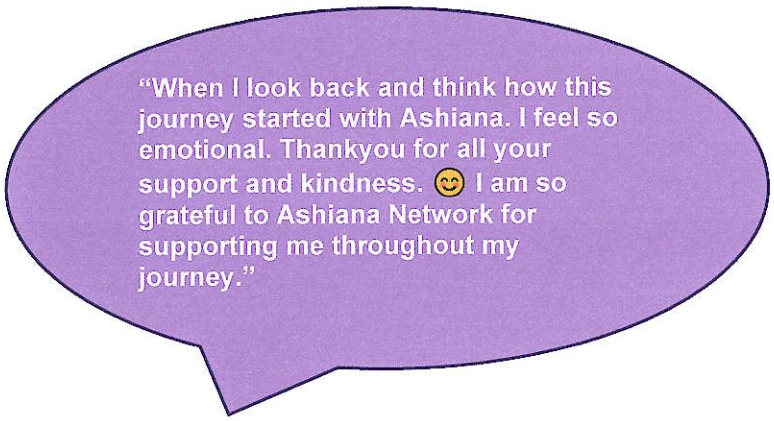
The positive impact of having an in-house immigration service is that clients can liaise with a named person and not have to explain their circumstances time and time again to different professionals which may impact their mental health and overall wellbeing. The immigration support service that is provided has proved to be invaluable, and many clients have received immigration support from Ashiana Network legal professionals and thus received a positive result in securing their immigration status.

Ashiana also offers counselling services as part of its wrap-around support model, providing clients with access to professional mental health support to address the emotional trauma and psychological effects of domestic violence. This seamless integration of counselling services and the Mental Health Support Worker ensures that clients receive holistic care to support their healing journey.

Once the client's support needs have been met, they are also offered transitional support to help clients transition from the refuge to independent living, providing practical assistance and ongoing guidance to ensure a successful transition. We implement a resettlement service that extends support beyond the refuge. This initiative ensures that clients continue to receive assistance and guidance even after they leave the refuge, facilitating a smoother transition to independent living. By providing ongoing support, including access to resources, advocacy, and follow-up services.

Ashiana Network helps empower survivors to maintain their independence and rebuild their lives with confidence and the holistic support that is provided is invaluable.

Service User Feedback:



LEGAL SERVICE

The Immigration service at Ashiana provides legal advice, advocacy and assistance to those vulnerable clients who do not have the funds to resolve their insecure immigration status.

Some of the more destitute and vulnerable women are those that have no recourse to public funds and Ashiana's aim is to support them with access to specialist immigration advice in order to resolve their immigration status.

We prepare and complete all immigration applications, which range from lifting 'no recourse to public funds' condition to applications made outside the scope of the immigration rules. We receive referrals from not only within Pan London, but also outside of London.

The Legal Service has proved to be an extremely important service that is provided to clients. Between the period of April 2023 – March 2024 we had 132 immigration cases, some of which were one-off advice cases. The Legal Team achieved 28 successful outcomes for clients in terms of their status – these include settlement decisions, grant of change of conditions, decisions granting settled status, asylum, and humanitarian protection.

The legal service that we provide is invaluable to our service users. We have experienced that legal aid solicitors are at capacity and the fees that private firms charge, is not something that our service users can afford.

Expert staff assess eligibility, gather evidence and record statements and make applications to regularise clients' immigration status. Additionally, these women are supported to access refuge, housing, social care, health care, including mental health, reporting to police, support through the court system.

We have built partnerships with a number of Family Law Solicitor's and work closely with them in order for service users to access family law solicitors for divorce matters and non-molestation order matters. Due to the change in Legal Aid, it is extremely difficult for service users to access a Family Law Solicitor for divorce matters as this is now no longer covered by Legal Aid. The Family Law Solicitor's assists service users with Non Mol matters along with Divorce matters on a pro-bono basis.

Ashiana delivers training to partner organisations updating them on the changes withing Immigration Law. This training has been valuable, and we have received fantastic feedback from partner agencies within the sector.

Service User Feedback:

"I would like to thank you for the training that you kindly provided to our front line team last Thursday. We all left the training with a better understanding of MVDAC and the importance of a immigration advice to our service users before they can decide if this is the right pathway for them."

COUNSELLING SERVICES

We provide confidential one-to-one specialist trauma informed counselling services for women and girls from 14+ who are or have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse as well as women and girls who have experienced any form of harmful practice including forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation. Counselling offered is short term (6-30 Sessions) The counselling is provided in different languages as well as being provided by accredited qualified counsellors and experienced volunteer counsellor/placements. Ashiana Network is a member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

In the last year we supported **132** women with 1-1 counselling and groups. Our clients were from various boroughs including Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, Newham and Tower Hamlets. Clients presented with complex and multiple issues. We have also continued to run 2 Support Groups through the year to women which have been 16 sessions in duration and **25** women and girls attended.

We currently have 6 funded projects, which has meant that we are able to work with more women and girls as well as focus on key groups, for example under our CouRAGEous project we receive referrals for young women from 14+. This project is targeted towards supporting young women as well as prevention around ending violence for young people through empowerment, self-agency, building resilience through making informed choices. Our counselling service play a fundamental part in ensuring young women, get the specialist support they need, especially when they have reported witnessing and/or experiencing any violence including harmful practice. Through this project we have been able to employ specialist counsellor's that work with young people, as you specific therapeutic skills to work with young people.

Some challenges we have faced over the last year have been an increase in overall referrals and having to close our waiting lists twice over the course of the year. The other challenge has been an increase in mental health distress, women are presenting with complex needs, whereby we are seeing women and girls that have experienced both childhood and adult abuse and trauma. These are challenges we are constantly facing and are continuing to find new and innovate ways to work with these challenges including offering further training to counsellors including extensive supervision support to tackle secondary trauma and burnout, finding ways to reduce our waiting lists as well as trying to get women and girls into therapy quicker.

Being able to offer women longer therapy contracts i.e. 30 sessions, we have seen great improvement of mental health as well as recovery from trauma. We also have 2 support groups that run each year, these have been successful and we have had a good retention of survivors that will attend the whole 8-week programme. The group work model is a primarily psychoeducational support. Women and girls feedback that they have found the groups supportive in not feeling alone and isolated and some women have been able to befriend other survivors. We have seen a better outcome of women committing to their therapy, due to offering a hybrid therapy i.e. online, telephone as well as in person. We had fewer DNA (Did Not Attend), which has meant that there has been a 90 % attendance to therapy sessions as well as survivors completing their therapy contract. We have now fully adopted a hybrid way of working to ensure that our women and girls have access to specialist trauma informed therapy.

Service User Feedback

'I really don't know what would have happened or what I would have done to myself without my therapist's help this past year. Time with my therapist provided me a safe space to work through the darkest thoughts and worst parts of my mind, without judgement and shame.
I now see light at the end of the tunnel, before my therapist there was only a dark abyss filled with despair. I feel hopeful about the future ahead, with a newfound desire to create a fulfilling life for myself.
I am extremely grateful for the service Ashiana has provided and am sad it has to come to an end. I still have a lot of unresolved issues to work through, but with time and patience I hope to implement all the tools I've learnt over the past year, be kinder to myself and focus on my happiness.'

EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Our education and training work is conducted at a variety of levels with both statutory and voluntary agencies aimed at raising awareness about VAWG. Workshops, training and support groups are provided on topics such as domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour-based violence.

Ashiana has had a busy and productive period in raising awareness of all forms of VAWG in a variety of settings and in a wide variety of ways. We delivered 6 training to 87 people from educational establishments such as schools and colleges. The training focused on VAWG and in particular Harmful Practices and Immigration.

We delivered awareness raising sessions for women in our refuges on a range of issues.

7. VISITS TO ASHIANA

Her Majesty the Queen

Her Majesty The Queen visited one of our refuges, Zafina, on 6th December 2023. Current and ex-service users attended and were able to share their experiences with Her Majesty. She was very touched by it all and was quite surprised to see how young some of these women are. Staff and Trustees also attended and had the opportunity to meet the Queen and have a short conversation about their role at Ashiana.

After months of planning, the event went smoothly and was, in fact, a resounding success. We attracted huge amounts of publicity through the national and local press and social media. We shared this with our key funders and stakeholders who in turn used their newsletters etc to circulate to their members. For example, London Councils put it on the front page of their weekly newsletter that has a huge Pan-London reach.

> Thank you both so, so much for all you did to make today's visit to Ashiana run so perfectly. Her Majesty was deeply impressed and moved by your work.
> I do hope all went well from your point of view – and that we will be able to work together again in the future!

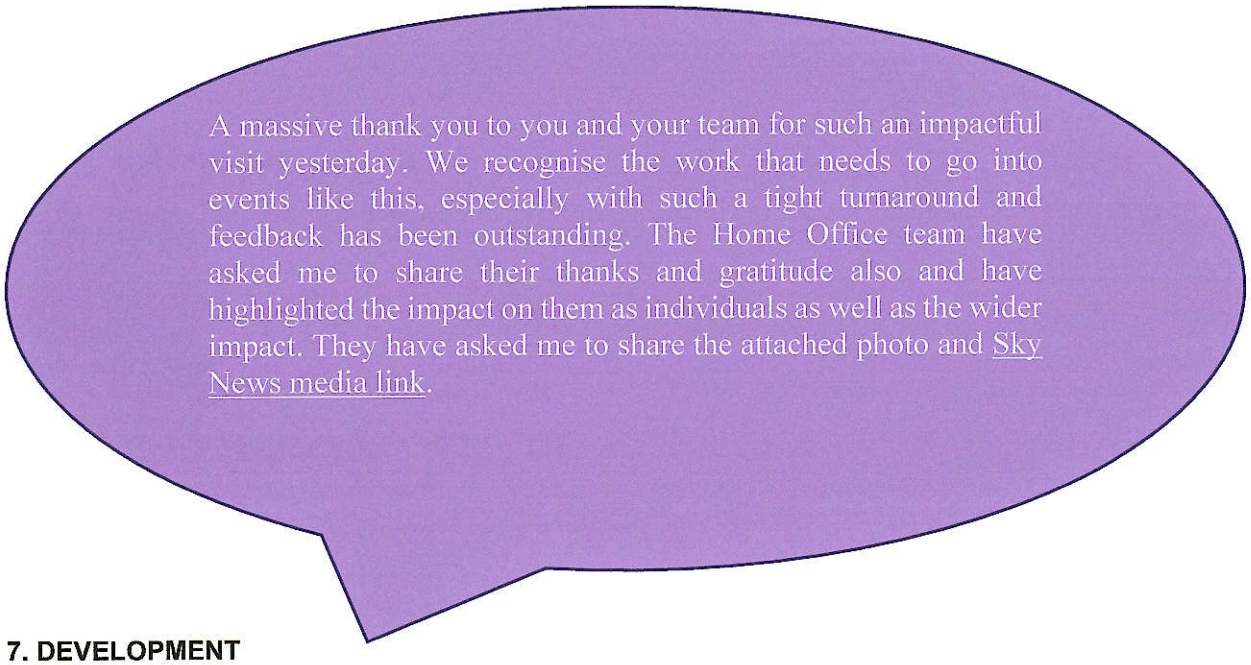
Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden

The Deputy Mayor, Sophie Linden, visited Zafina 2 on 29th November 2023 as part of the 16 Days of Activism. She met with staff and heard from the women directly about their life experiences and how Ashiana has helped in their healing and recovery. We are currently funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime who have funded Ashiana in its work to support survivors of Violence Against Women & Girls. The funding has enabled us to develop second stage accommodation for women that no longer need crisis refuge accommodation.

> Aisha and I just wanted to say thank you so much for hosting us yesterday. It was so good to meet you all and hear about all the amazing work you and your colleagues are doing to provide the much-needed support for Black and minoritised women and girls in East London. Your passion, innovation, commitment, and enthusiasm (despite the collective years you all have under your belts!) shone through, and London's tackling VAWG landscape is all the richer for your voice and experience being amongst it.

Laura Harris – Parliamentary Undersecretary of State

Laura Farris is the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice. Her responsibilities are: Minister for Victims and Safeguarding, Victims and Witnesses, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO), Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Criminal Law, Child Sexual Abuse, Miscarriages of Justice. Laura visited in January 2024 and was accompanied by the DA Commissioner Nicole Jacobs. Nicola was appointed in 2019 as the first designated Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales. They both met with staff and clients and were interested to hear the client journey and challenges they face.



7. DEVELOPMENT

We purchased a property in Redbridge, which has been re-modelled into a 5-bed second stage refuge.

We have also secured 1 further property with London & Quadrant; a 3-bed scheme in Waltham Forest.

In addition, Ashiana has recently purchased a second property which we aim to renovate and use as an office and resource centre by 2025.

8. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Sustain existing services
- Review all aspects of Governance
- Apply for OISC level 3 accreditation to enhance our immigration legal work
- Develop the Experts by Experience model at Ashiana
- Service development through remodelling Ashiana's new property for use as Office/Resource centre
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for services
- Explore expansion of our services for women with complex mental health

9. STAFF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & WELLBEING

A huge amount of SMT and Senior Workers time is spent on supporting staff wellbeing but also dealing with staffing issues

Simultaneously, we are in a recruitment crisis. It is a sector wide issue and is having an impact on some services e.g. for the first time we had to close referral to the legal team. In the Counselling Service we created a new role, Associate Counsellor, effectively a volunteer counsellor. Giving it a different title and improving access to training etc has proved helpful. The crisis requires us to think differently about recruitment and of course, retention works when staff feel they have a good working environment, appropriate levels of support and added benefits such as annual leave, competitive salaries.

We continue to ensure staff wellbeing is prioritised to ensure staff retention and recruitment, especially post pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, the rise in complex referrals and working in an increasingly challenging environment. We have increased resources to manage staff wellbeing, this includes salary uplifts, peer supervision, clinical supervision, weekly informal catchups, employee assistance program, line manager supervision and team building activities.

10. COST OF LIVING CRISIS

The cost-of-living crisis continues to have a significant impact on women as we see more women accessing the service with financial support needs, women in rent arrears, women in debt, and women increasingly wanting to access alternative funding for example, women who need to exit their abuse but do not have the means to support the move.

A recent survey by the Women's Resource Centre Impacts of the Cost-of-Living Crisis on the Women's Sector (2023) concluded:

"After years of austerity, cuts to local public services, competitive tendering, a push towards generic service provision and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, women's organisations have experienced ongoing and sustained pressure on their services for many years. Against this backdrop, the cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated existing issues and has resulted in a sector that is at breaking point. Increased demand was still the number one pressing concern for the women's sector, two years after it was highlighted as the top issue during the pandemic. This, combined with reduced capacity and resources due to rising costs, and complexity of workload is putting strain on organisations and staff. So, it's not surprising that staff wellbeing and burnout is the third most pressing concern for women's organisations in 2023 and that recruitment and retention is also a pressing concern for 28% of organisations. The areas that organisations saw the most increase in demand (over 50%) were no recourse to public funds (35%), advocacy (34%), and homelessness and housing support (33%). The effects of the cost-of-living crisis are impacting Black and minoritised organisations and their service users more acutely than other organisations. The women's sector is picking up the pieces of a weakening public infrastructure. 84% of respondents reported an increase in the need for family courts advocacy". https://www.wrc.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=549ce278-7616-4b1b-9b16-12f749d2bb21

We continue to make representations to Government though our sector wide partnerships raising our concerns and recommendations to assist organisations and service users.

11. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Ashiana Network is committed to working within good practice guidelines to provide high quality services for service users. We aspire to become an outstanding organisation providing safe housing, advice and counselling to all service users, individuals, groups, stakeholders and other agencies.

To ensure high quality provision Ashiana has achieved accreditations with Investors in People (Gold), National Domestic Violence Service Standards, Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards (distinction), Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC). We are applying for Level 3 accreditation with OISC to enable us to conduct appeals work in-house.

12. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

Ascent Specialist Refuge

The Ascent Specialist Refuge project is funded by London Councils and was recommissioned in April 2023 for a three-year period to March 2026. Ashiana is the lead partner and Solace Women's Aid, nia Project and IKWRO are delivery partners. Together the partnership provides 39 specialist refuge bedspaces for women with specialist and multiple needs, no recourse to public funds, women with mental health/problematic substance use, sexually exploited and trafficked women.

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Strand (EHP)

The Ascent Ending Harmful Practices is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) and Ashiana is one of 9 delivery partners. The project provides advice and counselling services for those affected by sexual and domestic violence, specifically, Female Genital Mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage and other harmful practices. This work is funded from April 2022 to March 2026.

Ascent Advice & Counselling

The Ascent Advice & Counselling project is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Women & Girls Network, and Ashiana is one of the delivery partners. We provide a range of advice and counselling services to women in London affected by domestic and sexual violence. This work is funded from April 2022 to March 2026.

Casa Project

We commenced delivery of the two-year Move on Programme in October 2019. The funding allows us to support women who access move-on accommodation through this project. The project is funded until March 2026.

Advice & Counselling PLUS

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Solace Women's Aid. This project enables us to expand on our current advice & counselling services. This is funded till 30 September 2024.

DASA – GLA & MOPAC Funded Projects

Mental Health & Webchat

This service provides 1:1 mental health support and group activities for women in our refuges and an online webchat service for women and young girls needing support to exit abusive relationships. This is funded until March 2025.

Second Stage/Move-on Safe Accommodation

This service provides an additional 5 bedspaces of semi-independent accommodation for women moving on from our crisis refuge accommodation. This is funded until March 2025

OYA Refuge, Immigration and Counselling services

Latin American Women's Aid lead on this project with Ashiana, Asha project and LBWP as delivery partners. The two projects include:

1) Refuge case work, immigration and housing advice
2) Therapeutic and counselling services

Ascent GLA Safe Accommodation Project

Asian Women's resource Centre lead on this project. Ashiana is one of the delivery partners providing support to women with NRPF.

P&ACT EHP Partnership – (Prevention & Action through Community Engagement & training) Harmful Practices

We are a delivery partner in this project led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre. This project enables us to expand our services for women experiencing harmful practices.

London Holistic Advocacy Wraparound Service – the Life Saving to Life Changing Project

We are a delivery partner in this project which is led by Southall Black Sisters. This project focuses on the provision of support, counselling, legal advice and access to accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds.

CouRAGEus Project

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Women & Girls Network. As part of this project, Ashiana delivers Specialist Advocacy for women with multiple needs and BME young women and girls 14-24yrs

WiSER Project

The WiSER Project is led by Solace Women's Aid and as a delivery partner we work with BME women who find it hard to engage with support, who are experiencing violence or abuse and are affected by severe and multiple disadvantages. This project is funded until March 2025.

MHCLG COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund via LAWA

The OYA consortium, comprising of Ashiana, Asha Project, Latin American Women's Refuge and London Black Women's Project, received funding to support its refuge services for the period April to September 2023.

London Borough of Waltham Forest

We were successful in our tender for the re-commissioning of our 13-bed refuge provision in LBWF. The contract is for a three-year term commencing March 2022.

Market Place- Waltham Forest

Ashiana is a preferred provider on the Waltham Forest Market Place framework which is led by Solace Women's Aid. This enables us to deliver specialist counselling for women in the borough as and when referrals are made and payment is based on the numbers of clients and sessions delivered.

13. THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED US DURING THE PAST YEAR, IN PARTICULAR:

Asian Women's Resource Centre
Charities Connected
Forced Marriage Unit
Homeless Link
Greater London Authority
GMSP Foundation
Imkaan
Life in London Trust
Latin American Women's Aid
London Borough of Waltham Forest,
London Councils
London & Quadrant Housing Association
London VAWG Consortium
Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime
Metropolitan Police
Oak Foundation
OYA Consortium
Public Interest Law Centre
Refuge
Solace Women's Aid
Southall Black Sisters
Waltham Forest Liberal Democrats (Secret Santa)
Women's Aid Federation of England
Women & Girls Network
Women's Resource Centre

14. FINANCIAL REVIEW

There was an increase in the activities of the charity in 2023/24. There has been no significant change in the income by 21.14% (21.14% 2022/23) from £2,544,474 to £2,557,158 but the expenditure increased by 12% (11.25% 2022/23) from £2,193,344 to £2,495,336.

The total funds held by the charity increased during the year from £2,595,999 to £2,657,821. These funds are divided for accounting purposes into restricted funds, which represent the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes, and unrestricted funds that are available for the general purposes of the charity. During the year, there was an increase in the total value of the restricted funds from £9,225 to £23,912 and an increase in unrestricted funds from £2,586,774 to £2,633,909.

The principal financial policies adopted during the year are (i) the accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention; (ii) incoming resources relating to grants and material donations are recognised in the period to which they are receivable and (iii) resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis and on the basis that consideration has been received for the expenditure. Full details of the accounting policies adopted during the year are shown in note 1 to the Accounts.

Reserves policy and going concern

The policy of the charity in respect of reserves and major risks is to designate all unrestricted funds where the organisation has been able to identify a timescale for expenditure on specific projects/items. In addition the organisation has established a General Fund for unrestricted funds held by the organisation, which can be used as a contingency against emergency or unplanned expenditure. The Committee believes that by designating funds in this way, they can ensure that the long term plans of the organisation can be realised, and the organisation will be able to fulfil its contractual responsibilities to its staff, funders, users and the wider community.

The reserves fund represents unrestricted general funds which are not committed or tied to any tangible fixed assets held by Ashiana. The Trustees have considered the challenge Ashiana faces with limited, short-term contracts, lack of committed funds and some key services that remain unfunded. As a smaller 'led by and for' organisation we are at further risk of losing contracts, funding and services as we compete against larger generic providers. At the same time, the demand for our specialist services is ever increasing as Black and minoritized women with multiple and complex needs seek our support. Post pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated this situation. It falls on Ashiana to ensure that it has a policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard its financial commitments and to continue to provide essential services to Black and minoritised women in the event that funding is reduced or indeed, completely cut. We will retain sufficient funds in our free reserves to manage short term periods without funding to enable us to deliver services. This will also enable us to plan a service closure slowly so that negative impact to clients is minimised. We will also ensure sufficient funds are retained in our designated fund to enable us to achieve our strategic goal to expand property ownership. Ashiana's forecast reserves through 2023/24 means that the Trustees consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the 2023/24 Annual Report and Financial statements and is confident of Ashiana's ability to remain as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

15. Future Plans

- Sustain and develop existing services
- Review all aspects of Governance
- Apply for OISC level 3 accreditation to enhance our immigration legal work
- Develop the Experts by Experience model at Ashiana
- Service development through remodelling Ashiana's new property for use as Office/Resource Centre
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for service
- Explore expansion of our services for women with complex mental health

Asset cover for funds
Note 16 sets out an analysis of the net assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

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

Company law requires the committee members to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the committee members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

Each of the committee members has confirmed that there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the committee members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The committee members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

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

Rashmi Nigam

Rashmi Nigam

10th September 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

ASHIANA NETWORK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ashiana Network (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

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

K.C. Fisher

Kevin Fisher (Audit Partner)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

Date: 10th September 2024

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	118,966	572,540	691,506	730,664
Charitable activities	3	382,495	1,446,233	1,828,728	1,805,344
Investments	4	36,924	-	36,924	8,466
Total		538,385	2,018,773	2,557,158	2,544,474
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	61,461	-	61,461	56,517
Charitable activities	6	429,789	2,004,086	2,433,875	2,136,827
Total		491,250	2,004,086	2,495,336	2,193,344
Net income	10	47,135	14,687	61,822	351,130
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	15	47,135	14,687	61,822	351,130
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	2,586,774	9,225	2,595,999	2244869
Total funds carried forward	15	2,633,909	23,912	£2,657,821	£2,595,999

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The SOFA includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK
Company No. 2972903 (England & Wales)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		545,056		545,056
Current assets					
Debtors	13	503,315		680,618	
Cash at Bank		1,718,258		1,469,502	
		2,221,573		2,150,120	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(108,808)		(99,177)	
Net current assets			2,112,765		2,050,943
Net assets	16		£2,657,821		£2,595,999
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
- Designated funds	15		1,768,435		1,896,143
- General fund	15		865,474		690,631
Total unrestricted funds			2,633,909		2,586,774
Restricted Funds	15		23,912		9,225
Total funds			£2,657,821		£2,595,999

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

Approved by the directors and trustees on 10th September 2024 and signed on their behalf.

Tanoushka Kaur

Treasurer

10th September 2024

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	211,832	(36,993)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	36,924	8,466
Purchase of property	-	-
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	248,756	(28,527)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,469,502	1,498,029
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	£1,718,258	£1,469,502

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the year	61,822	351,130
Interest receivable	(36,924)	(8,466)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	177,303	(192,930)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	9,631	(186,727)
Net cash flow from operating activities	£211,832	£(36,993)

Cash and cash equivalents consist of:	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	646,162	426,791
Short term deposits	1,072,096	1,042,711
Total cash and cash equivalent	£1,718,258	£1,469,502

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation
Ashiana Network is a private company (No. 2972903) limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the "Reference and Administrative Information" on page 1 of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from performance related grants and contracts is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through delivery of the specified services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure includes all irrecoverable VAT which is included as part of the relevant cost. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises those costs associated with attracting voluntary donations and grants
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs associated with the delivery of the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity and also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support those activities. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

1. Accounting policies/contd...

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are stated at costs less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset, less estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life at the following annual rates:

Computer equipment	33% Straight line

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The charity contributes to Stakeholder Pension Schemes on behalf of its employees. These schemes are defined contribution pension schemes.

Contributions payable under these schemes are charged the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate. The charity has no liability under these schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Debtors and creditors
Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairments are recognised in expenditure.

2. Donations and grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
The Oak Foundation	118,966	-	118,966	111,800
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	-
MHCLG via LAWA	-	51,360	51,360	51,360
OYA REFUGE via LAWA	-	263,320	263,320	263,318
GLA	-	250,670	250,670	244,218
GMSP Foundation	-	-	-	25,200
The Caring Family Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
London Councils via Tender	-	7,190	7,190	24,768
Other Donations	-	-	-	-
	118,966	572,540	£691,506	£730,664

Of the £730,664 recognised in 2023, £147,000 was unrestricted funds and £583,664 was restricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
London Councils – Specialist refuge	-	840,000	840,000	840,000
London Councils – other	-	128,091	128,091	129,871
Solace - SLA	-	4,960	4,960	-
LBWF – supporting people	127,240	-	127,240	127,240
LB Camden	-	27,308	27,308	27,225
Income from rent	252,150	40,728	292,878	242,883
MOPAC		405,146	405,146	423,863
Other	3,105	-	3,105	14,262
	382,495	1,446,233	£1,828,728	£1,805,344

Of the £1,805,344 recognised in 2023, £379,385 was unrestricted funds and £1,425,959 was restricted funds.

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Bank interest	36,924	-	£36,924	£8,466

All of the £8,466 recognised in 2023 was unrestricted funds.

5. Cost of raising funds

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
Fundraising activities – salaries	61,461	-	£61,461	£56,517

All of the £56,517 recognised in 2023 was unrestricted funds.

6. Cost of charitable activities

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
Educational, counselling and prevention work	2,390,922	42,953	£2,433,875	£2,136,827

Of the £2,136,827 expenditure recognised in 2023, £104,371 was charged to unrestricted funds and £2,032,456 was charged to restricted funds.

7. Analysis of direct costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	1,120,844	1,006,896
Grants paid to London Councils Partners	711,800	704,920
Payments to clients with no recourse to public funds	110,735	118,231
Housing Association charges	15,344	17,593
Legal fees	4,423	8,671
Other direct housing and management costs	427,776	210,178
	£2,390,922	£2,066,489

8. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Office costs	15,003	14,543
Premises costs	10,255	16,665
Consultancy costs	8,817	30,745
Governance costs (note 9)	8,878	8,385
	£42,953	£70,338

9. Governance costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Audit and accountancy fees	3,500	3,440
Trustee meetings	-	-
Salaries	5,378	4,945
	£8,878	£8,385

10. Net income

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
Depreciation	£Nil	£Nil
Auditors' remuneration	£2,700	£2,700
Trustees' remuneration	£Nil	£Nil
Operating lease rentals	£92,927	£33,713

No trustees were reimbursed any expenses during the year *(2023: none)*.

11. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	1,025,186	927,157
Social security costs	109,262	96,198
Other pension costs	53,235	45,003
	£1,187,683	£1,068,358

The employees who received total employee benefits during the year (excluding employer pension costs) of:
£60,000 - £69,999 2 (2023 – none)
£80,000 - £89,999 1 (2023 – 1)

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £288,607 (2023 : £261,120).

Under FRS 102, employee benefits includes gross salary, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and benefits in kind.

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was 28 *(2023: 28)*.

No termination payments (2023 - £Nil) were made to members of staff during the year.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £
Cost:	
At 1 April 2023	556,389
Additions	-
At 31 March 2024	556,389
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2023	11,333
Charge for the year	-
At 31 March 2024	11,333
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2024	£545,056
At 31 March 2024	£545,056

13. Debtors

Due within one year	2024 £	2023 £
Grants receivable	463,154	665,369
Charges receivable	35,077	13,747
Other debtors	5,084	1,502
	£503,315	£680,618

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Charges - Credit balances	27,659	7,565
Deferred income – Grants received in advance	-	-
Accruals	81,149	91,612
	£108,808	£99,177

15. Movement in funds Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	92,719	92,719	-	-
Education & advice	-	7,190	7,190	-	-
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	840,000	-	-
Women against Violence Group	-	51,360	51,360	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	4,403	-	4,403	-	-
Market Place – Waltham Forest	6,546	4,960	-	-	11,506
Harmful practices	-	35,372	35,372	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan	-				
OYA Refuge (via LAWA).	-	263,320	263,320	-	-
Circle fund	167	-	-	-	167
Noorah	(2,702)	40,728	26,112	-	11,914
WiSER project	-	27,308	27,308	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	47,834	47,834	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	486	190,787	191,273	-	-
CASA project	-	9,864	9,864	-	-
GLA	325	250,670	250,670	-	325
P & ACT	-	39,935	39,935	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	116,726	116,726	-	-
Total restricted funds	9,225	2,018,773	2,004,086	-	23,912
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	690,631	538,385	363,542	-	865,474
Designated Funds					
- Furniture renewal	49,000	-	-	-	49,000
- Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
- Salary contingency	265,000	-	-	-	265,000
- Property/Service development	1,004,944	-	127,708	-	877,236
- Freehold Property	545,056	-	-	-	545,056
- Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	2,586,774	538,385	491,250	-	2,633,909
Total funds	£2,595,999	£2,557,158	£2,495,336	£Nil	£2,657,821

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

15. Movement in funds (continued)

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	94,499	94,499	-	-
Education & advice	-	24,768	24,768	-	-
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	840,000	-	-
Women against Violence Group	-	51,360	51,360	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	24,701	-	20,298	-	4,403
Market Place – Waltham Forest	6,546	-	-	-	6,546
Harmful practices	-	35,372	35,372	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan	-				
OYA Refuge (via LAWA).	-	263,318	263,318	-	-
Circle fund	-	5,000	4,833	-	167
Noorah	-	-	2,702	-	(2,702)
WiSER project	-	27,225	27,225	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	47,834	47,834	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	486	211,550	211,550	-	486
CASA project	-	8,968	8,968	-	-
GLA	325	244,218	244,218	-	325
P & ACT	-	39,935	39,935	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	115,576	115,576	-	-
Total restricted funds	32,058	2,009,623	2,032,456	-	9,225
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	376,668	534,851	160,888	(60,000)	690,631
Designated Funds					
Furniture renewal	29,000	-	-	20,000	49,000
Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Salary contingency	225,000	-	-	40,000	265,000
Property/Service development	1,004,944	-	-	-	1,004,944
Freehold Property	545,056	-	-	-	545,056
Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	2,212,811	534,851	160,888	-	2,586,774
Total funds	£2,244,869	£2,544,474	£2,193,344	£Nil	£2,595,999

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report

Section 37 Statement

Grant Aid of £840,000 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 - £840,000) from London Councils for the Ascent Specialist Refuge Partnership.

The following table illustrates how money was allocated across the partnership and that it has been used for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Lead Partner: Ashiana Network	226,415	226,415
Delivery Partner: Solace Women's Aid	272,048	272,048
Delivery Partner: nia project	277,411	277,411
Delivery Partner: IKWRO	64,126	64,126
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salaries	577,039	576,961
Beneficiary Costs:	113,196	113,193
Central Overheads:	80,731	80,731
Other Direct Project Costs:	6,314	6,395
Set Up & Development Costs:	6,720	6,720
Interpretation Costs:	1,000	1,000
Lead Organisation Costs:	55,000	55,000
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

Grant Aid of £51,360 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 - £51,360) from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (covid extension), (via LAWA). The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Cover: Additional Staff Cover	23,400	23,400
Additional COVID-19 Related Costs	14,846	14,846
Office equipment	5,000	5,000
Other Costs:	8,114	8,114
Total:	£51,360	£51,360

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £92,719 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 - £94,499) from London Councils (via Women and Girls Network) for the Ascent Counselling and Advice Strand. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Counsellor 0:18	7,189	7,189
Salary: Counsellor 1:2	42,825	42,825
Salary: Specialist Advice Caseworker 0:8	25,691	25,691
Salary: Administrator 0:19	4,634	4,634
Staff travel	408	408
ICT	1,933	1,933
Clinical Supervision	1,115	1,115
Mobile phones/comms	870	870
Overheads	8,054	8,054
Total:	£92,719	£92,719

Grant Aid of £35,371.92 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 £35,371.92) from London Councils (via AWRC) for the Ascent Harmful Practices Strand of the Ascent Strand. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Advice Workers	21,091.92	21,091.92
Salary: Counsellor	12,480.00	12,480.00
Venue and Other Costs	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total:	£35,371.92	£35,371.92

Grant Aid of £57,399 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 £57,399) from GLA/MOPAC (via LAWA) towards specialist counseling for women and children at the refuge. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	47,667	47,667
Other staffing & volunteer costs	8,060	8,060
Indirect costs	1,672	1,672
Total:	£57,399	£57,399

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £205,921 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 £205,920) from GLA/MOPAC (via LAWA) towards specialist services support in the specific areas of housing, immigration, family law, and complex cases at the refuge. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	186,743	186,743
Other staffing & volunteer costs	13,180	13,180
Indirect costs	5,997	5,997
Total:	£205,920	£205,920

Grant Aid of £119,115.38 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 £113,451) from MOPAC (via GLA) towards the delivery of specialist mental health and webchat services. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	96,355.38	96,355.38
Other staffing & volunteer costs	5,500.00	5,500.00
Direct delivery costs	4,500.00	4,500.00
Indirect costs	12,800.00	12,800.00
Total:	£119,155.38	£119,155.38

Grant Aid of £62,604 was received in 2022/23 (2022/23 £64,103) from MOPAC (via GLA) towards the delivery of second stage accommodation. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	51,604	51,499.67
Other staffing & volunteer costs	4,000	4,000.00
Direct delivery costs	3,000	3,000.00
Indirect costs	4,000	4,104.33
Total:	£62,604	£62,604.00

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £68,911.32 was received in 2023/24 (2022/23 £66,664) from GLA/MOPAC (via AWRC) towards the delivery of specialist advice and accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	32,450.85	46,296.70
Other staffing & volunteer costs	2,306.31	2,306.31
Direct delivery costs	20,308.31	20,308.31
Indirect costs	13,845.85	0.00
Total:	£68,911.32	£68,8911.32

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund Balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted General £	Unrestricted Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
Freehold Property	-	545,056	-	545,056
Current assets	974,282	1,223,379	23,912	2,221,573
Current liabilities	(108,808)	-	-	(108,808)
	£865,474	£1,768,435	£23,912	£2,657,821

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Fund Balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted General £	Unrestricted Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
Freehold Property	-	545,056	-	545,056
Current assets	789,808	1,351,087	9,225	2,150,120
Current liabilities	(99,177)	-	-	(99,177)
	£690,631	£1,896,143	£9,225	£2,595,999

17. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 Land and Buildings	2023 Land and Buildings
Within one year	118,559	83,085
Within two to five years	-	-
	£118,559	£83,085

18. Taxation

As a registered charity, Ashiana Network is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.

19. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2024 or 2023 other than those set out in note 11 relating to key management personnel.

20. Contingent assets

The charity has been awarded some multi-year grants with specified or implied timeframes which preclude recognition of the full amount. The total amount awarded for future years but not recognised is £2,043,502.

ASHIANA NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1042440

Accounts

ASHIANA NETWORK

Company No. 02972903 (England & Wales)
Charity no. 1042440

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants
Norman House
8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

ASHIANA NETWORK

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ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The management committee presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable law and the requirements of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

1. REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status
The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The board approved a change of company name at a special meeting on 22 February 2006. The name changed from Ashiana Project to Ashiana Network.

Charity Number 1042440

Company Number 02972903

Registered Office and operational address
Oceanaire House, High Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 3AW

Board Members
Sabina Mahmood – Chair
Anjum Bashir
Shivangi Medhi
Urmi Medhi
Rashmi Nigam
Laela E. Pakpour Tabrizi – Treasurer (resigned 30-03 2023)

Chief Executive
Shaminder Ubhi

Auditors
Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4BW.

Banker

National Westminster Bank Plc.

2. HOW WE ARE FULFILLING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHARITIES ACT 2011

As a registered charity, the public benefits of our work are directly related to our aims, which seek to improve the lives of women from the communities we work with by reducing the impact of domestic violence upon them. Our housing, legal, educational, counselling and preventative work provides direct benefit to both the recipients of our services and the public generally through contributing positively to a better society. Our services are free and open to the section of the public who we exist to help.

We plan to introduce an annual audit of our charitable activities as well as consider how to promote public benefit on an ongoing basis.

In forming our objectives, the Trustees confirm that it has given due regard to the Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit.

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Ashiana Network is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Ashiana Network's business and governance is conducted under the framework of its memorandum of articles of association.

Recruitment and appointment of management committee/training
Board members are selected on the basis of the experience, skills and expertise they bring to further the main objectives of Ashiana. The induction process for new members includes the provision of information on their roles and responsibilities, policy and procedures, meeting with the Director and staff, and site visits. One-third of the board members must resign at each annual general meeting. The retiring members are eligible for re-election.

Risk Management
Ashiana is committed to identifying and managing potential and probable risks that the organisation faces. The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for management of risk and it is an essential part of the organisation's effective governance. Monitoring known risks enables the Board and Senior Management Team to make informed decisions and take timely action.

The principal risks facing the charity are financial and operational.

Financial:

As a small 'led by and for' specialist provider, Ashiana has limited resources and faces an increasingly competitive external environment. National research Imkaan (2020) shows that 'by and for' organisations faced disproportionate pressures during the pandemic with a 39% reduction in funding due to historical austerity cuts with organisations operating with one-third reduced staffing capacity.
New research conducted by The Centre for Regional, Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University mapped funding for the women and girls sector and found that in 2021, a total of £4.1 billion worth of grants was awarded to charities, but the women and girls sector received just 1.8% of these (Mapping the UK Women and Girls Sector and its Funding: Where Does the Money Go?, Rosa, the National Lottery Community Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation)

Payments by local authorities, government bodies, trusts and foundations are often paid in arrears and are based on the achievement of targets and outcomes. This has ongoing impact on cashflow and budgeting.

A number of our contracts were renewed in 2021/22 and we gained several new contracts for 2022-2024 and through to 2026. The London Councils Specialist Refuge contract was recommissioned in April 2023 and adds some stability until March 2026. However, the short-term nature of many contracts increases overall financial risk. Our plan to reduce and mitigate the risks include:

- Preparing and submitting tenders/applications as necessary
- Maintaining robust Quality Systems
- Having a spread of services by size and service type
- Ensuring we meet all contractual obligations
- Maintaining good relationships with commissioners/funders
- Being responsive to changes in the market
- Performance monitoring in place
- Robust tendering for our own services
- Remaining competitive in terms of quality of services, value for money and contract price
- Clear messaging about our unique selling point
- Building on partnerships such as the London VAWG consortium and the OYA consortium

Operational:

Operational risks range from recruitment and retention issues, safeguarding, inadequate monitoring and evaluation of projects, lack of contract compliance, inadequate business planning/continuity planning, poor response to national or global emergencies i.e., post-pandemic, cost of living crisis, data breaches, reputation, public policy. We reduce and mitigate these by implementing appropriate policies and procedures, staff induction, training, and supervision. For example, we are responding to the recruitment crisis in the sector by sharing concerns with partners and stakeholders, coming together to seek solutions and share good practice. We ensure processes are in place for all contract compliance and regulatory frameworks e.g., health and safety regulations.

Risk management is ongoing and embedded in governance and operational procedures with the following in place:-

1. Annual Risk Register
This register identifies the potential and probable risks faced by the organisation and each risk is given an impact and likelihood rating, as well as an overall net risk. The SMT monitor the Risk Register on an ongoing basis, and it is reviewed by the Board every quarter.

2. Business Continuity Plan
A Business Continuity Plan is in place that identifies the critical business processes and major risks to these. The plan identifies the control measures in place and the person responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken. The plan is reviewed by the SMT on an ongoing basis.

3. Annual audited accounts of the Company
The financial statements of the organisation are audited on an annual basis to ensure appropriate accounting procedures are in place, financial statements are free from material misstatement or fraudulent activity.

Structure
The Board bears overall responsibility for Ashiana Network. The Board delegates the day-to-day running of the organisation to the Director, Shaminder Ubhi.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
The remuneration of the charity's key management personnel is set by the Board of Trustees, taking into account the charity's financial position and the amount paid for comparable roles in comparable organisations.

Our mission

Ashiana's purpose is to:

- Empower Black and minoritised (B&M) women, particularly South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women who are experiencing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) with culturally sensitive advice, support, and safe housing - enabling them to make positive and appropriate choices for themselves
- Provide specialist advice, advocacy, counselling, and legal services
- Raise awareness of VAWG and carry out preventative work with the community as a whole.

Our vision

- The belief that violence against women and girls, in all its forms, should not be accepted, tolerated, or ignored
- The belief that all women and girls have the right to live free from violence and abuse
- That VAWG is a form of systemic violence perpetrated within a heteronormative patriarchy where B&M women's experiences are compounded by structural inequality
- Therefore, Ashiana is committed to responding from a rights-led focus, enshrining the principles and ethos of Ashiana as a feminist, holistic, trauma-informed, intersectional service.

4. OBJECTIVES

Ashiana runs four refuges with a total of 24 bed-spaces; two specifically for women aged 16-35 fleeing harmful practices. This multi award winning project was the first of its kind in the UK and is highly innovative in terms of addressing an area of significant need not met in other refuge provision. We designate a number of bedspaces for women with no recourse to public funds across these refuges and provide a legal immigration advice service for women with NRPF. We offer advice and support service to women and girls who are experiencing VAWG, enabling them to make informed decisions and exit violent relationships. We provide counselling for women and girls affected by VAWG.

We also deliver an education programme for young people in secondary schools in East London aimed at preventing domestic violence and enabling young people experiencing domestic violence to access appropriate services. We deliver a range of awareness raising workshops for people in the community and training on domestic violence for professionals in the voluntary and statutory sector.

5. OUR ETHOS AND VALUES

Ashiana Network is an organisation working within feminist principles. Ashiana works from a rights-based approach and the premise that VAWG is gender-based violence and a human rights issue. It is critical that women have access to' women' only spaces giving them a safe environment to seek appropriate assistance and begin the process of healing and recovery.

Our work is based on the definition in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which states that violence against women is 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.' This definition also encompasses dowry-related violence, marital rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour-based-violence, other harmful practices, violence against women in the community, gender-based violence perpetrated or condoned by the state

1. ***CARING & COMPASSIONATE***

We are a caring and compassionate organisation. We show empathy, understanding and patience to anyone who comes in contact with us, including staff, survivors, and agencies to build resilience and strength. Whatever the outcome, being compassionate and caring creates a positive impact and a feeling of empowerment for all women and girls

2. ***DIVERSE***

As a specialist 'led by and for'[1] organisation we embed an intersectional approach and anti-racist practice in all our work. We stand for, and operate, within intersectional feminist principles, adopting a holistic and trauma-informed framework that celebrates difference, respect, and representation.

[1] *By and For refers to lived experience organisations for example, organisations representing BME women and girls and disabled women among other groups of women with specific intersectional needs, that are not met by generic provision because of the nature of the services they require. Staffing, governance, and membership structures of these organisations emerge historically from grassroots struggle and reflect the women and girls they serve.*

3. *SOCIAL JUSTICE*

Collectively[2] we address social injustice and challenge oppression, structural inequality, and systemic racism. We stand up for women and girls that are so often denied their rights and freedoms. We will always advocate for fairness and equality in all that we do.

4. *COLLABORATION*

By collaborating with survivors, agencies, and each other, we can produce the best outcome for women and girls. This approach ensures the voice of women and girls is at the heart of all our work.

Ashiana acknowledges that not all women experience VAWG in the same ways, and that B&M women often face racialised abuse, and/or abuse based on discrimination against other aspects of their identities. We also acknowledge that Black and minoritised women experience additional barriers to seeking and accessing support for VAWG. Therefore, all responses to survivors should be adapted to ensure they are safe, accessible, and appropriate for each individual woman.

We acknowledge that many women at risk of VAWG will want to seek support from 'women' only services where they will also have access to 'women' only space. We will also ensure that the needs of B&M women are addressed across all services in line with the ethos of 'led by and for'. This provides for an environment where women are safer and feel as they are being listened to and heard.

The nature of our services means that, invariably, we tackle poverty, disadvantage, racism, inequality, and social exclusion. The women and girls we support present with complex and multiple needs including self-harming, suicide, depression, eating disorders, insecure immigration status, language needs. Our aim will be to support and advise them in order for them to make informed decisions and choices that enable them to exit violent relationships e.g., reporting to police, pursuing civil/criminal legal cases, taking out injunctions, access to refuges, welfare benefits, health, housing, specialist immigration advice.

Our woman-centred, holistic approach will ensure we meet the needs of our clients. Our support planning, risk assessment and outcomes framework tools are utilised by staff to make assessments, draw up appropriate action plans, manage risk, address needs and monitor progress through regular sessions and reviews; enabling clients is achieve their hopes and aspirations. Every effort is made to ensure the clients feel they are in control of the process and see it as something helpful and empowering.

"Now I think I can protect myself, now I know what DV is, I can protect myself. Before, I couldn't say anything, now I can say loudly it was wrong. They (Ashiana) give us the power...now, I'm waking up"

"Thank you for believing in me, offering me advice and encouragement, lending me courage and above all giving me unconditional love. No strings, just heart"

Service Users Feedback

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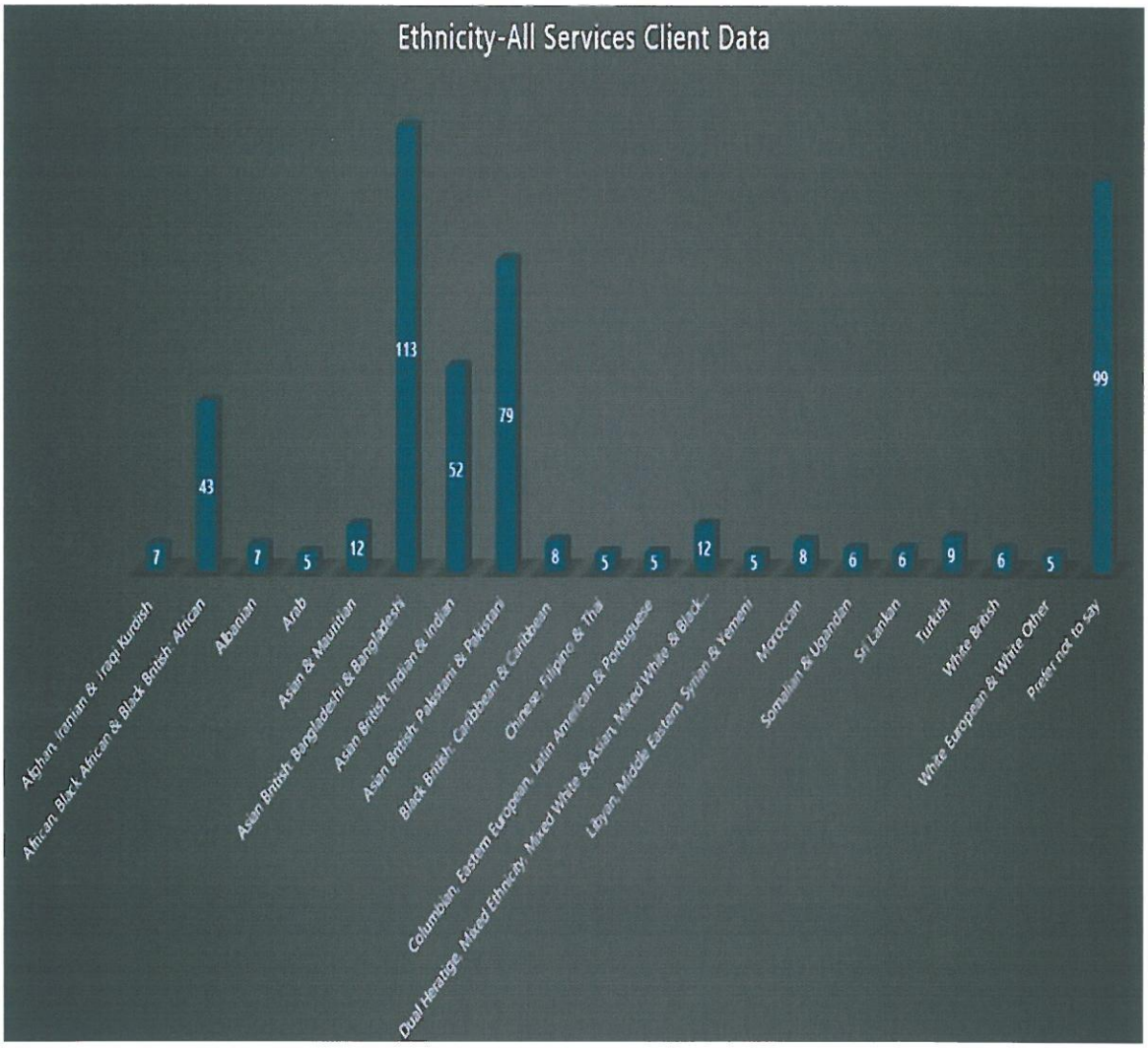
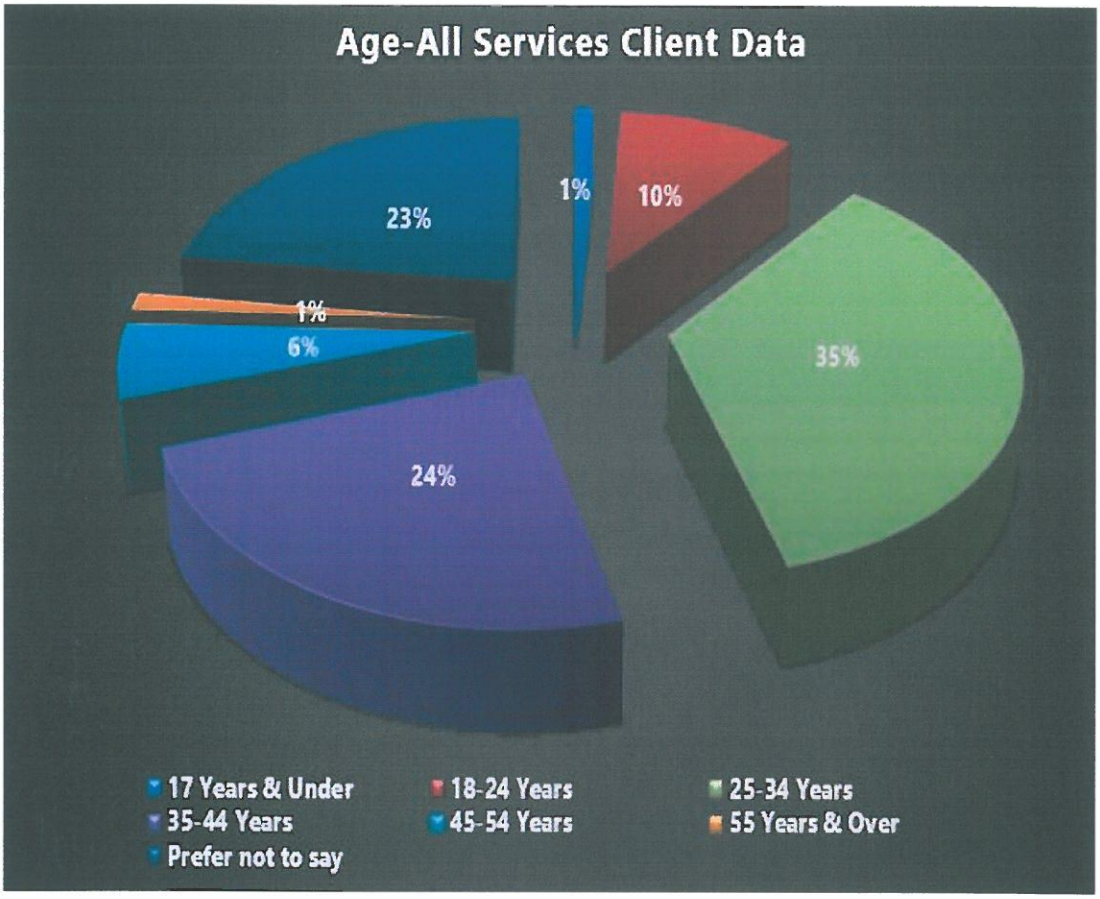
[2] *By 'collective' we mean Ashiana staff working in various roles, either advocating for clients directly or addressing wider policy/practice through our partnerships with stakeholders and other organisations, in particular, 2nd Tier organisations.*

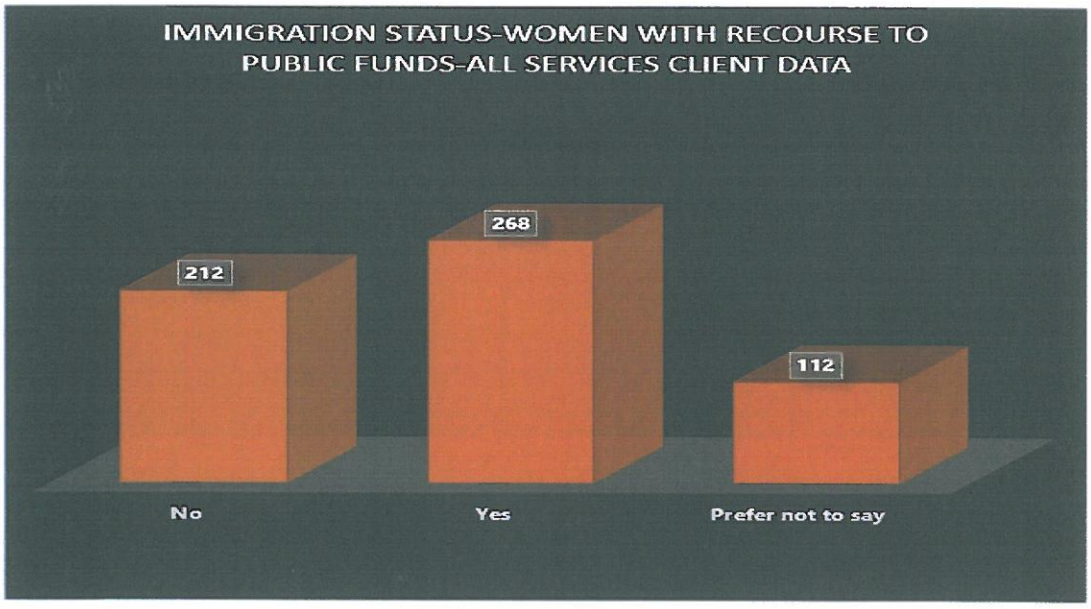
6. ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

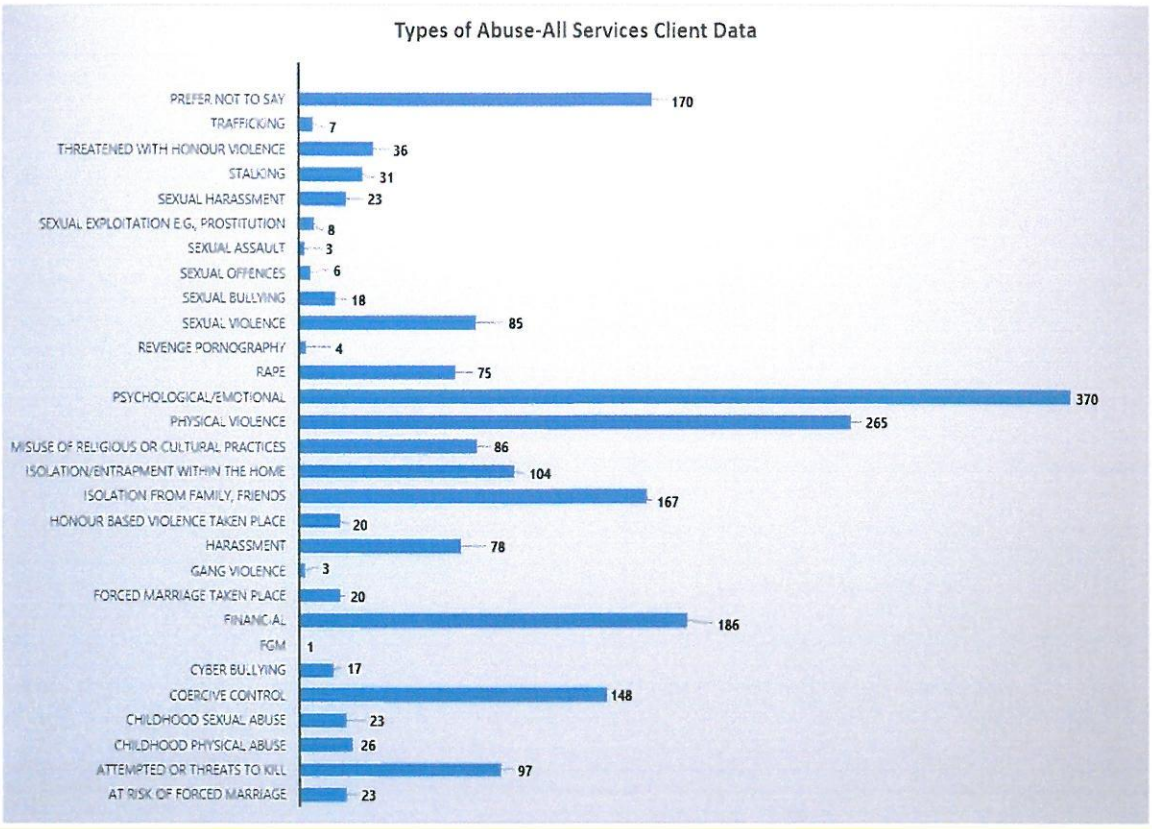
Activities & Impact

During the year we supported 592 women and dealt with an additional 595 enquires.




Age-All Services Client Data
23%
1%
10%
1%
6%
35%
24%
17 Years & Under
18-24 Years
25-34 Years
35-44 Years
45-54 Years
55 Years & Over
Prefer not to say


IMMIGRATION STATUS-WOMEN WITH RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS-ALL SERVICES CLIENT DATA
212
268
112
No
Yes
Prefer not to say


Types of Abuse-All Services Client Data
PREFER NOT TO SAY 170
TRAFFICKING 7
THREATENED WITH HONOUR VIOLENCE 36
STALKING 31
SEXUAL HARASSMENT 23
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION E.G., PROSTITUTION 8
SEXUAL ASSAULT 3
SEXUAL OFFENCES 6
SEXUAL BULLYING 18
SEXUAL VIOLENCE 85
REVENGE PORNOGRAPHY 4
RAPE 75
PSYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL 370
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE 265
MISUSE OF RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL PRACTICES 86
ISOLATION/ENTRAPMENT WITHIN THE HOME 104
ISOLATION FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS 167
HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE TAKEN PLACE 20
HARASSMENT 78
GANG VIOLENCE 3
FORCED MARRIAGE TAKEN PLACE 20
FINANCIAL 186
FGM 1
CYBER BULLYING 17
COERCIVE CONTROL 148
CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE 23
CHILDHOOD PHYSICAL ABUSE 26
ATTEMPTED OR THREATS TO KILL 97
AT RISK OF FORCED MARRIAGE 23

HOUSING SERVICES

Kyra, Zafina, Saranaya & Noorah

Ashiana offers temporary safe accommodation across four schemes for South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women. Zafina is an 8-bed shared house for women between the ages of 16-35 who are experiencing domestic violence. Kyra and Saranaya comprise of a total of 13 bedspaces for young women between the ages of 16-35 at risk of Harmful Practices. Noorah is a 3-bed second stage refuge, for women that slightly more independent and need a lower level of support. Women are assessed accordingly and moved into Noorah from Zafina, Kyra or Saranaya.

During their stay at Ashiana, women are offered culturally specific support, confidential advice and advocacy regarding their legal, financial, housing and personal situation. A high level of emotional support is provided to each client.

Over the course of the year we accommodated 20 women. 15 of these women had no recourse to public funds. Presenting issues and types of abuse include: coercive control (8), threats to kill (8), rape (8), psychological/emotional abuse (17), Isolation (17) sexual abuse (5).

Many of our clients who come to us have No Recourse to Public Funds and some may have been in the UK for a long period of time still awaiting an outcome. They often present with multiple needs and require intense legal support to resolve their immigration status.

It has been a very exciting year as Ashiana purchased its own property. This is a huge achievement not only for the organisation, but also for the 'led by and for' sector. Simultaneously, we approached our current Registered Provider partner, London & Quadrant, for additional properties to manage. Given our excellent working relationship, we were allocated 2 new properties. We set up Noorah, the first property and we are in the process of setting up the second. This refuge will also be used as second stage accommodation.

A client was accepted and after the initial induction was carried out, the support worker was showing the service user to her room, and she hugged the support worker, and stated that ***"I haven't been hugged in more than 2 years".***

Service User Feedback:

"X (staff), you have supported me like no one else has in my life"

"***Ashiana has always given me hope, the back bone of my journey is Ashiana. My survival and fight was impossible without your support. The woman I am today is because of the strong women I am held by. When the whole world turned away from me and when I was totally hopeless, Ashiana was the ray of hope in my life without whom my case, my studies, were impossible. It has given me a second chance to make my life better. I was able to get out of an abusive relationship and I received so much emotional and mental support throughout. I cannot thank you enough and I have always prayed from my heart for the supportive people I have been blessed with. I have always felt understood and listened at Ashiana."***

ADVOCACY & ADVICE SERVICE

We provide a culturally specific service for Black & Minoritised women, predominantly women from South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern communities. These are services that would not be possible at borough level due to specialisms, as an organisation, we have been established over a number of years to ensure we provide a pan-London service and if we are not able to provide a particular service, we will not turn a service user away but signpost accordingly and link women with local services in order to establish referral pathways and work collaboratively.

The importance of the work we do and the difference it makes for women who are exiting their abusive situations will always be part of our DNA as an organisation, in particular the South Asian and marginalised communities. This includes an in-depth understanding of cultural issues and the language provision as the ethnic background and languages are reflected within our staff team. As women, we are already marginalised but to bring change in a wider context is something we will continue to advocate with regards to equality amongst women who have no voice, and the wider changes we want to see in how funding processes need to be more equitable across specialist and the larger generic providers and how these funds are allocated.

We refer cases which have been identified as high risk to MARAC, who would then link the case with the local IDVA. However, we do not close the case immediately after referring but continue to support these clients who are at high risk until their cases are picked by an IDVA. This involves holding the risk for a short period of time which at times can be challenging as we provide low to medium support.

We look to make onward referrals to meet the needs of a service user where the area is not our specialism. We have engaged with local borough officers, VAWG leads and commissioners to ensure local service delivery is appropriate to local needs and not duplicated.

We also have a specialist service provision providing support for women and girls aged 16 and over who have experienced abuse as well as multiple disadvantages. Women experiencing multiple disadvantages can be experiencing a range of issues such as "homelessness, substance misuse, mental ill health, physical ill health, insecure or uncertain immigration status, be affected by or at risk of prostitution, have a history of offending behaviour and a history of children being removed from care and/or at risk of further removals". This cohort of women are frequently excluded from mainstream services and/or find it hard to engage with support by using assertive outreach and holistic wrap around support methods.

Advocates supported women to attend over 400 appointments each year. The main areas of support continue to be around housing, mental health, substance and/or alcohol abuse and physical il health.
This particular group of service users are considered the most vulnerable people in society who "have typically fallen through the cracks" of other services and as such they are not used to being listened to and consequently, they might struggle with engagement.

During the year we supported over 401 women and girls experiencing a range of VAWG issues. 194 had no recourse to public funds. 148 had language support needs. 58 disclosed a range of disabilities. 104 needed support with housing option and 64 were homeless.

We continue to experience challenges with some statutory services, mainly social services accepting a duty to support S17 women who have children and no recourse to public funds. A considerable amount of time and resource goes into a high level of assertive advocacy. Staff are highly skilled in order to challenge social services and obtain successful outcomes, however achieving successful outcomes are few and far between.

Advocating on behalf of women who make homeless applications to the local authority due to domestic abuse continues to be difficult despite the Domestic Abuse Act which unfortunately has very little impact on the success of women being accommodated. There are significant delays in communication from local authority and at times, there is no response many months after submitting a homeless application let alone any kind of acknowledgment of the application. Gatekeeping tactics leave staff frustrated when dealing with emergency crisis for women and children.

"***First I want to send big thanks for your support, you're always there for me, I was completely confused before you offered to help. Now I understand, and it's made all difference, I can't thank you enough for stepping in when I needed you most, just know you didn't just offered help, but what you did words can barely express how thankful I am for what you've done for me and my sons, just know i appreciate you so so much what you did for us.***

I'll be forever grateful for your help always. Thank you from the bottom of my heart".

LEGAL SERVICE

The Legal Service offers legal advice and advocacy specifically for women with insecure immigration status. Some of the more destitute and vulnerable women are those that have no recourse to public funds and Ashiana's aim is to support them with access to specialist legal advice in order to resolve their immigration status.

The Legal Service has proved to be an extremely important service that is provided to clients. Between the period of April 2022 – March 2023 we accepted approximately 160 new cases, some of which were one-off advice cases. The Legal Team achieved 59 successful outcomes for clients in terms of their status – these include settlement decisions, grant of change of conditions, decisions granting settled status and permission to JR.

Expert staff assess eligibility, gather evidence and record statements and make applications to regularise clients' immigration status. Additionally, these women are supported to access refuge/housing, social care, reporting to police, support through the court system.

It is worth noting that the legal service that we provide is invaluable, as we have experienced that legal aid solicitors either do not have the capacity to take cases on and some of those that have been to private solicitor's and have been hugely overcharged by the company.

We have also started delivering Family Law Surgeries, initially there was one surgery per month and now due to the huge demand we have increased this to 2 surgeries per month. Due to the change in Legal Aid, it is extremely difficult for service users to access a Family Law Solicitor for divorce matters as this is now no longer covered by Legal Aid. The Family Law Solicitor assists service users with Non Mol matters along with Divorce matters.

Our Senior Solicitor was nominated and successfully shortlisted for a 'Legal Hero' Award from the Law Society. Solicitors are crucial to our justice system and make a vital contribution to our society. They make such an immeasurable difference to our vulnerable service users. We are very proud that our solicitor was nominated and shortlisted for this award as the legal team goes above and beyond in providing the service.

Service User Feedback:

"Good morning. Hope you are well. Sorry for the late reply i collected BRP card from your office. I am so happy. I really appreciate to you and all Ashiana Network. Who give us great opportunity.. Thank you so much"

COUNSELLING SERVICES

We provide confidential one-to-one specialist trauma informed counselling services for women and girls who are or have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse as well as women and girls who have experienced any form of harmful practice including; forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation. Counselling offered is short term (6-30 Sessions) The counselling is provided in different languages as well as being provided by accredited qualified counsellors and experienced volunteer counsellor/placements. Ashiana Network is a member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

In the last year we supported 76 women with counselling. Clients presented with complex and multiple issues such as depression, anxiety, poor mental health and practical issues such as housing needs, homelessness, immigration/NRPF, assistance with welfare benefits, divorce/separation.

Being able to offer women longer therapy contracts i.e. 30 sessions, we have seen great improvement in mental health as well as recovery from trauma, with women not referring themselves back into therapy as often as before. We have seen a better outcome of women committing to their therapy, due to offering a hybrid therapy i.e. online, telephone as well as in person. We had fewer DNA (Did Not Attend) we had 90% attendance to session as well as completing therapy contract.

'I appreciate that you didn't give up on me'

'I think the counselling has been brilliant. I am introverted and I think the calm and understanding approach has been great.'

'counselling has helped me to start focusing on myself and my needs. It helped me to think about my future, of the person I want to be.'

'Zoom has been great for me to be able to have counselling without needing to travel.'

'this was really helpful; I feel like you really understand me because I can speak in my own language'

'The counselling was very helpful, the reflections made by my counsellor gave me different point of views - views that I would not have even thought of. It helped me change my perspective on a lot of things.'

EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Our education and training work is conducted at a variety of levels with both statutory and voluntary agencies aimed at raising awareness about VAWG. Workshops, training and support groups are provided on topics such as domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour-based violence.

Ashiana has had a busy and productive period in raising awareness of all forms of VAWG in a variety of settings and in a wide variety of ways. We delivered 5 training to 100 people from a range of services. These included healthcare staff, teachers, police, staff in multi-agency settings. The training focused on VAWG and in particular Harmful Practices and Immigration. We delivered awareness raising sessions for 533 young people in primary and secondary schools across London.

7. DEVELOPMENT

Since purchasing a property in Redbridge, we have received appropriate planning permissions and are in the process of re-modelling the property into a 5-bed second stage refuge. We envisage this project, called Ariana, to be completed and ready for use in January 2024.

We have also secured 2 further properties with London & Quadrant; one is a 3-bed scheme and the other a 5-bed scheme. Both will be used as second stage services.

Due to the significant property development, we have set aside funds in the region of £600,000 for the renovation, remodelling and furnishing of Ariana. As we are taking over 2 additional properties from London & Quadrant, these funds will also be sued for fixtures, fittings, furnishing, white goods and security measures for the additional properties.

The aim is to use the second stage accommodation for women living in our refuges who no longer need safe accommodation but still require some support. Primarily these may include younger women, those that require further development in life skills or confidence or women with NRPF who are awaiting decisions. Over time, these cohort of women will require less casework support, some of the support may be focused on a particular issue e.g. immigration or divorce. Support packages will be tailored to clients' needs and the longer-term focus will be on move-on/resettlement. We have secured revenue funding to support the provision.

8. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Sustain existing services
- Apply for OISC level 3 accreditation to enhance our immigration legal work
- Develop the Experts by Experience model at Ashiana
- Service development through remodelling Ashiana's new property for use as second stage refuge
- Develop the second stage provision
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for services

9. Staff Wellbeing

We continue to ensure staff wellbeing is prioritised to ensure staff retention and recruitment, especially post pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, the rise in complex referrals and working in an increasingly challenging environment. We have increased resources to manage staff wellbeing, this includes salary uplifts, peer supervision, clinical supervision, weekly informal catchups, employee assistance program, line manager supervision and team building activities.

10. COST OF LIVING CRISIS

The cost-of-living crisis has had a significant impact on women, we continue to see an increase in the number of women accessing the service with financial support needs, women in rent arrears, women in debt, and women increasingly wanting to access alternative funding for example, women who need to exit their abuse but do not have the means to support the move.

Recent Women's Aid research found that 73% of women living with and having financial links with their abuser said that the cost-of-living crisis had either prevented them from leaving or made it harder for them to leave.[3] The cost-of- living crisis is putting more women at significant risk of harm.

[3] https://www.womensaid.org.uk/the-cost-of-living/#:~:text=Almost%20three%20quarters%20(73%25),harder%20for%20them%20to%20leave

It is also having a devastating impact on smaller providers who don't have the additional resources to get through the crisis. We are part of a sector-wide partnership that is making representations to Government about our concerns and recommendations to assist organisations and service users.

11. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Ashiana Network is committed to working within good practice guidelines to provide high quality services for service users. We aspire to become an outstanding organisation providing safe housing, advice and counselling to all service users, individuals, groups, stakeholders and other agencies.

To ensure high quality provision Ashiana has achieved accreditations with Investors in People (Gold), National Domestic Violence Service Standards, Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards (distinction), Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC). We are applying for Level 3 accreditation with OISC to enable us to conduct appeals work in-house.

12. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

Ascent Specialist Refuge

The Ascent Specialist Refuge project is funded by London Councils and was recommissioned in April 2023 for a three-year period to March 2026. Ashiana is the lead partner and Solace Women's Aid, nia Project and IKWRO are delivery partners. Together the partnership provides 39 specialist refuge bedspaces for women with specialist and multiple needs, no recourse to public funds, women with mental health/problematic substance use, sexually exploited and trafficked women.

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Strand (EHP)

The Ascent Ending Harmful Practices is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) and Ashiana is one of 9 delivery partners. The project provides advice and counselling services for those affected by sexual and domestic violence, specifically, Female Genital Mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage and other harmful practices. This work is funded from April 2022 to March 2026.

Ascent Advice & Counselling

The Ascent Advice & Counselling project is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Women & Girls Network, and Ashiana is one of the delivery partners. We provide a range of advice and counselling services to women in London affected by domestic and sexual violence. This work is funded from April 2022 to March 2026.

Casa Project

We commenced delivery of the two-year Move on Programme in October 2019. The funding allows us to support women who access move-on accommodation through this project. The project is funded until March 2026.

Advice & Counselling PLUS

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Solace Women's Aid. This project enables us to expand on our current advice & counselling services. This is funded till 30 September 2024.

DASA – GLA & MOPAC Funded Projects

Mental Health & Webchat

This service provides 1:1 mental health support and group activities for women in our refuges and a online webchat service for women and young girls needing support to exit abusive relationships. This is funded until March 2024.

Second Stage/Move-on Safe Accommodation

This service provides an additional 5 bedspaces of semi-independent accommodation for women moving on from our crisis refuge accommodation. This is funded until March 2024.

OYA Refuge, Immigration and Counselling services

Latin American Women's Aid lead on this project with Ashiana, Asha project and LBWP as delivery partners. The two projects include:

1) Refuge case work, immigration and housing advice
2) Therapeutic and counselling services

Ascent GLA Safe Accommodation Project

Asian Women's resource Centre lead on this project. Ashiana is one of the delivery partners providing support to women with NRPF.

P&ACT EHP Partnership – (Prevention & Action through Community Engagement & training) Harmful Practices

We are a delivery partner in this project led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre. This project enables us to expand our services for women experiencing harmful practices.

London Holistic Advocacy Wraparound Service – the Life Saving to Life Changing Project

We are a delivery partner in this project which is led by Southall Black Sisters. This project focuses on the provision of support, counselling, legal advice and access to accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds.

CouRAGEus Project

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Women & Girls Network. As part of this project, Ashiana delivers Specialist Advocacy for women with multiple needs and BME young women and girls 14-24yrs

WiSER Project

The WiSER Project is led by Solace Women's Aid and as a delivery partner we work with BME women who find it hard to engage with support, who are experiencing violence or abuse and are affected by severe and multiple disadvantages. This project is funded until March 2025.

MHCLG COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund via LAWA

The OYA consortium, comprising of Ashiana, Asha Project, Latin American Women's Refuge and London Black Women's Project, received funding to support its refuge services for the period April to September 2022.

London Borough of Waltham Forest

We were successful in our tender for the re-commissioning of our 13-bed refuge provision in LBWF. The contract is for a three-year term commencing March 2022.

Market Place- Waltham Forest

Ashiana is a preferred provider on the Waltham Forest Market Place framework which is led by Solace Women's Aid. This enables us to deliver specialist counselling for women in the borough as and when referrals are made and payment is based on the numbers of clients and sessions delivered.

13. THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED US DURING THE PAST YEAR, IN PARTICULAR:

Aisha K Gill
Asian Women's Resource Centre
Caring Family Foundation
Charities Connected
Forced Marriage Unit
Homeless Link
Greater London Authority
GMSP Foundation
Imkaan
Life in London Trust
Latin American Women's Aid
London Borough of Waltham Forest,
London Councils
London & Quadrant Housing Association
London VAWG Consortium
Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime
Metropolitan Police
National Lottery Community Fund.
NatWest Bank plc (Bankers)
Nawaal Fund
Oak Foundation
OYA Consortium
Peabody
Publicis Groupe
Public Interest Law Centre
Soil Sisters
Solace Women's Aid
Southall Black Sisters
Tender
Waltham Forest Liberal Democrats (Secret Santa)
Women's Aid Federation of England
Women & Girls Network
Women's Resource Centre

14. FINANCIAL REVIEW

There was an increase in the activities of the charity in 2022/23. Incoming resources increased by 21.14% (9.5% 2021/22) from £2,006,621 to £2,544,474 and expenditure increased by 11.25 % (3.36% 2020/21) from £1,946,642 to £2,193,344.

The total funds held by the charity increased during the year from £2,244,869 to £2,595,999. These funds are divided for accounting purposes into restricted funds, which represent the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes, and unrestricted funds that are available for the general purposes of the charity. During the year, there was a decrease in the total value of the restricted funds from £32,058 to £9,225 and an increase in unrestricted funds from £2,212,811 to £2,586,774.

The principal financial policies adopted during the year are (i) the accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention; (ii) incoming resources relating to grants and material donations are recognised in the period to which they are receivable and (iii) resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis and on the basis that consideration has been received for the expenditure. Full details of the accounting policies adopted during the year are shown in note 1 to the Accounts.

Reserves policy and going concern

The policy of the charity in respect of reserves and major risks is to designate all unrestricted funds where the organisation has been able to identify a timescale for expenditure on specific projects/items. In addition the organisation has established a General Fund for unrestricted funds held by the organisation, which can be used as a contingency against emergency or unplanned expenditure. The Committee believes that by designating funds in this way, they can ensure that the long term plans of the organisation can be realised, and the organisation will be able to fulfil its contractual responsibilities to its staff, funders, users and the wider community.

The reserves fund represents unrestricted general funds which are not committed or tied to any tangible fixed assets held by Ashiana. The Trustees have considered the challenge Ashiana faces with limited, short-term contracts, lack of committed funds and some key services that remain unfunded. As a smaller 'led by and for' organisation we are at further risk of losing contracts, funding and services as we compete against lager generic providers. At the same time, the demand for our specialist services is ever increasing as Black and minoritized women with multiple and complex needs seek our support. Post pandemic and the cost of living crisis has exacerbated this situation. It falls on Ashiana to ensure that it has a policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard its financial commitments and to continue to provide essential services to Black and minoritised women in the event that funding is reduced or indeed, completely cut. We will retain sufficient funds in our free reserves to manage short term periods without funding to enable us to deliver services. This will also enable us to plan a service closure slowly so that negative impact to clients is minimised. We will also ensure sufficient funds are retained in our designated fund to enable us to achieve our strategic goal to expand property ownership. Ashiana's forecast reserves through 2022/23 means that the Trustees consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the 2022 Annual Report and Financial statements and is confident of Ashiana's ability to remain as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

15. Future Plans

- Sustain and develop existing services
- Apply for OISC level 3 accreditation to enhance our immigration legal work
- Develop the Experts by Experience model at Ashiana
- Service development through remodelling Ashiana's new property for use as second stage refuge
- Develop the second stage provision
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for service

Asset cover for funds
Note 16 sets out an analysis of the net assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

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

Company law requires the committee members to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the committee members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

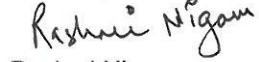
Each of the committee members has confirmed that there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the committee members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The committee members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

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



Rashmi Nigam

2 November 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

ASHIANA NETWORK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ashiana Network (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

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

Stephen Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

2 November 2023

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	147,000	583,664	730,664	233,811
Charitable activities	3	379,385	1,425,959	1,805,344	1,771,749
Investments	4	8,466	-	8,466	1,061
Total		534,851	2,009,623	2,544,474	2,006,621
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	56,517	-	56,517	49,795
Charitable activities	6	104,371	2,032,456	2,136,827	1,896,847
Total		160,888	2,032,456	2,193,344	1,946,642
Net income	10	373,963	(22,833)	351,130	59,979
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	15	373,963	(22,833)	351,130	59,979
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	2,212,811	32,058	2244869	2,184,890
Total funds carried forward	15	2,586,774	9,225	£2,595,999	£2,244,869

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The SOFA includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK
Company No. 2972903 (England & Wales)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		545,056		545,056
Current assets					
Debtors	13	680,618		487,688	
Cash at Bank		1,469,502		1,498,029	
		2,150,120		1,985,717	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(99,177)		(285,904)	
Net current assets			2,050,943		1,699,813
Net assets	16		£2,595,999		£2,244,869
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
- Designated funds	15		1,896,143		1,836,143
- General fund	15		690,631		376,668
Total unrestricted funds			2,586,774		2,212,811
Restricted Funds	15		9,225		32,058
Total funds			£2,595,999		£2,244,869

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

Approved by the directors and trustees on 2 November 2023 and signed on their behalf.

Urmi Medhi

Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	(36,993)	133,575
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	8,466	1,061
Purchase of property	-	(545,056)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(28,527)	(410,420)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,498,029	1,908,449
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	£1,469,502	£1,498,029

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year	351,130	59,979
Interest receivable	(8,466)	(1,061)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(192,930)	(69,438)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(186,727)	144,095
Net cash flow from operating activities	£(36,993)	£133,575

Cash and cash equivalents consist of:	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	426,791	463,028
Short term deposits	1,042,711	1,035,001
Total cash and cash equivalent	£1,469,502	£1,498,029

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation
Ashiana Network is a private company (No. 2972903) limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the "Reference and Administrative Information" on page 1 of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from performance related grants and contracts is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through delivery of the specified services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure includes all irrecoverable VAT which is included as part of the relevant cost. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises those costs associated with attracting voluntary donations and grants
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs associated with the delivery of the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity and also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support those activities. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

1. Accounting policies/contd...

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are stated at costs less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset, less estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life at the following annual rates:

Computer equipment 33% Straight line

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The charity contributes to Stakeholder Pension Schemes on behalf of its employees. These schemes are defined contribution pension schemes.

Contributions payable under these schemes are charged the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate. The charity has no liability under these schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Debtors and creditors
Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairments are recognised in expenditure.

2. Donations and grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
LBWF	-	-	-	2,640
The Oak Foundation	111,800	-	111,800	111,800
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	35,909
MHCLG via LAWA	-	51,360	51,360	51,112
OYA REFUGE via LAWA	-	263,318	263,318	-
GLA	-	244,218	244,218	22,009
GMSP Foundation	25,200	-	25,200	250
The Caring Family Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	-
London Councils via Tender	-	24,768	24,768	10,091
Other Donations	-	-	-	-
	147,000	583,664	£730,664	£233,811

Of the £233,811 recognised in 2022, £112,050 was unrestricted funds and £121,761 was restricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
London Councils – Specialist refuge	-	840,000	840,000	840,000
London Councils – other	-	129,871	129,871	118,637
Solace - SLA	-	-	-	-
LBWF – supporting people	127,240	-	127,240	122,085
LB Camden	-	27,225	27,225	26,535
Income from rent	242,883	-	242,883	237,212
MOPAC		423,863	423,863	410,137
Other	9,262	5,000	14,262	17,143
	379,385	1,425,959	£1,805,344	£1,771,749

Of the £1,771,749 recognised in 2022, £376,440 was unrestricted funds and £1,395,309 was restricted funds.

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Bank interest	8,466	-	£8,466	£1,061

All of the £1,061 recognised in 2022 was unrestricted funds.

5. Cost of raising funds

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
Fundraising activities – salaries	56,517	-	£56,517	£49,795

All of the £49,795 recognised in 2022 was unrestricted funds.

6. Cost of charitable activities

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
Educational, counselling and prevention work	2,066,489	70,338	£2,136,827	£1,896,847

Of the £1,896,847 expenditure recognised in 2022, £287,950 was charged to unrestricted funds and £1,608,897 was charged to restricted funds.

7. Analysis of direct costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,006,896	825,916
Grants paid to London Councils Partners	704,920	616,079
Payments to clients with no recourse to public funds	118,231	163,782
Housing Association charges	17,593	82,197
Legal fees	8,671	10,038
Other direct housing and management costs	210,178	113,112
	£2,066,489	£1,811,124

8. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Office costs	14,543	21,332
Premises costs	16,665	24,584
Consultancy costs	30,745	27,875
Governance costs (note 9)	8,385	11,932
	£70,338	£85,723

9. Governance costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Audit and accountancy fees	3,440	7,575
Trustee meetings	-	-
Salaries	4,945	4,357
	£8,385	£11,932

10. Net income

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
Depreciation	£Nil	£Nil
Auditors' remuneration	£2,700	£2,450
Trustees' remuneration	£Nil	£Nil
Operating lease rentals	£33,713	£104,573

No trustees were reimbursed any expenses during the year *(2022: none)*.

11. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	927,157	764,105
Social security costs	96,198	76,508
Other pension costs	45,003	39,455
	£1,068,358	£880,068

The employees who received total employee benefits during the year (excluding employer pension costs) of:
£60,000 - £69,999 none (2022 – 1)
£70,000 - £79,999 1 (2022 – none)

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £261,120 (2022 : £233,061).

Under FRS 102, employee benefits includes gross salary, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and benefits in kind.

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was 28 *(2022: 25).*

No termination payments (2022 - £Nil) were made to members of staff during the year.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £
Cost:	
At 1 April 2022	556,389
Additions	-
At 31 March 2023	556,389
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2022	11,333
Charge for the year	-
At 31 March 2023	11,333
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2023	£545,056
At 31 March 2022	£545,056

13. Debtors

Due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
Grants receivable	665,369	469,271
Charges receivable	13,747	17,586
Other debtors	1,502	831
	£680,618	£487,688

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year:	2023 £	2022 £
Charges - Credit balances	7,565	7,161
Deferred income – Grants received in advance	-	-
Accruals	91,612	278,743
	£99,177	£285,904

15. Movement in funds Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	94,499	94,499	-	-
Education & advice	-	24,768	24,768	-	-
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	840,000	-	-
Women against Violence Group	-	51,360	51,360	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	24,701	-	20,298	-	4,403
Market Place – Waltham Forest	6,546	-	-	-	6,546
Harmful practices	-	35,372	35,372	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan	-				
OYA Refuge (via LAWA).	-	263,318	263,318	-	-
Circle fund	-	5,000	4,833	-	167
Noorah	-	-	2,702	-	(2,702)
WiSER project	-	27,225	27,225	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	47,834	47,834	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	486	211,550	211,550	-	486
CASA project	-	8,968	8,968	-	-
GLA	325	244,218	244,218	-	325
P & ACT	-	39,935	39,935	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	115,576	115,576	-	-
Total restricted funds	32,058	2,009,623	2,032,456	-	9,225
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	376,668	534,851	160,888	(60,000)	690,631
Designated Funds					
- Furniture renewal	29,000	-	-	20,000	49,000
- Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
- Salary contingency	225,000	-	-	40,000	265,000
- Property/Service development	1,004,944	-	-	-	1,004,944
- Freehold Property	545,056	-	-	-	545,056
- Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	2,212,811	534,851	160,888	-	2,586,774
Total funds	£2,244,869	£2,544,474	£2,193,344	£Nil	£2,595,999

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

15. Movement in funds (continued)

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2022 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	81,777	(81,777)	-	-
Education & advice	13,246	10,091	(23,337)	-	-
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	(840,000)	-	-
Women against Violence Group	6,954	-	(6,954)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	60,284	35,909	(71,492)	-	24,701
Market Place – Waltham Forest	3,906	2,640	-	-	6,546
Harmful practices	-	36,860	(36,860)	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan	25,000	-	(25,000)	-	-
MHCLG (via LAWA).		51,112	(51,112)		
LBWF Community Transformation	14,495	-	(14,495)	-	-
WiSER project	-	26,535	(26,535)	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	47,834	(47,834)	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	-	182,216	(181,730)	-	486
CASA project	-	8,968	(8,968)	-	-
GLA	-	22,009	(21,684)	-	325
P & ACT	-	52,027	(52,027)	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	119,092	(119,092)	-	-
Total restricted funds	123,885	1,517,070	(1,608,897)	-	32,058
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	224,862	489,551	(337,745)	-	376,668
Designated Funds					
Furniture renewal	29,000	-	-	-	29,000
Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Salary contingency	-	-	-	225,000	225,000
Property/Service development	1,775,000	-	-	(770,056)	1,004,944
Freehold Property	-	-	-	545,056	545,056
Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	2,061,005	489,551	(337,745)	-	2,212,811
Total funds	£2,184,890	£2,006,621	£(1,946,642)	£Nil	£2,244,869

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report

Section 37 Statement

Grant Aid of £840,000 was received in 2022/23 (2021/22 - £840,000) from London Councils for the Ascent Specialist Refuge Partnership.

The following table illustrates how money was allocated across the partnership and that it has been used for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Lead Partner: Ashiana Network	223,921	223,921
Delivery Partner: Solace Women's Aid	286,339	286,339
Delivery Partner: nia project	267,740	267,740
Delivery Partner: IKWRO	62,000	62,000
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salaries	593,091	610,825
Beneficiary Costs:	121,855	117,985
Central Overheads:	50,719	37,332
Other Direct Project Costs:	12,446	11,969
Set Up & Development Costs:	5,240	5,240
Interpretation Costs:	1,000	1,000
Lead Organisation Costs:	55,649	55,649
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

Grant Aid of £51,360 was received in 2022/23 (2021/22 - £51,112) from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (covid extension), (via LAWA). The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Cover: Additional Staff Cover	23,400	23,400
Additional COVID-19 Related Costs	14,846	14,846
Office equipment	5,000	5,000
Other Costs:	8,114	8,114
Total:	£51,360	£51,360

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £94,499 was received in 2022/23 (2021/22 - £81,777) from London Councils (via Women and Girls Network) for the Ascent Counselling and Advice Strand. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Counsellor 0:18	7,048	7,048
Salary: Counsellor 1:2	41,986	41,986
Salary: Specialist Advice Caseworker 0:8	25,187	25,187
Salary: Administrator 0:19	4,544	4,544
Group Worker (2 groups)	3,000	3,000
Staff travel	400	400
ITC	1,895	1,895
Clinical Supervision	1,093	1,093
Mobile phones/comms	853	853
Overheads	8,493	8,493
Total:	£94,499	£94,499

Grant Aid of £35,371.92 was received in 2022/23 (2021/22 - £36,860) from London Councils (via AWRC) for the Ascent Harmful Practices Strand of the Ascent Strand. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Advice Workers	21,091.92	21,091.92
Salary: Counsellor	12,480.00	12,480.00
Venue and Other Costs	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total:	£35,371.92	£35,371.92

Grant Aid of £57,399 was received in 2022/23 from GLA/MOPAC (via LAWA) towards specialist counseling for women and children at the refuge. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	47,667	47,667
Other staffing & volunteer costs	8,060	8,060
Indirect costs	1,672	1,672
Total:	£57,399	£57,399

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £205,920 was received in 2022/23 from GLA/MOPAC (via LAWA) towards specialist services support in the specific areas of housing, immigration, family law, and complex cases at the refuge. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	186,743	186,743
Other staffing & volunteer costs	13,180	13,180
Indirect costs	5,997	5,997
Total:	£205,920	£205,920

Grant Aid of £113,451 was received in 2022/23 from MOPAC (via GLA) towards the delivery of specialist mental health and webchat services. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	90,651	90,651
Other staffing & volunteer costs	5,500	5,500
Direct delivery costs	4,500	4,500
Indirect costs	12,800	12,800
Total:	£113,451	£113,451

Grant Aid of £64,103 was received in 2022/23 from MOPAC (via GLA) towards the delivery of second stage accommodation. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	53,103	53,103
Other staffing & volunteer costs	4,000	4,000
Direct delivery costs	3,000	3,000
Indirect costs	4,000	4,000
Total:	£64,103	£64,103

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £66,664 was received in 2022/23 from GLA/MOPAC (via AWRC) towards the delivery of specialist advice and accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Costs	30,202	30,202
Other staffing & volunteer costs	2,308	2,308
Direct delivery costs	20,308	20,308
Indirect costs	13,846	13,846
Total:	£66,664	£66,664

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund Balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted			
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Freehold Property	-	545,056	-	545,056
Current assets	849,808	1,291,087	9,225	2,150,120
Current liabilities	(99,177)	-	-	(99,177)
	£750,631	£1,836,143	£9,225	£2,595,999

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Fund Balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted			
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Freehold Property	-	545,056	-	545,056
Current assets	662,572	1,291,087	32,058	1,985,717
Current liabilities	(285,904)	-	-	(285,904)
	£376,668	£1,836,143	£32,058	£2,244,869

17. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	Land and Buildings	Land and Buildings
Within one year	83,085	83,637
Within two to five years	-	-
	£83,085	£83,637

18. Taxation

As a registered charity, Ashiana Network is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.

19. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2023 or 2022 other than those set out in note 11 relating to key management personnel.

20. Contingent assets

The charity has been awarded some multi-year grants with specified or implied timeframes which preclude recognition of the full amount. The total amount awarded for future years but not recognised is £2,043,502.

ASHIANA NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1042440

Accounts

ASHIANA NETWORK

Company No. 2972903 (England & Wales)
Charity no. 1042440

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants
Norman House
8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

ASHIANA NETWORK

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ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The management committee presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable law and the requirements of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

1. REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status
The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The board approved a change of company name at a special meeting on 22 February 2006. The name changed from Ashiana Project to Ashiana Network.

Charity Number 1042440

Company Number 2972903

Registered Office and operational address
Oceanaire House, High Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 3AW

Board Members
Sabina Mahmood – Chair
Anjum Bashir
Shivangi Medhi
Urmi Medhi
Rashmi Nigam
Laela E. Pakpour Tabrizi - Treasurer

Chief Executive
Shaminder Ubhi

Auditors
Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4BW.

Banker

National Westminster Bank Plc, PO Box 333, Silbury House, 300 Silbury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, MK9 2ZF

2. HOW WE ARE FULFILLING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHARITIES ACT 2011

As a registered charity, the public benefits of our work are directly related to our aims, which seek to improve the lives of women from the communities we work with by reducing the impact of domestic violence upon them. Our educational, counselling and preventative work provides direct benefit to both the recipients of our services and the public generally through contributing positively to a better society. Our services are free and open to the section of the public who we exist to help. We plan to introduce an annual audit of our charitable activities as well as consider how to promote public benefit on an ongoing basis.

In forming our objectives the Management Committee confirms that it has given due regard to the Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit.

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Ashiana Network is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Ashiana Network's business and governance is conducted under the framework of its memorandum of articles of association.

Recruitment and appointment of management committee/training
Board members are selected on the basis of the experience, skills and expertise they bring to further the main objectives of Ashiana. The induction process for new members includes the provision of information on their roles and responsibilities, policy and procedures, meeting with the Director and staff, and site visits. One-third of the board members must resign at each annual general meeting. The retiring members are eligible for re-election.

Risk Management
Ashiana is committed to identifying and managing potential and probable risks that the organisation faces. The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for management of risk and it is an essential part of the organisation's effective governance. Monitoring known risks enables the Board and Senior Management Team to make informed decisions and take timely action.

The principal risks facing the charity are financial and operational.

Financial:

As a small 'led by and for' specialist provider, Ashiana has limited resources and faces an increasingly competitive external environment. National research Imkaan (2020) shows that 'by and for' organisations faced disproportionate pressures during the pandemic with a 39% reduction in funding due to historical austerity cuts with organisations operating with one-third reduced staffing capacity.

Payments by local authorities, government bodies, trusts and foundations are often paid in arrears and are based on the achievement of targets and outcomes. This has an impact on cashflow and budgeting.

A number of our contracts were renewed in 2021/22 and we gained several new contracts for 2022-2024. However, the short-term nature of these contracts increases overall financial risk. The London Councils Specialist Refuge contract ends in March 2023 and LC will be undertaking a re-commissioning process in December 2022, again, adding to the financial risk. Our plan to reduce and mitigate the risks include:

- Preparing and submitting tenders/applications as necessary
- Maintaining robust Quality Systems
- Having a spread of services by size and service type
- Ensuring we meet all contractual obligations
- Maintaining good relationships with commissioners/funders
- Being responsive to changes in the market
- Performance monitoring in place
- Robust tendering for our own services
- Remaining competitive in terms of quality of services, value for money and contract price
- Clear messaging about our unique selling point

Operational:

These risks range from recruitment and retention issues, safeguarding, inadequate monitoring and evaluation of projects, lack of contract compliance, inadequate business planning/continuity planning, poor response to national or global emergencies i.e. pandemic, cost of living crisis, data breaches, reputation, public policy. We reduce and mitigate these by implementing appropriate policies and procedures, staff induction, training and supervision. We ensure processes are in place for all contract compliance and regulatory frameworks e.g. health and safety regulations.

Risk management is ongoing and embedded in governance and operational procedures with the following in place:-

1. Annual Risk Register
This register identifies the potential and probable risks faced by the organisation and each risk is given an impact and likelihood rating, as well as an overall net risk. The SMT monitor the Risk Register on an ongoing basis, and it is reviewed by the Board every quarter.

2. Business Continuity Plan
A Business Continuity Plan is in place that identifies the critical business processes and major risks to these. The plan identifies the control measures in place and the person responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken. The plan is reviewed by the SMT on an ongoing basis.

3. Annual audited accounts of the Company
The financial statements of the organisation are audited on an annual basis to ensure appropriate accounting procedures are in place, financial statements are free from material misstatement or fraudulent activity.

Structure
The Board bears overall responsibility for Ashiana Network. The Board delegates the day-to-day running of the organisation to the Director, Shaminder Ubhi.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
The remuneration of the charity's key management personnel is set by the Board of Trustees, taking into account the charity's financial position and the amount paid for comparable roles in comparable organisations.

Our mission

Ashiana's purpose is to:

- Empower Black and minoritised (B&M) women, particularly South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women who are experiencing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) with culturally sensitive advice, support, and safe housing - enabling them to make positive and appropriate choices for themselves
- Provide specialist advice, advocacy, counselling, and legal services
- Raise awareness of VAWG and carry out preventative work with the community as a whole.

Our vision

- The belief that violence against women and girls, in all its forms, should not be accepted, tolerated, or ignored
- The belief that all women and girls have the right to live free from violence and abuse
- That VAWG is a form of systemic violence perpetrated within a heteronormative patriarchy where B&M women's experiences are compounded by structural inequality
- Therefore, Ashiana is committed to responding from a rights-led focus, enshrining the principles and ethos of Ashiana as a Black feminist, holistic, trauma-informed, intersectional service.

4. OBJECTIVES

Ashiana runs three refuges with a total of 21 bed-spaces; two specifically for women aged 16-35 fleeing forced marriage. This multi award winning project is the only service of its kind in the UK and is highly innovative in terms of addressing an area of significant need not met in other refuge provision. We designate a number of bedspaces for women with no recourse to public funds across these refuges We offer advice and support service to women and girls who are experiencing VAWG, enabling them to make informed decisions and exit violent relationships. We provide counselling for women and girls affected by VAWG. We also deliver an education programme for young people in secondary schools in East London aimed at preventing domestic violence and enabling young people experiencing domestic violence to access appropriate services. We deliver a range of awareness raising workshops for people in the community and training on domestic violence for professionals in the voluntary and statutory sector.

5. OUR ETHOS AND VALUES

Ashiana Network is an organisation working within black feminist principles. Ashiana works from a rights-based approach and the premise that VAWG is gender-based violence and a human rights issue. It is critical that women have access to' women' only spaces giving them a safe environment to seek appropriate assistance and begin the process of healing and recovery.

Our work is based on the definition in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which states that violence against women is 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.' This definition also encompasses dowry-related violence, marital rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour-based-violence, other harmful practices, violence against women in the community, gender-based violence perpetrated or condoned by the state

Ashiana Network's core values are:

Professionalism

Innovation

Excellence

Commitment

Empowerment

Ashiana acknowledges that not all women experience VAWG in the same ways, and that Black and minoritised women often face racialised abuse, and/or abuse based on discrimination against other aspects of their identities. We also acknowledge that Black and minoritised women experience additional barriers to seeking and accessing support for VAWG. Therefore, all responses to survivors should be adapted to ensure they are safe, accessible, and appropriate for each individual woman.

We acknowledge that many women at risk of VAWG will want to seek support from 'women' only services where they will also have access to 'women' only space. We will also ensure that the needs of Black and minoritised women are addressed across all services in line with the ethos of 'led by and for'. This provides for an environment where women are safer and feel as they are being listened to and heard.

The nature of our services means that, invariably, we tackle poverty, disadvantage, racism, inequality, and social exclusion. The women and girls we support present with complex and multiple needs including self-harming, suicide, depression, eating disorders, insecure immigration status, language needs. Our aim will be to support and advise them in order for them to make informed decisions and choices that enable them to exit violent relationships e.g., reporting to police, pursuing civil/criminal legal cases, taking out injunctions, access to refuges, welfare benefits, health, housing, specialist immigration advice.

Our woman-centred, holistic approach will ensure we meet the needs of our clients. Our support planning, risk assessment and outcomes framework tools are utilised by staff to make assessments, draw up appropriate action plans, manage risk, address needs and monitor progress through regular sessions and reviews; enabling clients is achieve their hopes and aspirations. Every effort is made to ensure the clients feel they are in control of the process and see it as something helpful and empowering.

Dear X,

I hope you are keeping well. The last time I emailed you was a very long time ago. Yesterday, I got notification that the home office had accepted my settlement application. When my life was at its most miserable and devastating point, I can still clearly remember the times when I used to talk to you. I could only blindly trust you at the time.

The gratitude I feel for all the encouragement and guidance you offered me is beyond words. Every time I met with you in the office, you gave me a long hug, and I can't thank you enough for that. You have a genuinely good heart. You will always have a special place in my heart, and I pray to God to reward you for all of your help and support.

With Love,

Service User

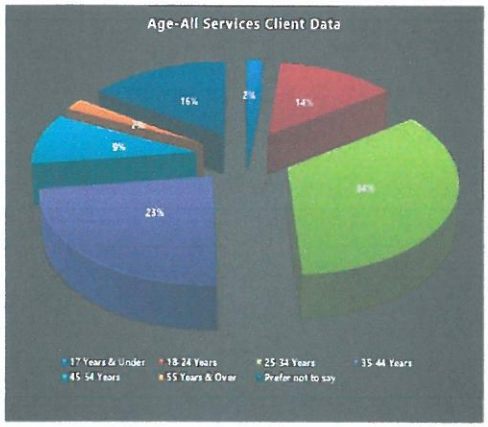
ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

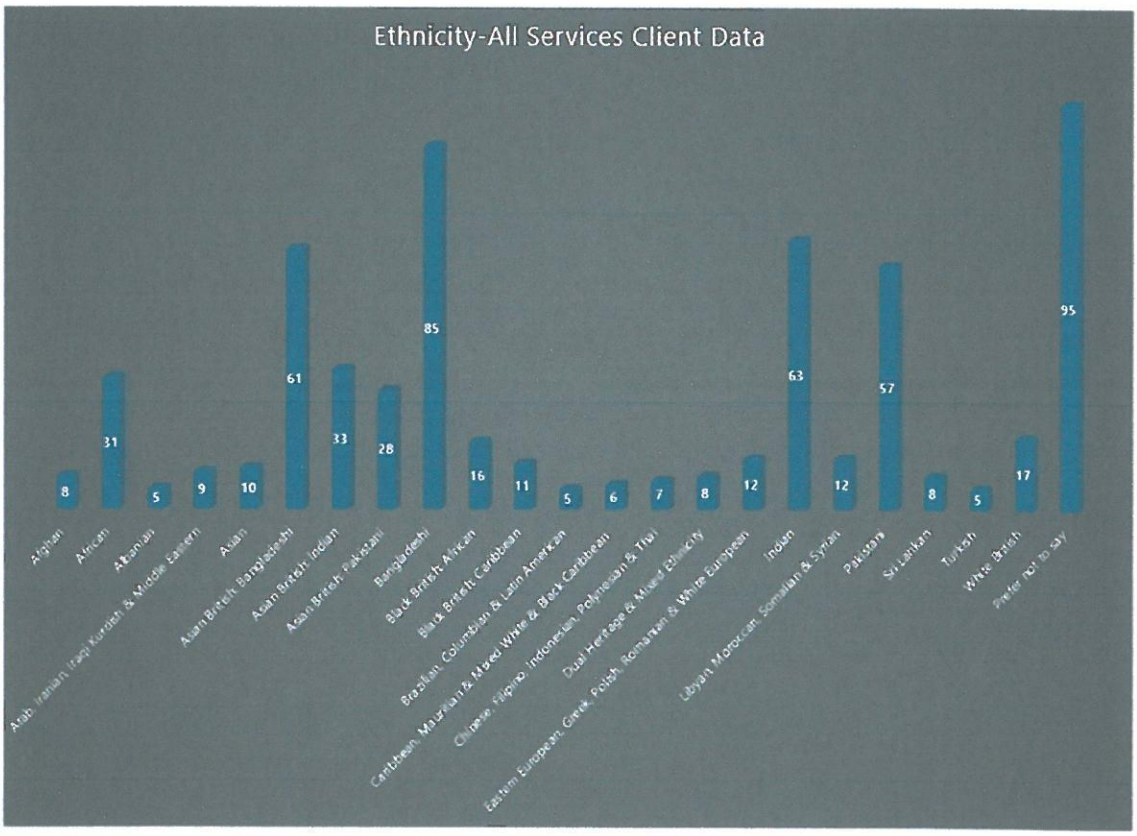
6. ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

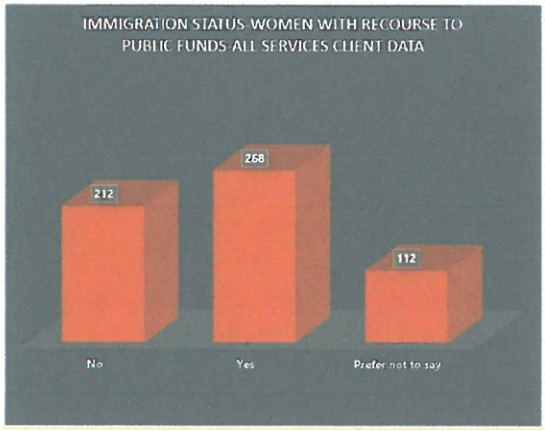
Activities & Impact

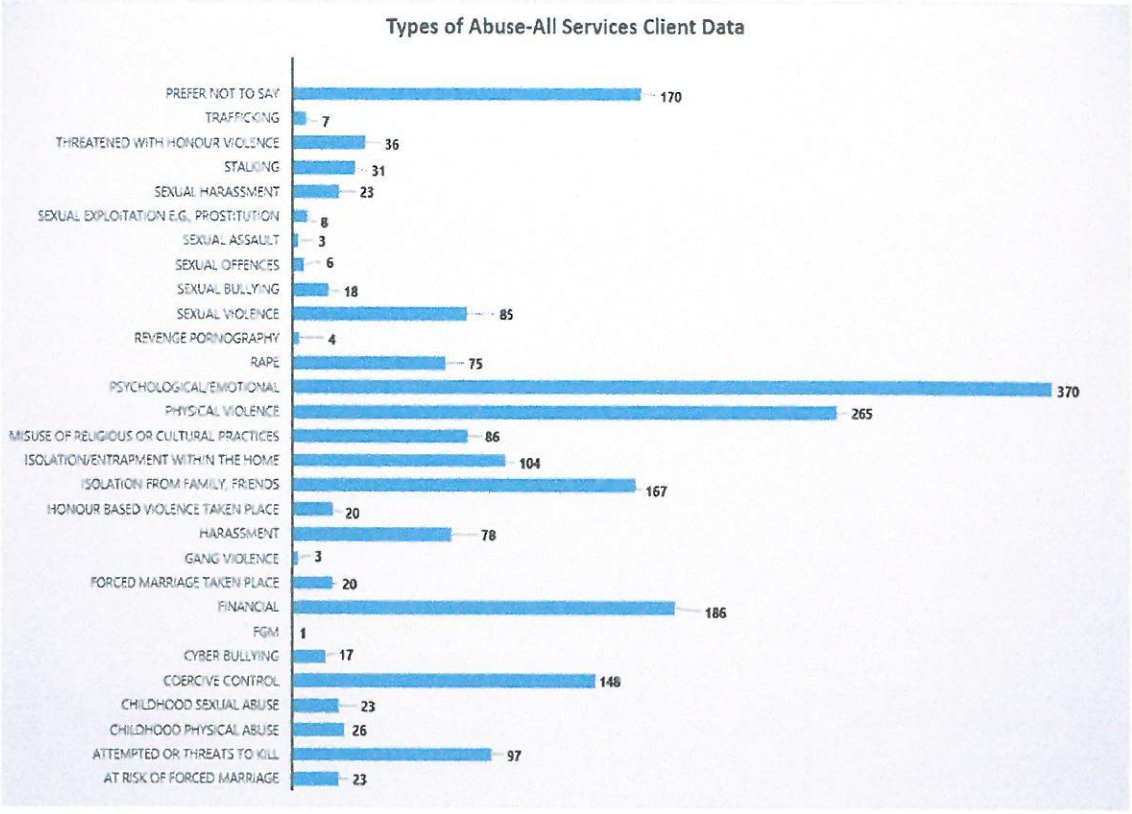
During the year we supported 592 women and dealt with an additional 595 enquires.

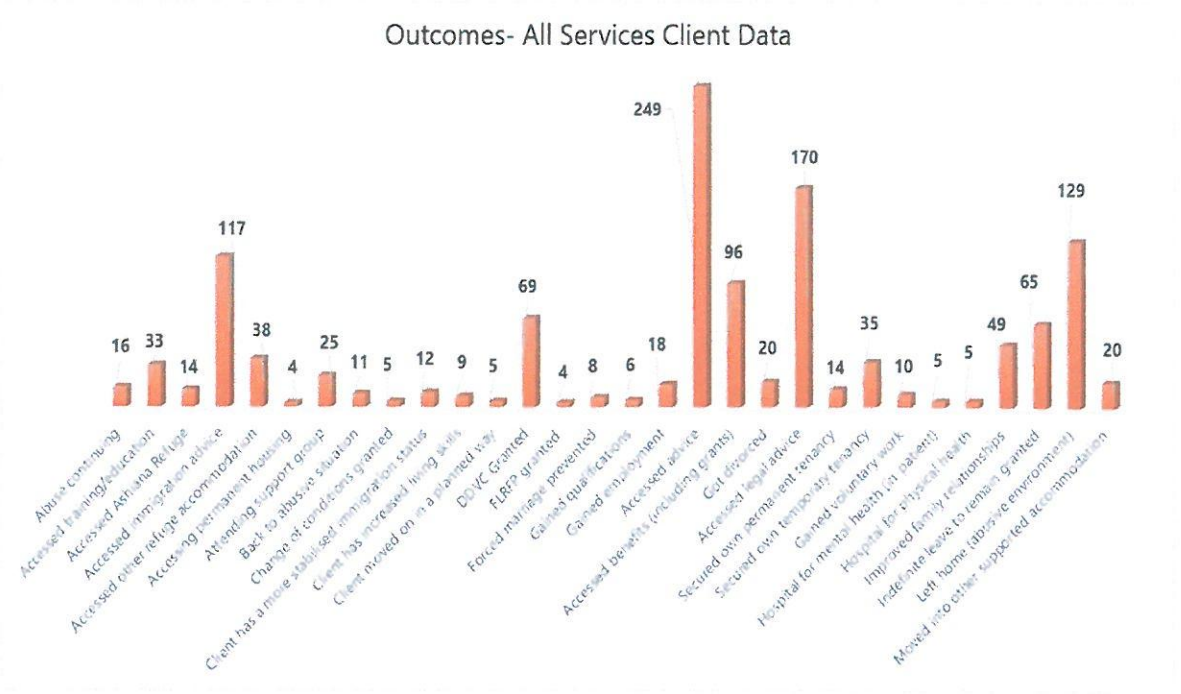


Age	Number of Women
17 Years & Under	10
18-24 Years	80
25-34 Years	202
35-44 Years	139
45-54 Years	55
55 Years & Over	13
Prefer not to say	93
	592

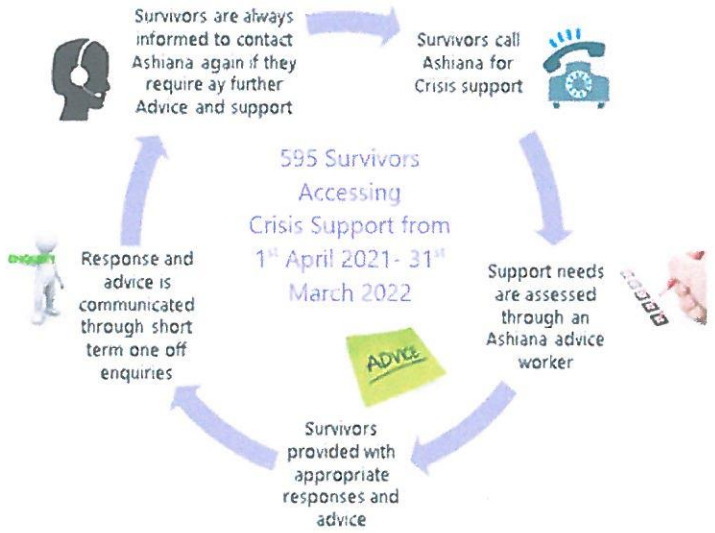



IMMIGRATION STATUS WOMEN WITH RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS ALL SERVICES CLIENT DATA
212
268
112
No
Yes
Prefer not to say


Types of Abuse-All Services Client Data
PREFER NOT TO SAY 170
TRAFFICKING 7
THREATENED WITH HONOUR VIOLENCE 36
STALKING 31
SEXUAL HARASSMENT 23
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION E.G. PROSTITUTION 8
SEXUAL ASSAULT 3
SEXUAL OFFENCES 6
SEXUAL BULLYING 18
SEXUAL VIOLENCE 85
REVENGE PORNOGRAPHY 4
RAPE 75
PSYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL 370
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE 265
MISUSE OF RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL PRACTICES 86
ISOLATION/ENTRAPMENT WITHIN THE HOME 104
ISOLATION FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS 167
HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE TAKEN PLACE 20
HARASSMENT 78
GANG VIOLENCE 3
FORCED MARRIAGE TAKEN PLACE 20
FINANCIAL 186
FGM 1
CYBER BULLYING 17
COERCIVE CONTROL 148
CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE 23
CHILDHOOD PHYSICAL ABUSE 26
ATTEMPTED OR THREATS TO KILL 97
AT RISK OF FORCED MARRIAGE 23



One-Off Enquiries



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

HOUSING SERVICES

Kyra, Zafina & Saranaya

Ashiana offers temporary safe accommodation across three schemes. Zafina is an 8-bed shared house for South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women between the ages of 16-35 who are experiencing domestic violence. Kyra and Saranaya comprise of a total of 13 bedspaces for young women between the ages of 16-35 at risk of Harmful Practices. During their stay at Ashiana, residents are offered culturally specific support, confidential advice and advocacy regarding their legal, financial, housing and personal situation. A high level of emotional support is provided to each client. Throughout the period April 2021 to March 2022, we accepted 4 new clients at Kyra, 6 new clients at Zafina and 2 new clients at Saranaya.

Over the course of the year we have accommodated 34 women. 21 of these women had no recourse to public funds. Presenting issues and types of abuse include: coercive control (14), threats to kill (12), rape (8), psychological/emotional abuse (24), Isolation (18) sexual abuse (7).

Many of our clients who come to us have no recourse to public funds and some of them have only been in the UK for a limited period of time. We occasionally have to support the clients with the most basic of life skills. One client did not know to use an oyster card on the buses and trains and had never accessed public transportation. Once we taught her this, she was extremely grateful and said the following to the support worker – ***"you have changed my life and made me free".***

Service User Feedback:

Hi Rapinder

Hope you are doing well

I would like to thank you for yesterday for making my life easy and for lessening the divorce burden on me. I honestly feel so light n good. Thanks a lot may God bless you for your kindness and reward you n your family for the amazing work you do.

I would like to know if you have got the confirmation of the meeting from the Islamic divorce lady.? You are a true star.

Thanks

ADVOCACY & ADVICE SERVICE

The aim of this service is to advise and support Black and minoritised women and girls experiencing VAWG enabling them to make informed choices and exit violent relationships. Women are supported to report to police, pursue civil/criminal legal cases, childcare proceedings, seeking injunctions, access to refuges, welfare benefits, health and housing. In such cases, the Advice & Support Worker will arrange individual sessions to assess short and long-term needs and offer confidential advice, support and advocacy.

We also work with women and girls who are frequently excluded from mainstream services and/or find it hard to engage with support due to their complex needs or multiple disadvantage including, homelessness, substance misuse, mental health/physical health, insecure or uncertain immigration status, affected by or at risk of prostitution, history of offending behaviour, history of children being removed from her are and/or at risk of further removals.

During the year we have supported over 401 women and girls experiencing a range of VAWG issues. 194 had no recourse to public funds. 148 had language support needs. 77 disclosed a range of disabilities. 147 needed support with housing option and 65 were homeless.

Another year on from Covid 19, the Advice team continued to hold a full caseload in their homes which continued to be complex, as we were dealing with the impact of the pandemic which took precedence over women dealing with their main reason for contacting us. The support was therefore multi-faceted and multi layered. Contacting service users to assess risk and complete referrals was an ongoing challenge throughout the pandemic. At times, it wasn't always easy getting in contact with clients as they are often in the house with their perpetrator/s and unable to leave or have a safe space to speak. We found that we were having to work longer than the standard timeframe of 12 weeks due to navigating risk, working at the pace of the service user and to be flexible around when we called the service user and having a plan of action in the event the perpetrator was present in the home.

The challenges experienced were exacerbated by the pandemic; statutory responses were poor especially with regards to local authority support around housing. For example, Statutory agencies requesting proof from landlords and police to confirm that it is unsafe for a woman to stay in her existing property in order to access safe accommodation. The majority of our work is in supporting women who have no recourse to public funds.

During the pandemic, the trends that we saw were an increase in sexual violence cases, an increase in suicidal ideation and subsequently an increase in safeguarding referrals to GP's. We found it very challenging to link women with community mental health services due to a lack of response and/or capacity.

We developed a web chat service, whereby women were able to contact us on a safe and secure platform. We particularly wanted to reach out to young women and girls who are more comfortable in using technology but wanted some level of anonymity. We have since expanded this service.

We were successful in receiving 400 sims for our service users across the services as digital access was a real barrier for many of the women we were working with during the pandemic and this is a great opportunity to provide any women we are supporting with a sim card.

We were able to apply to NatWest for a grant called the Natwest Circle Fund for £2500 during the pandemic, each client can receive up to £500 and there are very few restrictions on what the client can use the grant for. Many women have benefitted from this fund that were completely destitute.

Feedback from a client that received the fund:
"HI

How are you? I checked my account this morning and I saw a transfer that was put in my account. I am in shock and speechless and tears of joy was rolling down my eyes.

I just want to say thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. You went the extra mile to support me and I am not taking it for granted and I am grateful.

Thank you "

Service user that had accessed the Advice service:

Background information from Advice Worker:

"I'm sharing an email below (minus the photos) of one of my ex clients message to me today. I say ex client but we still catch up and she calls whenever she has a question or needs help and we resolve it together. Once she was ready I had referred ZN to Luminary Bakery so that she could start the next part of her journey. All was well and planned until yesterday, very last minute, she was told by them that her training day had changed from Tuesday to Thursday. The nursery where she had arranged to drop her child to, also told her last minute that they could not keep her daughter after 2pm unless she paid for the extra time (£22.50). It was the worst news for her and for me. I knew this was going to be her chance for a big break and she was waiting since June to start the training now. Back and forth we went, and with the help of the Luminary Bakery staff and myself we managed to get it sorted so that they could keep her child until 4.30pm with only an extra charge of £6. Anyways, I wanted to share her few words of email below that really touched my heart, mostly because of the realisation that she had today of her value and that she is not all the words that AP had called her. I'm still crying (but I'm ok) .😊"

"It was a great experience. They welcomed us in a very lovely way. I learned about baking stuff, their name & also used them to make flapjack. I never done this before or I never eat the food before but after I make it Alhumdulillah it look & test really good. I met a Bengali Apa there she is so funny. We are all together 9 person doing this training on Thursday. As usual I'm the youngest one.

But I did really well I don't know why xxx always told me that I'm stupid , good for nothing. I surprised the way I makes the food, clean , managing space . I have enough common sense."

LEGAL SERVICE

The Legal Service offers legal advice and advocacy specifically for women with insecure immigration status. Some of the more destitute and vulnerable women are those that have no recourse to public funds and Ashiana's aim is to support them with access to specialist legal advice in order to resolve their immigration status. The Legal Service has proved to be an extremely important service that is provided to clients.

In the last year we supported 212 women who had no recourse to public funds. We achieved 53 successful outcomes for clients in terms of their status – these include settlement decisions, grant of change of conditions, decisions granting settled status and permission to JR.

Expert staff assess eligibility, gather evidence and record statements and make applications to regularise clients' immigration status. Additionally, these women are supported to access refuge/housing, social care, reporting to police, support through the court system.

It is worth noting that the legal service that we provide is invaluable, as we have experienced that legal aid solicitors either do not have the capacity to take cases on and some of those that have been to private solicitor's and have been hugely overcharged by the company.

Service User Feedback:

Hello Ashiana,

I'm incredibly and eternally grateful for the support I received from Ashiana a couple of years ago.

As a domestic abuse victim running away from my then husband and trying to find safety, wellbeing and balance,, Ashiana gave me much needed help and support through the amazing X (staff member).

It has been a period of healing since then and now I'm ready to move on away from the title of that marriage.

I'm wondering if Ashiana is able to give me information of divorce lawyer(s) that I can work with to finalise my divorce. Any information or guidance would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Kind regards, Client Y

COUNSELLING SERVICES

We provide confidential one-to-one counselling services for women and girls who are or have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse as well as women and girls who have experienced any form of harmful practice including; forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation. Counselling offered is short term (6-20 Sessions) and provided by accredited qualified counsellors and experienced volunteer counsellor/placements. Ashiana Network is a member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

In the last year we supported 137 women with counselling. Clients presented with complex and multiple issues such as depression, anxiety, poor mental health and practical issues such as housing needs, homelessness, immigration/NRPF, assistance with welfare benefits, divorce/separation, access to refuge.

Service User feedback to her Counsellor.

X is such an asset to your organisation, over the last 11 weeks in every session, she has been outstanding. A breath of fresh air to my thoughts.

She has helped mentally declutter all that has been going on with me overthinking, she has created a safe space for me to be so free and as a result, every single week I have breakthroughs and revelations about my life. This journey has been so profound and X knows how to draw out all the questions in myself that I then challenge and bring solutions to. I feel like every week I solve a problem and I take a step further into my life with hope and confidence to figure out anything that comes my way.

She has taught me coping techniques around fear, to which I now use all the time and have shared this technique with my friends which have helped them too. I don't want my sessions to end as I feel this has been so good for me and X has been so incredible and I am so very grateful for the way this has helped me to find myself even more so.

Thank you so much X for your incredible skills and your attention to detail as you are listening to me is such a rare quality that you find in people and I am so glad that I got to have these sessions with you. I will always be eternally grateful to you. Thank you again.

EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Our education and training work is conducted at a variety of levels with both statutory and voluntary agencies aimed at raising awareness about VAWG. Workshops, training and support groups are provided on topics such as domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour-based violence.

Ashiana has had a busy and productive period in raising awareness of all forms of VAWG in a variety of settings and in a wide variety of ways. We delivered 11 training to 183 people from a range of services. These included healthcare staff, teachers, police, staff in multi-agency settings. The training focused on VAWG and in particular Harmful Practices and Immigration.

7. DEVELOPMENT

As of November 2021, Ashiana became an owner of a property in Redbridge. We are in the process of seeking permission for change of use and planning permission for remodelling of the property into a second stage refuge with 5 bedspaces. We are seeking to develop this provision for South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women aged 16+ who are survivors of VAWG.

The aim is to use the second stage accommodation for women living in our refuges who no longer need safe accommodation but still require some support. Primarily these may include younger women, those that require further development in life skills or confidence or women with NRPF who are awaiting decisions. Over time, these cohort of women will require less casework support, some of the support may be focused on a particular issue eg immigration or divorce. Support packages will be tailored to clients' needs and the longer-term focus will be on move-on/resettlement. We have made applications for revenue funding to support the provision.

8. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Sustain existing services
- Continue to improve and deliver quality and expert services
- Retain/attain relevant and recognised quality standards
- Service development through remodelling Ashiana's new property for use as second stage refuge
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for services

9. COVID-19

We continue to implement relevant safety measures for services and staff as a result of the pandemic. Staff are working remotely and in the office. We have extended the process of reviewing the hybrid model and its impact on services to seek more feedback from service users to ensure the model of operation we implement, first and foremost, meets the needs of our service users.

Staff Wellbeing

Staff wellbeing has been impacted by the pandemic, the rise in referrals and, in particular, the rise in complex cases, challenges of working with trauma and the resulting intensity of the work and now the cost of living crisis. In response, we continued to offer staff a range of resources to manage their wellbeing, this includes peer supervision, clinical supervision, weekly informal catchups, employee assistance program and line manager supervision.

10. COST OF LIVING CRISIS

We know the pandemic has had a devastating impact on women and disproportionate and specific consequences for Black, minoritised women and those with multiple disadvantage. Women and children have had to navigate more challenging and risky pathways to escape violence and abuse, as usual referral pathways were not available and of course we were having to adapt to a different way of working.

While we were in the depths of trying to cope with the pandemic and its aftermath, we are faced with yet another crisis. The impact of the cost of living crisis is significant and across the board, affecting service users, staff and our organisation.

In regards to service users, we are beginning to see more women needing financial support. Typically this used to focus on migrant women and those with no recourse to public funds, but now more and more women who have recourse to public funds are falling into poverty. We are trying to access more grants to help individuals and use our internal welfare funds to support the women most in need.

As the current crisis is having a disproportionate impact on low-income households, many more women are accessing the service for financial support. We have noticed a significant increase in cases that require support in applying for discretionary housing payments, council tax reductions, accessing alternative funding options and with dept advice. We are concerned that cost of living crisis is not only making harder for women to leave abusive situations; but also, it is increasing perpetrators opportunities and excuses to maintain control over their victims by using their financial insecurities.

We are also concerned that our expert and specialist staff may leave and go to higher paid jobs in other sectors as we cannot afford to increase salaries in line with inflation. Adding to the huge current challenges in recruitment.

Altogether this will have a devastating impact on smaller providers who don't have the additional resources to get through the crisis. We are part of a sector-wide partnership that is making representations to Government about our concerns and recommendations to assist organisations and service users.

11. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Ashiana Network is committed to working within good practice guidelines to provide high quality services for service users. We aspire to become an outstanding organisation providing safe housing, advice and counselling to all service users, individuals, groups, stakeholders and other agencies.

To ensure high quality provision Ashiana has achieved accreditations with Investors in People (Gold), National Domestic Violence Service Standards, Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards (distinction), Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC).

12. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

Ascent Specialist Refuge

The Ascent Specialist Refuge project is funded by London Councils and commenced in 2017. Ashiana is the lead partner and Solace Women's Aid, nia Project and IKWRO are delivery partners. Together the partnership provides 38 specialist refuge bedspaces and outreach support for women with specialist and multiple needs, no recourse to public funds, women with mental health/problematic substance use, sexually exploited and trafficked women. London Councils approved a further 1-year extension ending in March 2023. The recommissioning process for this service is expected to commence in December 2022. Together with partners, we are preparing for the tender process.

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Strand (EHP)

The Ascent Ending Harmful Practices is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) and Ashiana is one of 9 delivery partners. The project provides advice and counselling services for those affected by sexual and domestic violence, specifically, Female Genital Mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage and other harmful practices. Following a re-commissioning process, London Councils has awarded this partnership a grant to continue this work from April 2022 to March 2025.

Ascent Advice & Counselling

The Ascent Advice & Counselling project is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Solace Women's Aid and Ashiana is one of 14 delivery partners. We provide a range of advice and counselling services to women in London affected by domestic and sexual violence. Following a re-commissioning process, London Councils has awarded this partnership which will be led by the Women & Girls Network, a grant to continue this work from April 2022 to March 2025

Ariana Project

Ashiana was funded by the Big Lottery (renamed as The National Lottery Community Fund) in 2016 for 5 years. The project enables us to provide support for women accessing our refuge, advice, counselling and legal services. This project ended in June 2021.

Casa Project

We commenced delivery of the two-year Move on Programme in October 2019. The funding allows us to support women who access move-on accommodation through this project. The project is due to end January 2023.

P&ACT EHP Partnership – (Prevention & Action through Community Engagement & training) Harmful Practices

We are a delivery partner in this project led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre. This project enables us to expand our services for women experiencing harmful practices.

London Holistic Advocacy Wraparound Service – the Life Saving to Life Changing Project

We are a delivery partner in this project which is led by Southall Black Sisters. This project focuses on the provision of support, counselling, legal advice and access to accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds.

Advice & Counselling PLUS

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Solace Women's Aid. This project enables us to expand on our current advice & counselling services.

CouRAGEus Project

We are the delivery partner in this project led by Women & Girls Network. As part of this project, Ashiana delivers Specialist Advocacy for women with multiple needs and BME young women and girls 14-24yrs

WiSER Project

The WiSER Project is led by Solace Women's Aid and as a delivery partner we work with BME women who find it hard to engage with support, who are experiencing violence or abuse and are affected by severe and multiple disadvantages. This project is funded until March 2023.

MHCLG COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund via LAWA

The OYA consortium, comprising of Ashiana, Asha Project, Latin American Women's Refuge and London Black Women's Project, received funding to support its refuge services for the period April to September 2022.

Comic Relief –Imkaan

We received funding from the Imkaan VAWG COVID Fund towards our Legal Service.

London Borough of Waltham Forest

We were successful in our tender for the re-commissioning of our 13 bed refuge provision in LBWF. The contract is for a three-year term commencing March 2022.

Market Place- Waltham Forest

Ashiana is a preferred provider on the Waltham Forest Market Place framework which is led by Solace Women's Aid. This enables us to deliver specialist counselling for women in the borough as and when referrals are made and payment is based on the numbers of clients and sessions delivered.

13. THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED US DURING THE PAST YEAR, IN PARTICULAR:

Aisha K Gill
Asian Women's Resource Centre
Charities Connected
Forced Marriage Unit
Homeless Link
GMSP Foundation
Imkaan
Life in London Trust
Latin American Women's Aid
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
London Borough of Waltham Forest,
London Councils
London & Quadrant Housing Association
London VAWG Consortium
Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime
Metropolitan Police
National Lottery Community Fund.
NatWest Bank plc (Bankers)
Nawaal Fund
Oak Foundation
OYA Consortium
Peabody
Publicis Groupe
Public Interest Law Centre
Shoosmiths
Soil Sisters
Solace Women's Aid
Southall Black Sisters
Tender
Waltham Forest Liberal Democrats (Secret Santa)
Women's Aid Federation of England
Women & Girls Network
Women's Resource Centre

14. FINANCIAL REVIEW

There was an increase in the activities of the charity in 2021/22. Incoming resources decreased by 9.5% (31.55% 2020/21) from £2,217,326 to £2,006,621 whilst expenditure increased by 3.36% (16.66% 2020/21) from £1,883,276 to £1,946,642.

The total funds held by the charity increased during the year from £1,850,840 to £2,184,890. These funds are divided for accounting purposes into restricted funds, which represent the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes, and unrestricted funds that are available for the general purposes of the charity. During the year, there was a decrease in the total value of the restricted funds from £123,885 to £32,058 and an increase in unrestricted funds from £2,061,005 to £2,212,811.

The principal financial policies adopted during the year are (i) the accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention; (ii) incoming resources relating to grants and material donations are recognised in the period to which they are receivable and (iii) resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis and on the basis that consideration has been received for the expenditure. Full details of the accounting policies adopted during the year are shown in note 1 to the Accounts.

At the end of the year the Committee had approved the following Designated Funds:

The Salary Contingency fund provides resources to cover contractual obligations to staff and to ensure that the organisation can respond effectively to unexpected demands on its resources in respect of redundancies. £225,000 has been transferred from the Property/Service development fund to the Salary Contingency Fund.

The Freehold Property fund will provide sufficient resources to cover all building related costs such as day to day maintenance, cyclical maintenance, and major repairs. £545,056 has been transferred from the Property/Service Development fund to the Freehold Property Fund for the purchase of new property.

Reserves policy and going concern

The policy of the charity in respect of reserves and major risks is to designate all unrestricted funds where the organisation has been able to identify a timescale for expenditure on specific projects/items. In addition the organisation has established a General Fund for unrestricted funds held by the organisation, which can be used as a contingency against emergency or unplanned expenditure. The Committee believes that by designating funds in this way, they can ensure that the long term plans of the organisation can be realised, and the organisation will be able to fulfil its contractual responsibilities to its staff, funders, users and the wider community.

The reserves fund represents unrestricted general funds which are not committed or tied to any tangible fixed assets held by Ashiana. The Trustees have considered the challenge Ashiana faces with limited, short-term contracts, lack of committed funds and some key services that remain unfunded. As a smaller 'led by and for' organisation we are at further risk of losing contracts, funding and services as we compete against lager generic providers. At the same time, the demand for our specialist services is ever increasing as Black and minoritized women with multiple and complex needs seek our support. The pandemic has exacerbated this situation. It falls on Ashiana to ensure that it has a policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard its financial commitments and to continue to provide essential services to Black and minoritised women in the event that funding is reduced or indeed, completely cut. We will retain sufficient funds in our free reserves to manage short term periods without funding to enable us to deliver services. This will also enable us to plan a service closure slowly so that negative impact to clients is minimised. We will also ensure sufficient funds are retained in our designated fund to enable us to achieve our strategic goal to expand property ownership. Ashiana's forecast reserves through 2021/22 means that the Trustees consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the 2021 Annual Report and Financial statements and is confident of Ashiana's ability to remain as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

15. Future Plans

- Sustain and develop existing services
- Review design and delivery of services post COVID
- Retain/attain relevant and recognised quality standards
- Secure revenue funding for new second stage development
- Purchase another property to use as second stage accommodation based on learning from purchase of current property and associated planning consents
- Develop Legal Service to include Family Law provision
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for services

Asset cover for funds
Note 16 sets out an analysis of the net assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement
The committee members (who are also directors of Ashiana Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the committee members to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the committee members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

Each of the committee members has confirmed that there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the committee members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The committee members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors
A resolution proposing that Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

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

Rashmi Nigam
Trustee

15 December 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

ASHIANA NETWORK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ashiana Network (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

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

Stephen Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

15 December 2022

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	112,050	121,761	233,811	445,170
Charitable activities	3	376,440	1,395,309	1,771,749	1,769,990
Investments	4	1,061	-	1,061	2,166
Total		489,551	1,517,070	2,006,621	2,217,326
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	49,795	-	49,795	46,573
Charitable activities	6	287,950	1,608,897	1,896,847	1,836,703
Total		337,745	1,608,897	1,946,642	1,883,276
Net income	10	151,806	(91,827)	59,979	334,050
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	15	151,806	(91,827)	59,979	334,050
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	2,061,005	123,885	2,184,890	1,850,840
Total funds carried forward	15	£2,212,811	£32,058	£2,244,869	£2,184,890

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The SOFA includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK
Company No. 2972903 (England & Wales)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		545,056		-
Current assets					
Debtors	13	487,688		418,250	
Cash at Bank		1,498,029		1,908,449	
		1,985,717		2,326,699	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(285,904)		(141,809)	
Net current assets			1,699,813		2,184,890
Net assets	16		£2,244,869		£2,184,890
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
- Designated funds	15		1,836,143		1,836,143
- General fund	15		376,668		224,862
Total unrestricted funds			2,212,811		2,061,005
Restricted Funds	15		32,058		123,885
Total funds			£2,244,869		£2,184,890

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

Approved by the directors and trustees on 15 December 2022 and signed on their behalf.

Urmi Medhi
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	133,575	28,306
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	1,061	2,166
Purchase of property	(545,056)	-
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(410,420)	30,472
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,908,449	1,877,977
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	£1,498,029	£1,908,449

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	2022 £	2021 £
Net income for the year	59,979	334,050
Interest receivable	(1,061)	(2,166)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(69,438)	(258,031)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	144,095	(45,547)
Net cash flow from operating activities	£133,575	£28,306

Cash and cash equivalents consist of:	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	463,028	1,094,451
Short term deposits	1,035,001	813,998
Total cash and cash equivalent	£1,498,029	£1,908,449

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation
Ashiana Network is a private company (No. 2972903) limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the "Reference and Administrative Information" on page 1 of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from performance related grants and contracts is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through delivery of the specified services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure includes all irrecoverable VAT which is included as part of the relevant cost. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises those costs associated with attracting voluntary donations and grants
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs associated with the delivery of the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity and also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support those activities. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

1. Accounting policies/contd...

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are stated at costs less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset, less estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life at the following annual rates:

Computer equipment	33% Straight line

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The charity contributes to Stakeholder Pension Schemes on behalf of its employees. These schemes are defined contribution pension schemes.

Contributions payable under these schemes are charged the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate. The charity has no liability under these schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Debtors and creditors
Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairments are recognised in expenditure.

2. Donations and grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
LBWF	-	2,640	2,640	-
LBBD – Women Against Violence Group	-	-	-	13,000
The Oak Foundation	111,800	-	111,800	111,800
National Lottery Community Fund	-	35,909	35,909	142,569
Comic Relief - Imkaan	-	51,112	51,112	25,000
MHCLG via LAWA	-	-	-	79,408
AWRC - NRPF	-	-	-	39,945
GLA	-	22,009	22,009	-
GMSP Foundation	250	-	250	16,500
The London Community Foundation	-	-	-	6,727
London Councils via Tender	-	10,091	10,091	10,091
Other Donations	-	-	-	130
	£112,050	£121,761	£233,811	£445,170

Of the £445,170 recognised in 2021, £135,027 was unrestricted funds and £310,143 was restricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
London Councils – Specialist refuge	-	840,000	840,000	836,113
London Councils – other	-	118,637	118,637	118,638
Solace - SLA	-	-	-	13,602
LBWF – supporting people	122,085	-	122,085	103,000
LB Camden	-	26,535	26,535	26,535
Income from rent	237,212	-	237,212	229,462
MOPAC	-	410,137	410,137	433,400
Other	17,143	-	17,143	9,240
	£376,440	£1,395,309	£1,771,749	£1,769,990

Of the £1,769,990 recognised in 2021, £341,702 was unrestricted funds and £1,428,288 was restricted funds.

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Bank interest	£1,061	£Nil	£1,061	£2,166

All of the £2,166 recognised in 2021 was unrestricted funds.

5. Cost of raising funds

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
Fundraising activities – salaries	£49,795	£Nil	£49,795	£46,573

All of the £46,573 recognised in 2021 was unrestricted funds.

6. Cost of charitable activities

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
Educational, counselling and prevention work	£1,811,124	£85,723	£1,896,847	£1,836,703

Of the £1,836,703 expenditure recognised in 2021, £154,341 was charged to unrestricted funds and £1,682,362 was charged to restricted funds.

7. Analysis of direct costs

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages and salaries	825,916	809,692
Grants paid to London Councils Partners	616,079	612,192
Payments to clients with no recourse to public funds	163,782	130,874
Housing Association charges	82,197	83,032
Legal fees	10,038	10,540
Other direct housing and management costs	113,112	115,907
	£1,811,124	£1,762,237

8. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Office costs	21,332	11,994
Premises costs	24,584	20,257
Consultancy costs	27,875	31,815
Governance costs (note 9)	11,932	10,400
	£85,723	£74,466

9. Governance costs

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Audit and accountancy fees	7,575	6,325
Trustee meetings	-	-
Salaries	4,357	4,075
	£11,932	£10,400

10. Net income

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
Depreciation	£Nil	£Nil
Auditors' remuneration	£2,450	£2,450
Trustees' remuneration	£Nil	£Nil
Operating lease rentals	£104,573	£116,111

No trustees were reimbursed any expenses during the year *(2021: none)*.

11. Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	764,105	753,119
Social security costs	76,508	72,086
Other pension costs	39,455	35,135
	£880,068	£860,340

1 employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of £60,000 - £69,999 during the year (2021 – 1).

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £233,061 (2021 : £217,168).

Under FRS 102, employee benefits includes gross salary, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and benefits in kind.

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was 25 *(2021: 25)*.

No termination payments (2021 - £9,930) were made to members of staff during the year.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £
Cost:	
At 1 April 2021	11,333
Additions	545,056
At 31 March 2022	556,389
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2021	11,333
Charge for the year	-
At 31 March 2022	11,333
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2022	£545,056
At 31 March 2021	£Nil

13. Debtors

Due within one year	2022 £	2021 £
Grants receivable	469,271	409,201
Charges receivable	17,586	8,271
Other debtors	831	778
	£487,688	£418,250

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Charges - Credit balances	7,161	8,197
Deferred income – Grants received in advance	-	8,465
Accruals	278,743	125,147
	£285,904	£141,809

15. Movement in funds Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2022 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	81,777	(81,777)	-	-
Education & advice	13,246	10,091	(23,337)	-	-
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	(840,000)	-	-
Women against Violence Group	6,954	-	(6,954)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	60,284	35,909	(71,492)	-	24,701
Market Place – Waltham Forest	3,906	2,640	-	-	6,546
Harmful practices	-	36,860	(36,860)	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan	25,000	-	(25,000)	-	-
MHCLG (via LAWA). LBWF Community Transformation	14,495	51,112	(51,112)	-	-
WiSER project	-	26,535	(26,535)	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	47,834	(47,834)	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	-	182,216	(181,730)	-	486
CASA project	-	8,968	(8,968)	-	-
GLA 04	-	22,009	(21,684)	-	325
P & ACT	-	52,027	(52,027)	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	119,092	(119,092)	-	-
Total restricted funds	123,885	1,517,070	(1,608,897)	-	32,058
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	224,862	489,551	(337,745)	-	376,668
Designated Funds					
- Furniture renewal	29,000	-	-	-	29,000
- Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
- Salary contingency	-	-	-	225,000	225,000
- Property/Service development	1,775,000	-	-	(770,056)	1,004,944
- Freehold Property	-	-	-	545,056	545,056
- Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	2,061,005	489,551	(337,745)	-	2,212,811
Total funds	£2,184,890	£2,006,621	£(1,946,642)	£Nil	£2,244,869

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

15. Movement in funds (continued)

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2021 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	81,778	(81,778)	-	-
Education & advice	13,246	10,091	(10,091)	-	13,246
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	836,113	(836,113)	-	-
Women against Violence Group	6,954	13,000	(13,000)	-	6,954
National Lottery Community Fund	28,456	142,568	(110,740)	-	60,284
Market Place – Waltham Forest	3,776	130	-	-	3,906
Harmful practices	-	36,860	(36,860)	-	-
Comic Relief – Imkaan	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
MHCLG via LAWA		79,408	(79,408)	-	-
AWRC – NRPF		39,945	(39,945)	-	-
Solace – SLA	-	13,602	(13,602)	-	-
LBWF Community Transformation	14,495	-	-	-	14,495
WiSER project	-	26,535	(26,535)	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	64,184	(64,184)	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	-	190,787	(190,787)	-	-
CASA project	889	8,968	(9,857)	-	-
P & ACT	-	47,898	(47,898)	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	121,564	(121,564)	-	-
Total restricted funds	67,816	1,738,431	(1,682,362)	-	123,885
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	146,881	478,895	(200,914)	(200,000)	224,862
Designated Funds					
Furniture renewal	29,000	-	-	-	29,000
Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Service development	1,575,000	-	-	200,000	1,775,000
Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	1,783,024	478,895	(200,914)	-	2,061,005
Total funds	£1,850,840	£2,217,326	£(1,883,276)	£Nil	£2,184,890

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report

Section 37 Statement

Grant Aid of £840,000 was received in 2021/22 (2020/21 - £836,113) from London Councils for the Specialist Refuge Programme.

The following table illustrates how money was allocated across the partnership and that it has been used for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Lead Partner: Ashiana Network	223,921	223,921
Delivery Partner: Solace Women's Aid	286,339	286,339
Delivery Partner: nia project	267,740	267,740
Delivery Partner: IKWRO	62,000	62,000
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salaries	593,091	593,176
Beneficiary Costs:	121,855	122,099
Central Overheads:	50,719	50,719
Other Direct Project Costs:	12,446	12,117
Set Up & Development Costs:	5,240	6,720
Interpretation Costs:	1,000	1,000
Lead Organisation Costs:	55,649	54,169
Total:	£840,000	£840,000

Grant Aid of £51,112 was received in 2021/22 from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (via LAWA). The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Cover: Additional Staff Cover	48,848	48,848
Additional COVID-19 Related Costs	750	750
Office equipment	7,909	7,909
Other Costs:	1,514	1,514
Total:	£51,112	£51,112

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £81,777 was received in 2021/22 (2020/21 - £81,777) from London Councils (via Solace Women's Aid) for the Counselling and Advice Strand of the Ascent Programme. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Counsellor 1:1	24,721	24,721
Salary: Counsellor 1:1	18,989	18,989
Salary: Specialist Advice Caseworker	23,205	23,205
Salary: Group Worker (Borough Based)	3,600	3,600
Salary: Specialist BME Group Worker (Organisation Based)	1,200	1,200
Groups Costs: Training and Other	216	216
Groups Costs: Specialist BME Training & Other	72	72
Groups Borough Based Venue & Interpreting	1,440	1,440
On Costs	8,334	8,334
Total:	£81,777	£81,777

Grant Aid of £36,860 was received in 2021/22 (2020/21 - £36,860) from London Councils (via AWRC) for the Harmful Practices Strand of the Ascent Programme. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: HBV/FM Advice Workers	19,320	19,320
Salary: Counsellor	11,960	11,960
Outreach/Support Groups	525	525
Training Workshops	525	525
Publicity	650	650
On Costs	3,880	3,880
Total:	£36,860	£36,860

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund Balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted			
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Freehold Property	-	545,056	-	545,056
Current assets	662,572	1,291,087	32,058	1,985,717
Current liabilities	(285,904)	-	-	(285,904)
	£376,668	£1,836,143	£32,058	£2,244,869

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Fund Balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted			
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	366,671	1,836,143	123,885	2,326,699
Current liabilities	(141,809)	-	-	(141,809)
	£224,862	£1,836,143	£123,885	£2,184,890

17. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	Land and Buildings	Land and Buildings
Within one year	83,637	84,467
Within two to five years	-	7,680
	£83,637	£92,147

18. Taxation

As a registered charity, Ashiana Network is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.

19. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2022 or 2021 other than those set out in note 11 relating to key management personnel.

20. Contingent assets

The charity has been awarded some multi-year grants with specified or implied timeframes which preclude recognition of the full amount. The total amount awarded for future years but not recognised is £1,723,225.

ASHIANA NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1042440

Accounts

ASHIANA NETWORK

Company No. 2972903 (England & Wales)
Charity no. 1042440

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants
Norman House
8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

ASHIANA NETWORK

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ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The management committee presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, applicable law and the requirements of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

1. REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status
The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The board approved a change of company name at a special meeting on 22 February 2006. The name changed from Ashiana Project to Ashiana Network.

Charity Number 1042440

Company Number 2972903

Registered Office and operational address
Oceanair House, Suite 204 Oceanair House, 750-760 High Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 3AW

Trustees
Sabina Mahmood – Chair
Anjum Bashir
Shivangi Medhi
Urmi Medhi
Rashmi Nigam
Jayne Paxton (resigned March 2021)
Sonal Thaper (resigned March 2021)
Laela E. Pakpour Tabrizi - Treasurer

Chief Executive
Shaminder Ubhi

Auditors
Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4BW.

Bankers
Barclays Bank plc

National Westminster Bank Plc

2. HOW WE ARE FULFILLING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHARITIES ACT 2011

As a registered charity, the public benefits of our work are directly related to our aims, which seek to improve the lives of women from the communities we work with by reducing the impact of domestic violence upon them. Our educational, counselling and preventative work provides direct benefit to both the recipients of our services and the public generally through contributing positively to a better society. Our services are free and open to the section of the public who we exist to help. We plan to introduce an annual audit of our charitable activities as well as consider how to promote public benefit on an ongoing basis.

In forming our objectives the Management Committee confirms that it has given due regard to the Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit.

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
Ashiana Network is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Ashiana Network's business and governance is conducted under the framework of its memorandum of articles of association.

Recruitment and appointment of management committee/training
Board members are selected on the basis of the experience, skills and expertise they bring to further the main objectives of Ashiana. The induction process for new members includes the provision of information on their roles and responsibilities, policy and procedures, meeting with the Director and staff, and site visits. One-third of the board members must resign at each annual general meeting. The retiring members are eligible for re-election.

Risk Management
Ashiana is committed to identifying and managing potential and probable risks that the organisation faces. The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for management of risk and it is an essential part of the organisation's effective governance. Monitoring known risks enables the Board and Senior Management Team to make informed decisions and take timely action.

The principal risks facing the charity are financial and operational.

Financial:

As a small 'led by and for' specialist provider, Ashiana has limited resources and faces an increasingly competitive external environment. National research Imkaan (2020) shows that 'by and for' organisations faced disproportionate pressures during the pandemic with a 39% reduction in funding due to historical austerity cuts with organisations operating with one-third reduced staffing capacity.

Payments by local authorities, government bodies, trusts and foundations are often paid in arrears and are based on the achievement of targets and outcomes. This has an impact on cashflow and budgeting.

A number of our contracts were due to end in 2021 but due to the pandemic we were given extensions. Our Lottery fund also came to an end in June 2021, which provided financial support across all our services and in particular, for one of our non-commissioned refuges. This increased overall financial risk. Our plan to reduce and mitigate the risks include:

- Maintaining robust Quality Systems
- Having a spread of services by size and service type
- Ensuring we meet all contractual obligations
- Maintaining good relationships with commissioners/funders
- Being responsive to changes in the market
- Performance monitoring in place
- Robust tendering for our own services
- Remaining competitive in terms of quality of services, value for money and contract price
- Clear messaging about our unique selling point

Operational:

These risks range from recruitment and retention issues, safeguarding, inadequate monitoring and evaluation of projects, lack of contract compliance, inadequate business planning/continuity planning, poor response to national or global emergencies i.e. pandemic, data breaches, reputation, public policy. We reduce and mitigate these by implementing appropriate policies and procedures, staff induction, training and supervision. We ensure processes are in place for all contract compliance and regulatory frameworks e.g. health and safety regulations.

Risk management is ongoing and embedded in governance and operational procedures with the following in place:-

1. Annual Risk Register
This register identifies the potential and probable risks faced by the organisation and each risk is given an impact and likelihood rating, as well as an overall net risk. The SMT monitor the Risk Register on an ongoing basis and it is reviewed by the Board every quarter.

2. Business Continuity Plan
A Business Continuity Plan is in place that identifies the critical business processes and major risks to these. The plan identifies the control measures in place and the person responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken. The plan is reviewed by the SMT on an ongoing basis.

3. Annual audited accounts of the Company
The financial statements of the organisation are audited on an annual basis to ensure appropriate accounting procedures are in place, financial statements are free from material misstatement or fraudulent activity.

Structure
The Board bears overall responsibility for Ashiana Network. The Board delegates the day-to-day running of the organisation to the Director, Shaminder Ubhi.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
The remuneration of the charity's key management personnel is set by the Board of Trustees, taking into account the charity's financial position and the amount paid for comparable roles in comparable organisations.

4. OBJECTIVES

Ashiana's purpose is to:

- Empower Black & minoritised women, particularly South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women who are experiencing all forms of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) including domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices such as forced marriage, honour based violence (HBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) with support and safe housing - enabling them to make positive and appropriate choices for themselves.
- Provide advice, advocacy and counselling to women and girls who are experiencing VAWG
- Raise awareness of domestic violence and carry out preventative work with the community as a whole.

Ashiana runs three refuges with a total of 21 bed-spaces; two specifically for women aged 16-35 at risk of harmful practices. This multi award winning project is the only service of its kind in the UK and is highly innovative in terms of addressing an area of significant need not met in other refuge provision. Within these refuges we designate a number of bedspaces for women with no recourse to public funds.

We offer a specialist advice, advocacy and counselling services to women and girls who are experiencing VAWG, enabling them to make informed decisions and exit violent relationships.

Ashiana provides a specialist legal service supporting women with insecure immigration status.

We also deliver an education programme for young people in secondary schools in East London aimed at preventing domestic violence and enabling young people experiencing domestic violence to access appropriate services.

We deliver a range of awareness raising workshops for young people in the community and training on domestic violence for professionals in the voluntary and statutory sector.

5. OUR ETHOS AND VALUES

Ashiana Network is an organisation working within black feminist principles. Ashiana works from a rights-based approach and the premise that violence against women and girls (VAWG) is gender-based violence and a human rights issue.

Our work, therefore, is based on the definition in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which states that violence against women is 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.' This definition also encompasses dowry-related violence, marital rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour-based-violence, other harmful practices, violence against women in the community, gender-based violence perpetrated or condoned by the state.

Ashiana Network's core values are:

Professionalism

Innovation

Excellence

Commitment

Empowerment

Ashiana acknowledges that not all women experience VAWG in the same ways, and that Black and minoritised women often face racialised abuse, and/or abuse based on discrimination against other aspects of their identities. We also acknowledge that Black and minoritised women experience additional barriers to seeking and accessing support for VAWG. Therefore, all responses to survivors should be adapted to ensure they are safe, accessible, and appropriate for each individual woman.

We acknowledge that many women at risk of VAWG will want to seek support from 'women' only services where they will also have access to 'women' only space. We will also ensure that the needs of Black and minoritised women are addressed across all services in line with the ethos of 'led by and for'. This provides for an environment where women are safer and feel as they are being listened to and heard.

The nature of our services means that, invariably, we tackle poverty, disadvantage, racism, inequality and social exclusion. The women and girls we support present with complex and multiple needs including; self-harming, suicide, depression, eating disorders, insecure immigration status, language needs. Our aim will be to support and advise them in order for them to make informed decisions and choices that enable them to exit violent relationships e.g. reporting to police, pursuing civil/criminal legal cases, taking out injunctions, access to refuges, welfare benefits, health, housing, specialist immigration advice.

Our woman-centred, holistic approach will ensure we meet the needs of our clients. Our support planning, risk assessment and outcomes framework tools are utilised by staff to make assessments, draw up appropriate action plans, manage risk, address needs and monitor progress through regular sessions and reviews; enabling clients is achieve their hopes and aspirations. Every effort is made to ensure the clients feel they are in control of the process and see it as something helpful and empowering.

The benefit of holistic approach is evident from this feedback from service users:

"Dear all,

I am writing this email to express my appreciation for the support I received from Ashiana Network.

In particular, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to X, Y and Z for their relentless and selfless support.

X- Thank-you for contacting me, speaking to me anytime I needed and connecting me to the right people when I was so distressed. Thanks for being there for me when it was much needed.

Y - Thank-you for the counselling sessions. I have gained a lot of motivation and encouragement from these sessions, which will stay with me in the long run.

Z- Thank-you for all your help and the sincere efforts you put in for my immigration matter.

All your support is much appreciated. Thank you once again and keep up the good work!"
Service User

"Thank you so much for your constant support throughout this journey.

Your level of support is highly commendable and I am grateful from the bottom of my heart."
Service User

"Amazing services, Ashiana Network give first class services. My whole case was dealt with excellently from the day I was contacted by Ashiana Network.

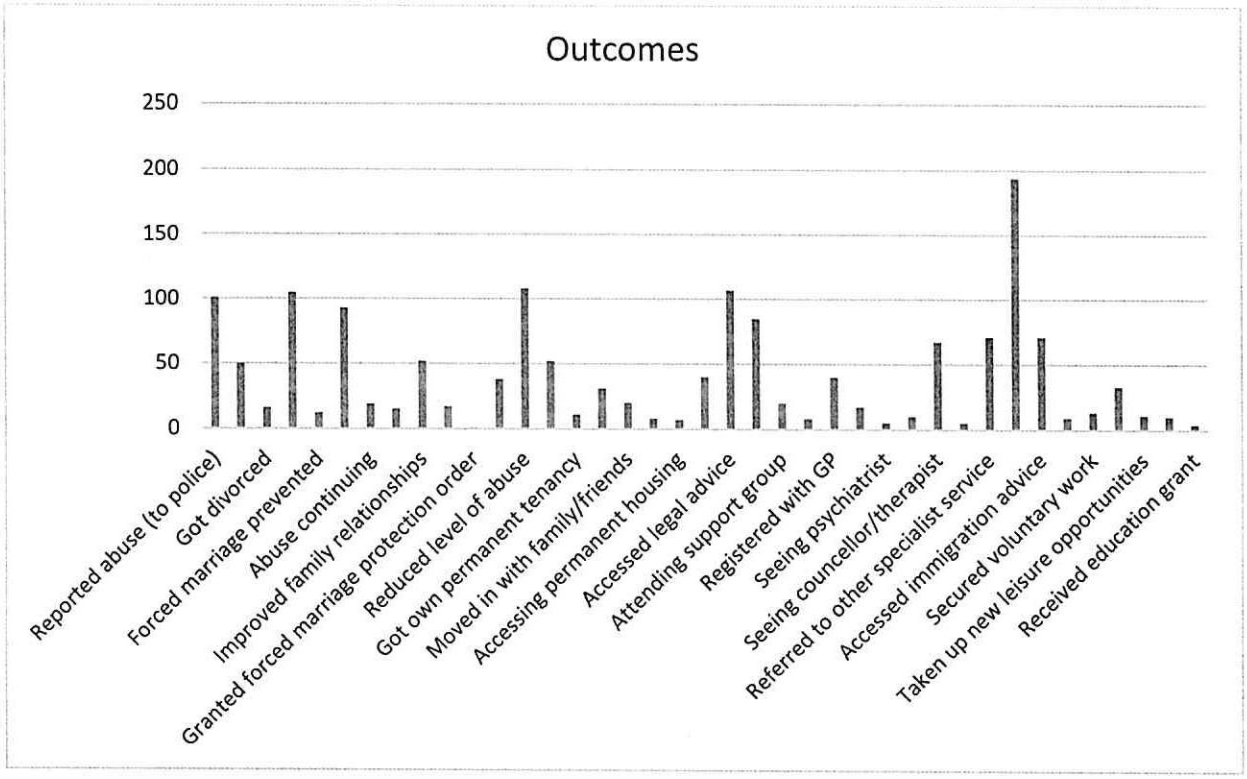
I was in a bad place before that, I didn't know there was help like this out there. I used counselling services and immigration services. The way they handled my case, I was pleased and satisfied. You gave me the best consolation."
Service User

6. ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

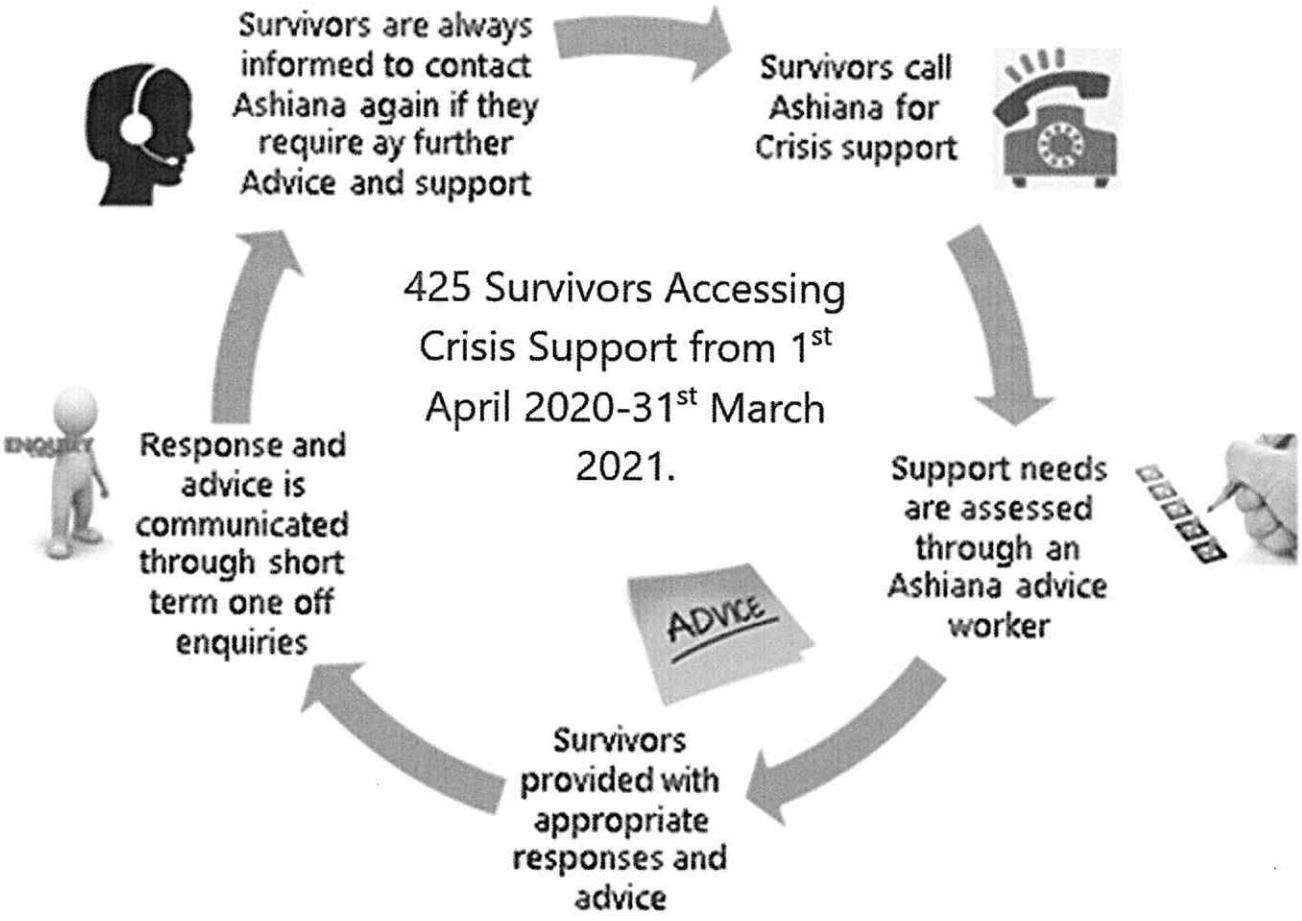
During the year we supported 476 women and dealt with an additional 425 enquires. The tables below provide a snapshot of outcomes or types of abuse experienced by the women we supported during the year. In reading the data, please note that one woman may experience multiple types of abuse and achieve a range of outcomes.

Annual Statistics 1st April 2020-31st March 2021
476 women were provided with Advice & Support, Counselling and Refuge Accommodation by Ashiana

Outcomes achieved include



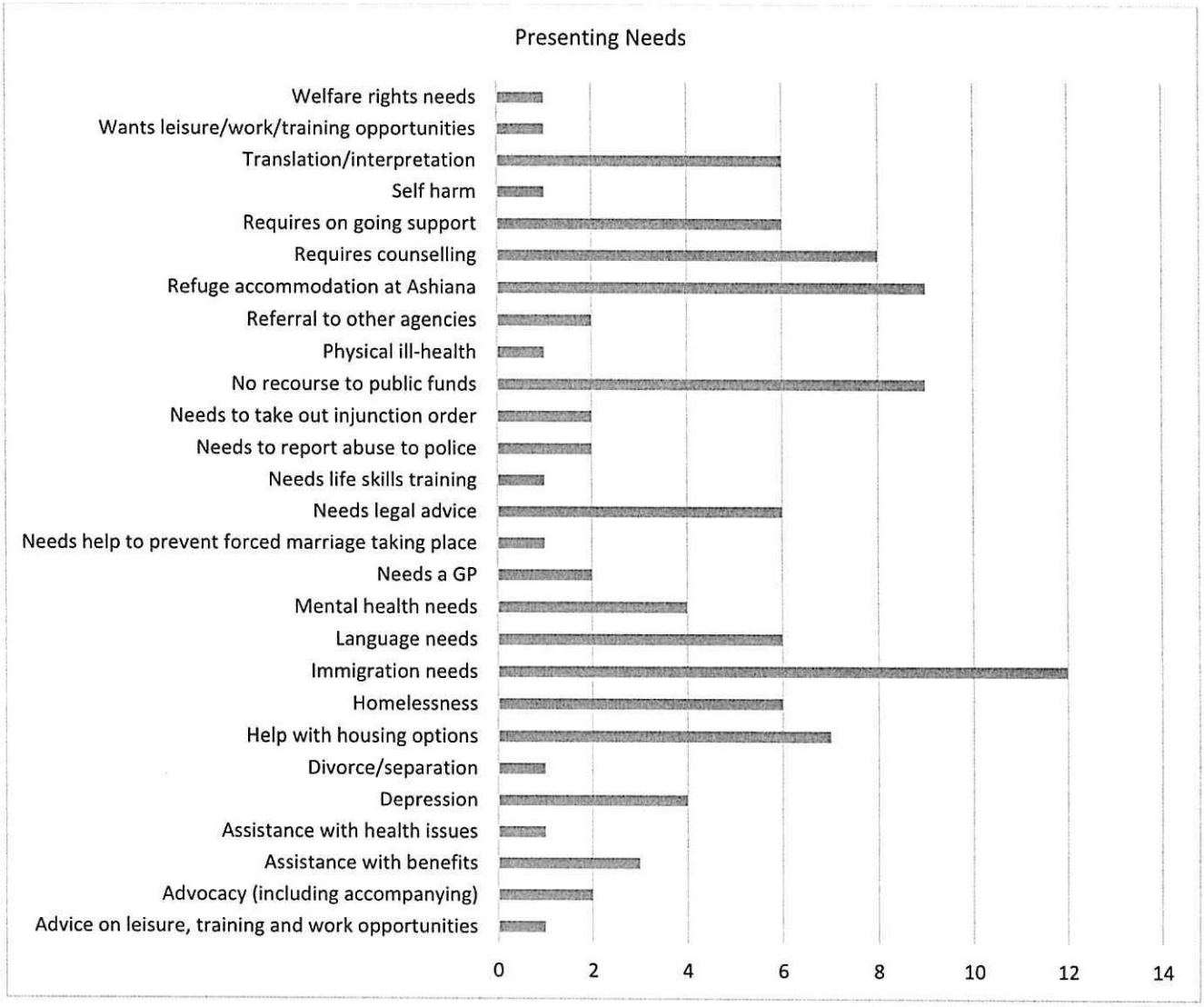
One-Off Enquiries



HOUSING SERVICES
Kyra, Zafina & Saranaya

Ashiana offers temporary safe accommodation across three schemes. Zafina is an 8-bed shared house for South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women between the ages of 16-35 who are experiencing domestic violence. Kyra and Saranaya comprise of a total of 13 bedspaces for young women between the ages of 16-35 at risk of forced marriage. During their stay at Ashiana, residents are offered culturally specific support, confidential advice and advocacy regarding their legal, financial, housing and personal situation.

Over the course of the year we have accommodated 42 women. 32 of these women had no recourse to public funds. Presenting issues and types of abuse include: forced marriage (11), threats to kill (17), HBV (8), rape (7), psychological/emotional abuse (31), Isolation (13) sexual abuse (21).



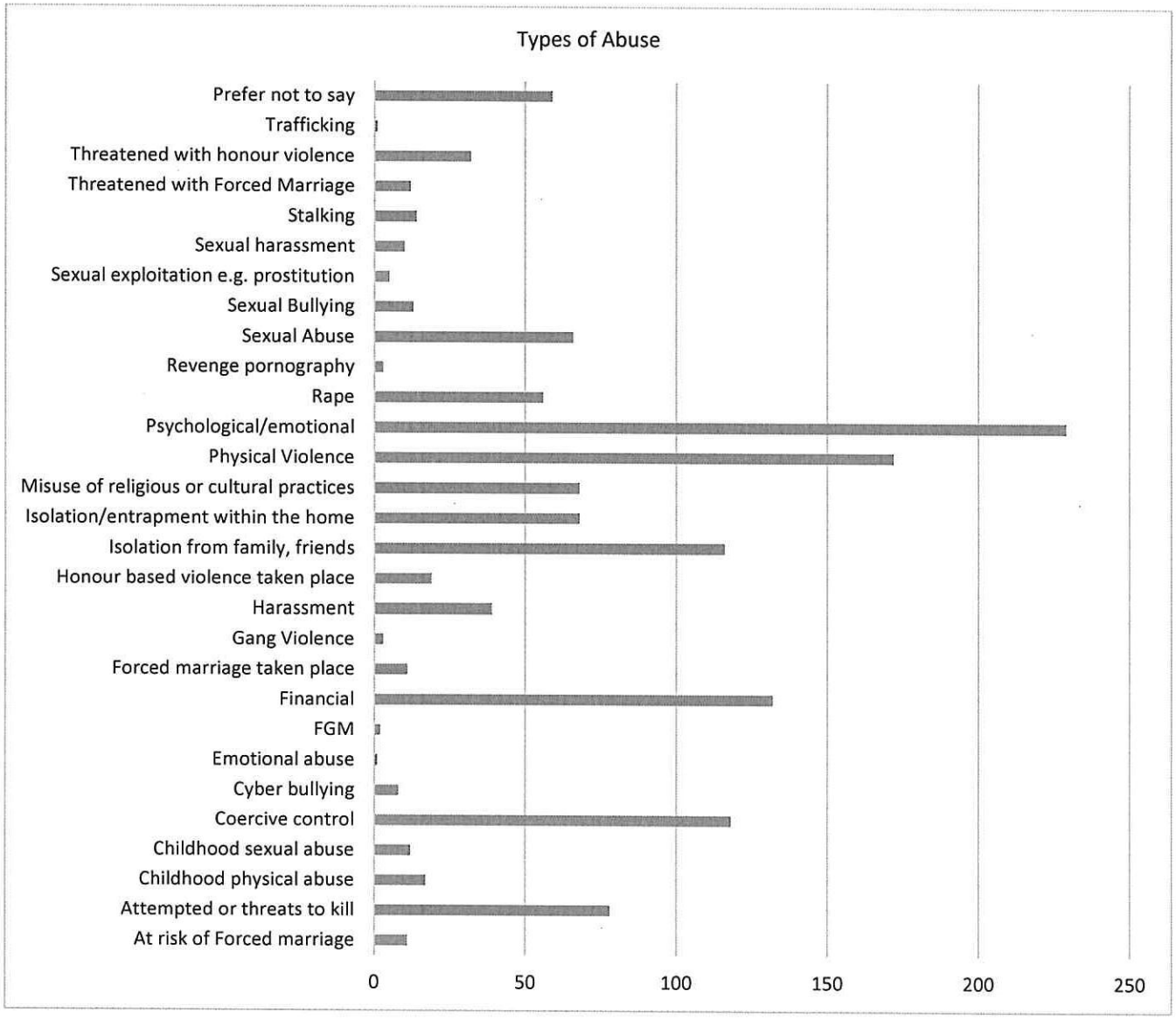
"Hi all my amazing ladies of my life you guys shining stars of my life seriously I have no words to say. I can't return you back how much support love and confidence. Ashiana made me stronger. When I left Ashiana I had tears in my eyes it was hard time for me I'll miss you all. Thank you so much for your help, I got my visa and my divorce got sorted out now I got my on house that's all because of Ashiana."
Service User

ADVOCACY & ADVICE SERVICE

The aim of this service is to advise and support Black and minoritised women and girls experiencing VAWG enabling them to make informed choices and exit violent relationships. Women are supported to report to police, pursue civil/criminal legal cases, childcare proceedings, seeking injunctions, access to refuges, welfare benefits, health and housing. In such cases, the Advice & Support Worker will arrange individual sessions to assess short and long-term needs and offer confidential advice, support and advocacy.

We also work with women and girls who are frequently excluded from mainstream services and/or find it hard to engage with support due to their complex needs or multiple disadvantage including, homelessness, substance misuse, mental health/physical health, insecure or uncertain immigration status, affected by or at risk of prostitution, history of offending behaviour, history of children being removed from her are and/or at risk of further removals.

During the year we have supported over 314 women and girls experiencing a range of VAWG issues.



We supported 127 women who had no recourse to public funds. 102 presented as homeless or living in unsuitable conditions.

"You guys haven't just helped me, it's more than that, you have saved 3 lives. Mine and my two young children's lives. That's not a small thing, that's not just helping. If I had to return in this state back home, all of our lives would have been miserable. Now my kids have a chance at life, I have a chance at life, I can't thank you enough' Service User

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

This service offers legal advice and advocacy specifically for women with insecure immigration status. Some of the more destitute and vulnerable women are those that have no recourse to public funds and Ashiana's aim is to support them with access to specialist legal advice in order to resolve their immigration status. In the year we supported 189 women with insecure immigration status. 155 of these women had no recourse to public funds. Expert staff assessed eligibility, gathered evidence and recorded statements and made applications to regularise clients' immigration status. Additionally these women were supported to access housing, social care, reporting to police.

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and the whole Ashiana Network for the help and support you rendered to me throughout this trying time, your hardwork, persistence, patience, love and kindness you showed to me i really appreciate. I now have a reason to live and happily raise my son in a calm and quiet environment, you do not know how much you have changed my life and boomed my confidence. My heart is filled with so much joy and happiness. Please extend my appreciation to everyone who was involved in my casework. It's not easy but you guys did it and it paid off in the end. No words can express how I am feeling right now but I believe God in heaven will bless you all. From me and my son, WE THANK YOU SO MUCH."
Service User

COUNSELLING SERVICES

We provide confidential one-to-one counselling services for women and girls who are or have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse as well as women and girls who have experienced any form of harmful practice including; forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation. Counselling offered is short term (6-20 Sessions) and provided by accredited qualified counsellors and experienced volunteer counsellor/placements. Ashiana Network is a member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

In the last year we supported 148 women with counselling. Our clients were from various boroughs including Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, Newham and Tower Hamlets. Clients presented with complex and multiple issues.

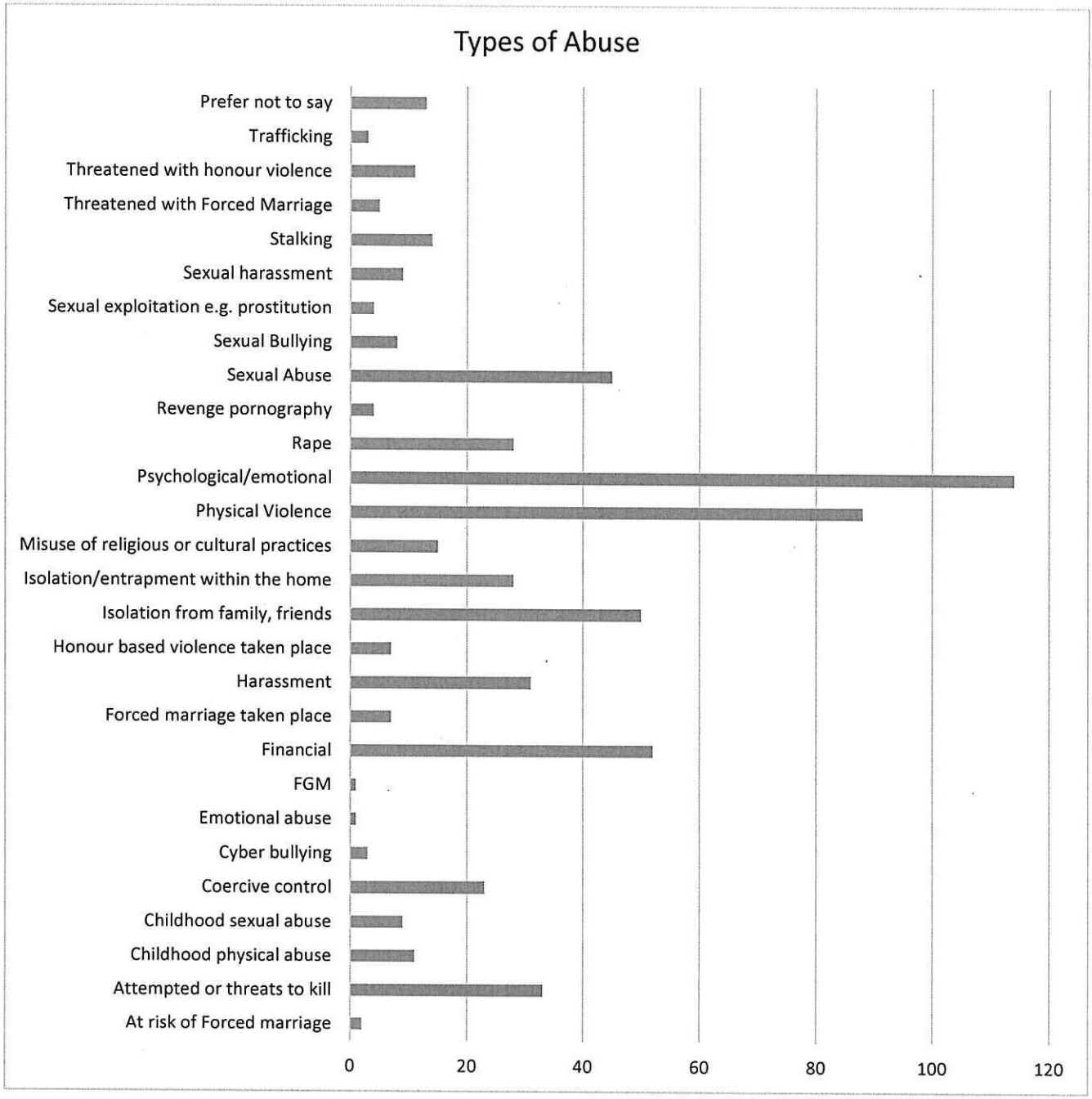
"It's miraculous! The fact that you can talk about your trauma without the fear of being judged or pitied on is very liberating and it makes you comfortable talking about it. And when you are able to talk about the WORST you have been through, you have already conquered your weakness (or at least you have made peace with it). It would be much easier then to identify your strengths. It's a journey of finding your lost self!"

They say, "If you don't heal what hurt you, you'll bleed on people who didn't cut you."

"Heal it! Break the cycle, don't pass it on. Life is too short to carry unnecessary baggage.

Much love and gratitude." Service User

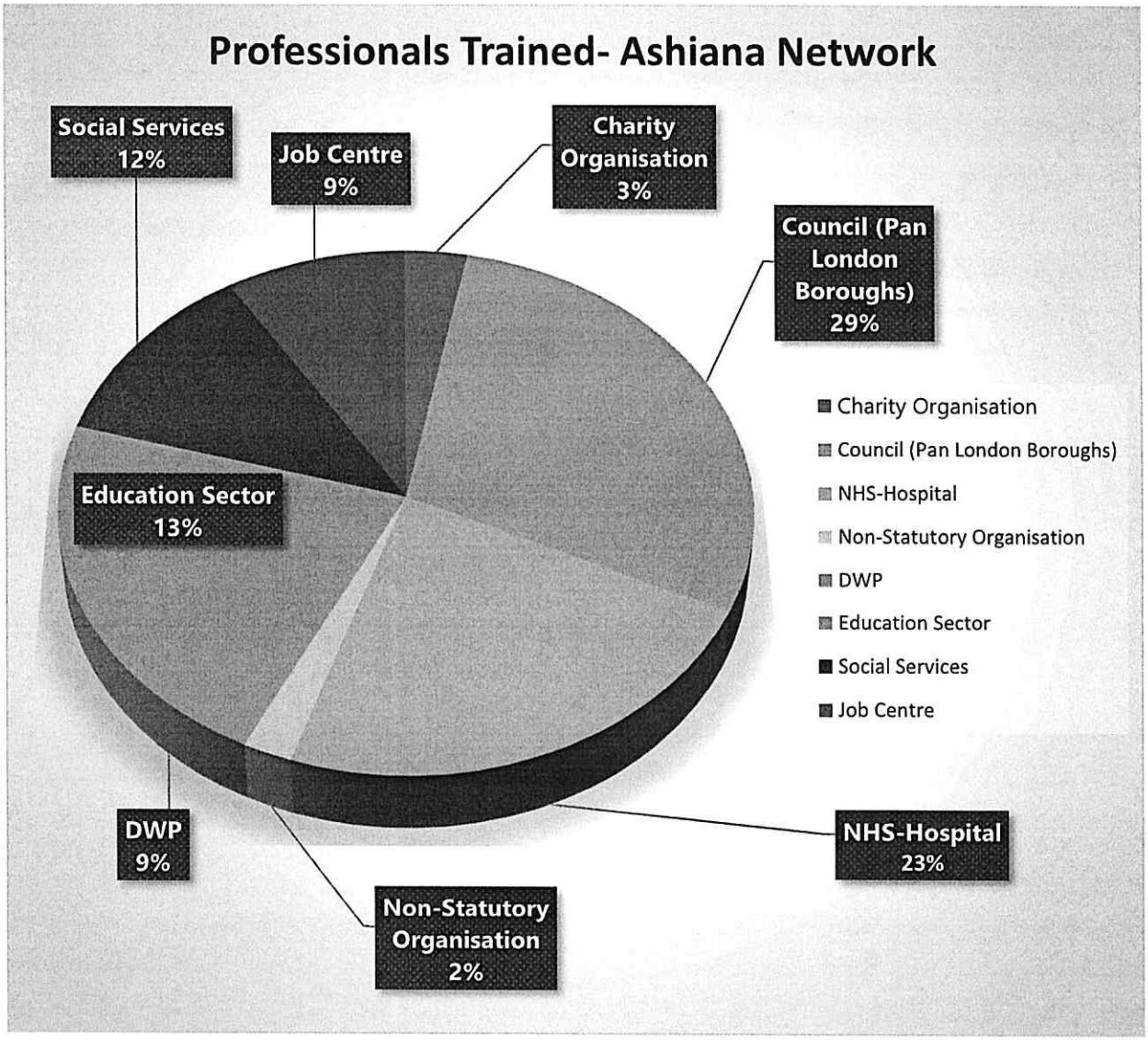
COUNSELLING SERVICES



EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Our education and training work is conducted at a variety of levels with both statutory and voluntary agencies aimed at raising awareness about VAWG. Workshops, training and support groups are provided on topics such as domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour-based violence.

Ashiana has had a busy and productive period in raising awareness of all forms of VAWG in a variety of settings and in a wide variety of ways. We delivered training to 325 professionals from a range of services. These included healthcare staff, teachers, police, staff in multi-agency settings. The training focused on VAWG and in particular harmful practices such as forced marriage, HBV, FGM, etc.



EMPOWERING WOMEN & GIRLS

Ashiana actively implements a service user consultation and involvement policy. This means that service users engage in tenant representative meetings, participate in recruitment panels, feedback on service development and pilot projects, participating in focus groups that inform policy/practice and provide feedback on our policies and strategic plans. We use what we have learned from working with service users to influence changes in our working practices and achieve better outcomes. Some of the involvement included:

MOPAC
In October 2021, we facilitated a Survivor consultation for MOPAC who were consulting on their VAWG strategy. The consultation consisted of focus groups with survivors, this was for the clients to take part in a study designed to explore victims'/survivors' experiences of crime, the criminal justice system, and of any support they may have received. The feedback of the consultation was very good, and the session went really well. The clients specifically spoke a lot about how valuable and important Ashiana has been for them, and how much happier they are now that they have the support.

Ministerial Visit
We hosted a visit from Minister Eddie Hughes (Housing) of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. He was keen to see first-hand how refuge and safe accommodation services work. The visit was arranged to take place at Zafina, and it went very well. The Minister met with residents who spoke about their individual experiences.

Soil Sisters
The gardening project resumed during the year, despite the pandemic. Residents missed these activities during the first year of the pandemic and were very pleased that this had started again,

7. DEVELOPMENT

As of November 2021, Ashiana became an owner of a property in Redbridge. We are in the process of seeking permission for change of use and planning permission for remodelling of the property to two flats with a total of 5 bedspaces. We are seeking to develop this provision for South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern women aged 16+ who are survivors of VAWG. The aim is to use the second stage accommodation for women living in our refuges who no longer need safe accommodation but still require some support. Primarily these may include younger women, those that require further development in life skills or confidence or women with NRPF who are awaiting decisions. Over time, these cohort of women will require less casework support, some of the support may be focused on a particular issue e.g. immigration or divorce. Support packages will be tailored to clients' needs and the longer-term focus will be on move-on/resettlement. We have made applications for revenue funding to support the provision.

8. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Sustain existing services
- Retain/attain relevant and recognised quality standards
- Service Development through acquisition of a property for use as refuge/resource centre
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for services

9. COVID-19

We started a formal return to the office in October 2021, working within a hybrid model. Staff are working remotely and in the office. We are in the process of reviewing the hybrid model and its impact on services. This has involved seeking feedback from service users on their experience of the service and how the changes impacted on them. We will use this evaluation to consider redesigning and configuring alternative models of delivery that will benefit both service users and staff.

Staff Wellbeing
Throughout the year, we continued to offer staff a range of resources to manage their wellbeing, this includes peer supervision, clinical supervision, weekly informal catchups, fortnightly yoga sessions, employee assistance program and line manager supervision.

Webchat
Since August 2020 we have been operating a webchat that is open weekdays between 10-12pm. We did not publicise it as we were conscious of our capacity to respond but in the first year we received 101 enquiries in total which includes enquiries from both clients and professionals.

10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Ashiana Network is committed to working within good practice guidelines to provide high quality services for service users. We aspire to become an outstanding organisation providing safe housing, advice and counselling to all service users, individuals, groups, stakeholders and other agencies.

To ensure high quality provision Ashiana has achieved accreditations with Investors in People (Gold), National Domestic Violence Service Standards, Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards (distinction), Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC).

11. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

Ascent Specialist Refuge
The Ascent Specialist Refuge project is funded by London Councils and commenced in 2017. Ashiana is the lead partner and Solace Women's Aid, nia Project and IKWRO are delivery partners. Together the partnership provides 38 specialist refuge bedspaces and outreach support for women with specialist and multiple needs, no recourse to public funds, women with mental health/problematic substance use, sexually exploited and trafficked women. London Councils has formally approved a further 1-year extension ending in March 2023.

Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Strand (EHP)
The Ascent Ending Harmful Practices is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) and Ashiana is one of 9 delivery partners. The project provides advice and counselling services for those affected by sexual and domestic violence, specifically, Female Genital Mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage and other harmful practices. Following a re-commissioning process, London Councils has awarded this partnership a grant to continue this work from April 2022 to March 2025.

Ascent Advice & Counselling
The Ascent Advice & Counselling project is funded by London Councils and is a led by the Solace Women's Aid and Ashiana is one of 14 delivery partners. We provide a range of advice and counselling services to women in London affected by domestic and sexual violence. Following a re-commissioning process, London Councils has awarded this partnership which will be led by the Women & Girls Network, a grant to continue this work from April 2022 to March 2025

Ascent Prevention
The Prevention project is funded by London Councils and led by Tender Education & Arts and Ashiana is a delivery partner. The project aims to deliver education and awareness about domestic abuse with young people in schools using a whole schools approach. This project ends in March 2022.

Counselling Project
Ashiana is funded by Barking & Dagenham to provide specialist counselling for women in the local borough. This project ends in March 2022.

Ariana Project
Ashiana was funded by the Big Lottery (renamed as The National Lottery Community Fund) in 2016 for 5 years. The project enables us to provide support for women accessing our refuge, advice, counselling and legal services. This project ended in June 2021.

LBWF – Community Transformation
Waltham Forest received funding in 2017 through the Transformation Fund for a three year programme to coordinate and deliver primary prevention of VAWG by universal engagement of young people, parents, staff and the school community. Ashiana is a partner delivering the prevention and community engagement elements. Ended March 2020

Casa Project
We commenced delivery of the two-year Move on Programme in October 2019. The funding allows us to support women who access move-on accommodation through this project

P&ACT EHP Partnership – (Prevention & Action through Community Engagement & training) Harmful Practices
We are a delivery partner in this project led by the Asian Women's Resource Centre. This project enables us to expand our services for women experiencing harmful practices.

London Holistic Advocacy Wraparound Service – the Life Saving to Life Changing Project
We are a delivery partner in this project which is led by Southall Black Sisters. This project focuses on the provision of support, counselling, legal advice and access to accommodation for women with no recourse to public funds.

Advice & Counselling PLUS
We are the delivery partner in this project led by Solace Women's Aid. This project enables us to expand on our current advice & counselling services.

CouRAGEus Project
We are the delivery partner in this project led by Women & Girls Network. As part of this project, Ashiana delivers Specialist Advocacy for women with multiple needs and BME young women and girls 14-24yrs.

WiSER Project
The WiSER Project is led by Solace Women's Aid and as a delivery partner we work with BME women who find it hard to engage with support, who are experiencing violence or abuse and are affected by severe and multiple disadvantages.

MHCLG COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund via LAWA
The OYA consortium, comprising of Ashiana, Asha Project, Latin American Women's Refuge and London Black Women's Project, received funding to support its refuge services for the period April to September 2021.

Comic Relief –Imkaan
We received funding from the Imkaan VAWG COVID Fund towards our Legal Service.

London Borough of Waltham Forest
We were successful in our tender for the re-commissioning of our 13 bed refuge provision in LBWF. The contract is for a three-year term commencing March 2022.

Women Against Violence Group
LBBD funded Ashiana to delivery counselling services for women in the local borough. The project ended in March 2022

Market Place – Waltham Forest
Ashiana is a preferred provider on the Waltham Forest Market Place framework which is led by Solace Women's Aid. This enables us to deliver specialist counselling for women in the borough as and when referrals are made and payment is based on the numbers of clients and sessions delivered.

12. THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED US DURING THE PAST YEAR, IN PARTICULAR:

Aisha K Gill
Asian Women's Resource Centre
Charities Connected
Forced Marriage Unit
Harpers Bazaar
Homeless Link
GMSP Foundation
Imkaan
Life in London Trust
Latin American Women's Aid
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
London Borough of Waltham Forest,
London Councils
London & Quadrant Housing Association
London VAWG Consortium
Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime
Metropolitan Police
National Lottery Community Fund.
NatWest Bank plc (Bankers)
Nawaal Fund
Oak Foundation
OYA Consortium
Peabody
Publicis Groupe
Public Interest Law Centre
Shoosmiths
Soil Sisters
Solace Women's Aid
Southall Black Sisters
Tender
Waltham Forest Liberal Democrats (Secret Santa)
Women's Aid Federation of England
Women & Girls Network
Women's Resource Centre

13. FINANCIAL REVIEW

There was an increase in the activities of the charity in 2020/21. Incoming resources increased by 31.55% (4.47% 2019/20) from £1,685,477 to £2,217,326 whilst expenditure increased by 16.66% (13.05% increase 2019/20) from £1,614,287 to £1,883,276.

The total funds held by the charity increased during the year from £1,850,840 to £2,184,890. These funds are divided for accounting purposes into restricted funds, which represent the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes, and unrestricted funds that are available for the general purposes of the charity. During the year, there was a increase in the total value of the restricted funds from £67,816 to £123,885 and an increase in unrestricted funds from £1,783,024 to £2,061,005.

The principal financial policies adopted during the year are (i) the accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention; (ii) incoming resources relating to grants and material donations are recognised in the period to which they are receivable and (iii) resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis and on the basis that consideration has been received for the expenditure. Full details of the accounting policies adopted during the year are shown in note 1 to the Accounts.

At the end of the year the Committee approved the following Designated Funds:

Furniture renewal and Internal decorations funds provide resources to adequately maintain the furniture, furnishings and decorative order of its refuge provision. The funds represent the estimated cost of decorating and furnishing the 21 bed spaces, sitting rooms and kitchens in the 3 Refuges managed by the organisation. Each year the actual costs will be expended against the funds and transfers will be made to the funds in order that they represent the new estimated costs.

Service Development fund has been created to enable the organisation to plan for the future and create a resource to assist the charity to develop/pilot a particular service. It is expected that significant service development will take place within 3-5 years. In order to meet our objectives, we have transferred £200,000 to the service development fund.

Supporting Women with Insecure Immigration Status fund will provide a resource to subsidise women with no recourse to public funds to cover their rent and day to day living costs.

The principal funding sources of the charity are from grants from a range of statutory bodies and major trusts. These grants are primarily subject to conditions by donors on how they may be used. The expenditure has been made in accordance with the organisation's Operating Plan April 2021/March 2024.

Reserves policy and going concern

The policy of the charity in respect of reserves and major risks is to designate all unrestricted funds where the organisation has been able to identify a timescale for expenditure on specific projects/items. In addition the organisation has established a General Fund for unrestricted funds held by the organisation, which can be used as a contingency against emergency or unplanned expenditure. The Committee believes that by designating funds in this way, they can ensure that the long term plans of the organisation can be realised, and the organisation will be able to fulfil its contractual responsibilities to its staff, funders, users and the wider community.

The reserves fund represents unrestricted general funds which are not committed or tied to any tangible fixed assets held by Ashiana. The Trustees have considered the challenge Ashiana faces with limited, short-term contracts, lack of committed funds and some key services that remain unfunded. As a smaller 'led by and for' organisation we are at further risk of losing contracts, funding and services as we compete against lager generic providers. At the same time, the demand for our specialist services is ever increasing as Black and minoritized women with multiple and complex needs seek our support. The pandemic has exacerbated this situation. It falls on Ashiana to ensure that it has a policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard its financial commitments and to continue to provide essential services to Black and minoritised women in the event that funding is reduced or indeed, completely cut. We will retain sufficient funds in our free reserves to manage short term periods without funding to enable us to deliver services. This will also enable us to plan a service closure slowly so that negative impact to clients is minimised. We will also ensure sufficient funds are retained in our designated fund to enable us to achieve our strategic goal to expand property ownership. Ashiana's forecast reserves through 2021/22 means that the Trustees consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for the 2021 Annual Report and Financial statements and is confident of Ashiana's ability to remain as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

14. Future Plans

- Sustain and develop existing services
- Review design and delivery of services post COVID
- Retain/attain relevant and recognised quality standards
- Secure revenue funding for new second stage development
- Purchase another property to use as second stage accommodation based on learning from purchase of current property and associated planning consents
- Develop Legal Service to include Family Law provision
- Developing partnership/consortia in order to improve practice and secure funding for services

Asset cover for funds
Note 16 sets out an analysis of the net assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

ASHIANA NETWORK

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement
The committee members (who are also directors of Ashiana Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the committee members to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the committee members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

Each of the committee members has confirmed that there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the committee members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The committee members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors
A resolution proposing that Myrus Smith Chartered Accountants be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

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

Rashmi Nigam
Trustee

10 March 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

ASHIANA NETWORK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ashiana Network (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

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

Stephen Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

10 March 2022

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	135,027	310,143	445,170	238,313
Charitable activities	3	341,702	1,428,288	1,769,990	1,440,822
Investments	4	2,166	-	2,166	6,342
Total		478,895	1,738,431	2,217,326	1,685,477
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	46,573	-	46,573	-
Charitable activities	6	154,341	1,682,362	1,836,703	1,614,287
Total		200,914	1,682,362	1,883,276	1,614,287
Net income	10	277,981	56,069	334,050	71,190
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	15	277,981	56,069	334,050	71,190
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	1,783,024	67,816	1,850,840	1,779,650
Total funds carried forward	15	£2,061,005	£123,885	£2,184,890	£1,850,840

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The SOFA includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK
Company No. 2972903 (England & Wales)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	13	418,250		160,219	
Cash at Bank		1,908,449		1,877,977	
		2,326,699		2,038,196	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(141,809)		(187,356)	
Net current assets			2,184,890		1,850,840
Net assets	16		£2,184,890		£1,850,840
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds					
- Designated funds	15		1,836,143		1,636,143
- General fund	15		224,862		146,881
Total unrestricted funds			2,061,005		1,783,024
Restricted Funds	15		123,885		67,816
Total funds			£2,184,890		£1,850,840

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

Approved by the directors and trustees on 10 March 2022 and signed on their behalf.

Anjum Bashir
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

ASHIANA NETWORK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	28,306	46,153
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest received	2,166	6,342
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	30,472	52,495
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,877,977	1,825,482
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	£1,908,449	£1,877,977

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	2021 £	2020 £
Net income for the year	334,050	71,190
Interest receivable	(2,166)	(6,342)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(258,031)	(136,615)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(45,547)	117,920
Net cash flow from operating activities	£28,306	£46,153

Cash and cash equivalents consist of:	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,094,451	1,327,487
Short term deposits	813,998	550,490
Total cash and cash equivalent	£1,908,449	£1,877,977

1. Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation
Ashiana Network is a private company (No. 2972903) limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the "Reference and Administrative Information" on page 1 of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from performance related grants and contracts is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through delivery of the specified services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure includes all irrecoverable VAT which is included as part of the relevant cost. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprises those costs associated with attracting voluntary donations and grants
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs associated with the delivery of the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity and also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support those activities. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

1. **Accounting policies**/contd...

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are stated at costs less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset, less estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life at the following annual rates:

Computer equipment	33% Straight line

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The charity contributes to Stakeholder Pension Schemes on behalf of its employees. These schemes are defined contribution pension schemes.

Contributions payable under these schemes are charged the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate. The charity has no liability under these schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Debtors and creditors
Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairments are recognised in expenditure.

2. **Donations and grants**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
LBWF – Community Transformation	-	-	-	33,940
LBBD – Women Against Violence Group	-	13,000	13,000	13,000
The Oak Foundation	111,800	-	111,800	24,025
National Lottery Community Fund	-	142,569	142,569	138,325
Comic Relief - Imkaan	-	25,000	25,000	-
MHCLG via LAWA	-	79,408	79,408	-
AWRC - NRPF	-	39,945	39,945	-
Home Office via IKWRO	-	-	-	17,995
GMSP Foundation	16,500	-	16,500	-
The London Community Foundation	6,727	-	6,727	-
London Councils via Tender	-	10,091	10,091	10,091
Other Donations	-	130	130	937
	£135,027	£310,143	£445,170	£238,313

Of the £238,313 recognised in 2020, £24,962 was unrestricted funds and £213,351 was restricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
London Councils – Specialist refuge	-	836,113	836,113	840,000
London Councils – other	-	118,638	118,638	118,637
Solace - SLA	-	13,602	13,602	-
LBWF – supporting people	103,000	-	103,000	103,000
LB Camden	-	26,535	26,535	24,982
Income from rent	229,462	-	229,462	235,709
MOPAC	-	433,400	433,400	113,919
Other	9,240	-	9,240	4,575
	£341,702	£1,428,288	£1,769,990	£1,440,822

Of the £1,440,822 recognised in 2020, £343,284 was unrestricted funds and £1,097,538 was restricted funds.

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Bank interest	£2,166	£Nil	£2,166	£6,342

All of the £6,342 recognised in 2020 was unrestricted funds.

5. Cost of raising funds

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
Fundraising activities – salaries	£46,573	£Nil	£46,573	£Nil

No expenditure recognised in 2020 was charged to unrestricted funds.

6. Cost of charitable activities

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
Educational, counselling and prevention work	£1,762,237	£74,466	£1,836,703	£1,614,287

Of the £1,614,287 expenditure recognised in 2020, £250,300 was charged to unrestricted funds and £1,363,987 was charged to restricted funds.

7. Analysis of direct costs

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages and salaries	809,692	640,546
Grants paid to London Councils Partners	612,192	616,079
Payments to clients with no recourse to public funds	130,874	87,287
Housing Association charges	83,032	78,707
Legal fees	10,540	15,785
Other direct housing and management costs	115,907	86,631
	£1,762,237	£1,525,035

8. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Office costs	11,994	11,055
Premises costs	20,257	25,249
Consultancy costs	31,815	45,674
Governance costs (note 9)	10,400	7,274
	£74,466	£89,252

9. Governance costs

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Audit and accountancy fees	6325	3,735
Trustee meetings	-	84
Salaries	4,075	3,455
	£10,400	£7,274

10. Net income

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
Depreciation	£Nil	£Nil
Auditors' remuneration	£2,450	£2,450
Trustees' remuneration	£Nil	£Nil
Operating lease rentals	£116,111	£102,159

No trustees were reimbursed any expenses during the year *(2020: none).*

11. Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	753,119	563,593
Social security costs	72,086	53,688
Other pension costs	35,135	26,720
	£860,340	£644,001

1 employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of £60,000 - £69,999 during the year (2020 – 1).

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £217,168 (2020 : £192,056).

Under FRS 102, employee benefits includes gross salary, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and benefits in kind.

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was 25 *(2020: 19)*.

Termination payments totalling £9,930 were made to members of staff during the year.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £
Cost:	
At 1 April 2020	11,333
Additions	-
At 31 March 2021	11,333
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2020	11,333
Charge for the year	-
At 31 March 2021	11,333
Net Book Value:	
At 31 March 2021	£Nil
At 31 March 2020	£Nil

13. Debtors

Due within one year	2021 £	2020 £
Grants receivable	409,201	146,989
Charges receivable	8,271	12,441
Other debtors	778	789
	£418,250	£160,219

14. Creditors:

Amounts falling due within one year:	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Charges - Credit balances	8,197	6,046
Deferred income – Grants received in advance	8,465	120,265
Accruals	125,147	61,045
	£141,809	£187,356

Deferred income	**Balance brought forward**	**Additions in year**	**Released To Income**	**Balance Carried Forward**
Grants and donations	£120,265	£8,465	£(120,265)	£8,465

Deferred income relates to grant instalments received in advance for the next financial year.

15. Movement in funds

Restricted Funds	**At 1 April 2020** £	**Income** £	**Expenditure** £	**Transfers between Funds** £	**At 31 March 2021** £
Counselling, support & advice	-	81,778	(81,778)	-	-
Education & advice	13,246	10,091	(10,091)	-	13,246
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	836,113	(836,113)	-	-
Women against Violence Group	6,954	13,000	(13,000)	-	6,954
National Lottery Community Fund	28,456	142,568	(110,740)	-	60,284
Market Place – Waltham Forest	3,776	130	-	-	3,906
Harmful practices	-	36,860	(36,860)	-	-
Comic Relief - Imkaan	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
MHCLG via LAWA		79,408	(79,408)	-	-
AWRC – NRPF		39,945	(39,945	-	-
Solace – SLA	-	13,602	(13,602)	-	-
LBWF Community Transformation	14,495	-	-	-	14,495
WiSER project	-	26,535	(26,535)	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	64,184	(64,184)	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	-	190,787	(190,787)	-	-
CASA project	889	8,968	(9,857)	-	-
P & ACT	-	47,898	(47,898)	-	-
CouRAGEus project	-	121,564	(121,564)	-	-
Total restricted funds	67,816	1,738,431	(1,682,362)	-	123,885
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	146,881	478,895	(200,914)	(200,000)	224,862
Designated Funds					
- Furniture renewal	29,000	-	-	-	29,000
- Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
- Service development	1,575,000	-	-	200,000	1,775,000
- Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	1,783,024	478,895	(200,914)	-	2,061,005
Total funds	£1,850,840	£2,217,326	£(1,883,276)	£Nil	£2,184,890

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

15. Movement in funds (continued)

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Restricted Funds	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	At 31 March 2020 £
Counselling, support & advice	-	81,777	(81,777)	-	-
Education & advice	24,405	10,091	(21,250)	-	13,246
Specialist refuge & NRPF	-	840,000	(840,000)	-	-
Women against Violence Group	6,892	13,000	(12,938)	-	6,954
National Lottery Community Fund	49,782	138,325	(159,651)	-	28,456
Market Place – Waltham Forest	20,341	-	(16,565)	-	3,776
Harmful practices	-	36,860	(36,860)	-	-
MOPAC services	-	9,412	(9,412)	-	-
Tampon tax	2,079	17,995	(20,074)	-	-
LBWF Community Transformation	17,415	33,940	(36,860)	-	14,495
WiSER project	-	24,982	(24,982)	-	-
Advice & Counselling PLUS	-	11,958	(11,958)	-	-
Holistic Wraparound service	-	51,578	(51,578)	-	-
CASA project	-	4,484	(3,595)	-	889
P & ACT	-	14,252	(14,252)	-	-
CourAGEus project	-	22,235	(22,235)	-	-
Total restricted funds	120,914	1,310,889	(1,363,987)	-	67,816
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	147,593	374,588	(250,300)	(125,000)	146,881
Designated Funds					
Furniture renewal	29,000	-	-	-	29,000
Internal decorations	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Service development	1,450,000	-	-	125,000	1,575,000
Supporting women with insecure immigration status	22,143	-	-	-	22,143
Total unrestricted funds	1,658,736	374,588	(250,300)	-	1,783,024
Total funds	£1,779,650	£1,685,477	£(1,614,287)	£Nil	£1,850,840

Full details of the purposes of the funds can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report

Section 37 Statement

Grant Aid of £836,113 was received in 2020/21 (2019/20 - £840,000) from London Councils for the Specialist Refuge Programme.

The following table illustrates how money was allocated across the partnership and that it has been used for the purposes outlined in the funding agreement.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Lead Partner: Ashiana Network	223,921	223,921
Delivery Partner: Solace Women's Aid	286,339	286,339
Delivery Partner: nia project	263,853	263,853
Delivery Partner: IKWRO	62,000	62,000
Total:	£836,113	£836,113

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salaries	589,204	597,274
Beneficiary Costs:	121,855	114,002
Central Overheads:	50,719	50,719
Other Direct Project Costs:	12,446	12,229
Set Up & Development Costs:	5,240	6,720
Interpretation Costs:	1,000	1,000
Lead Organisation Costs:	55,649	54,169
Total:	£836,113	£836,113

Grant Aid of £79,408 was received in 2020/21 from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (via LAWA). The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Staffing Cover: Additional Staff Cover	68,785	68,785
Additional COVID-19 Related Costs	1,000	1,000
Office equipment	7,909	7,909
Other Costs:	1,714	1,714
Total:	£79,408	£79,408

Section 37 Statement (continued)

Grant Aid of £81,777 was received in 2020/21 (2019/20 - £81,777) from London Councils (via Solace Women's Aid) for the Counselling and Advice Strand of the Ascent Programme. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: Counsellor 1:1	24,721	24,721
Salary: Counsellor 1:1	18,989	18,989
Salary: Specialist Advice Caseworker	23,205	23,205
Salary: Group Worker (Borough Based)	3,600	3,600
Salary: Specialist BME Group Worker (Organisation Based)	1,200	1,200
Groups Costs: Training and Other	216	216
Groups Costs: Specialist BME Training & Other	72	72
Groups Borough Based Venue & Interpreting	1,440	1,440
On Costs	8,334	8,334
Total:	£81,777	£81,777

Grant Aid of £36,860 was received in 2020/21 (2019/20 - £36,860) from London Councils (via AWRC) for the Harmful Practices Strand of the Ascent Programme. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

	Grant Income £	Grant Spent £
Salary: HBV/FM Advice Workers	19,320	19,320
Salary: Counsellor	11,960	11,960
Outreach/Support Groups	525	525
Training Workshops	525	525
Publicity	650	650
On Costs	3,880	3,880
Total:	£36,860	£36,860

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund Balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted			
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	366,671	1,836,143	123,885	2,326,699
Current liabilities	(141,809)	-	-	(141,809)
	£224,862	£1,836,143	£123,885	£2,184,890

Comparative information for the previous financial year is as follows:

Fund Balances at 31 March 2020 are represented by:

	Unrestricted			
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	334,237	1,636,143	67,816	2,038,196
Current liabilities	(187,356)	-	-	(187,356)
	£146,881	£1,636,143	£67,816	£1,850,840

17. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	Land and Buildings	Land and Buildings
Within one year	84,467	84,467
Within two to five years	7,680	7,680
	£92,147	£92,147

18. Taxation

As a registered charity, Ashiana Network is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.

19. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2021 or 2020 other than those set out in note 11 relating to key management personnel.

20. Contingent assets

The charity has been awarded some multi-year grants with specified or implied timeframes which preclude recognition of the full amount. The total amount awarded for future years but not recognised is £817,951.