

SAFE GROUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1048181

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [03080847](#)

Registered 1995-07-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Unit 1 Waterloo Gardens
Milner Square
London
N1 1TY

Phone 020 3668 9270

Email info@safeground.org.uk

Website www.safeground.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC,IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY PRISONERS IN THE ARTS,SPECIFICALLY THE ART OF DRAMA,LITERATURE AND POETRY AND TO REHABILITATE PRISONERS BY PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING THEIR CULTURE AND ARTISTIC ABILITIES.

Activities: Safe Ground works to promote relationship skills as tools for empowering people to change, so reducing the risk of reoffending and building stronger communities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£659,189	£553,585	£200,473	19
2024-03-31	£559,859	£526,745	£94,869	12
2023-03-31	£220,652	£244,684	-	-
2022-03-31	£281,963	£225,969	-	-
2021-03-31	£229,652	£192,984	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CATHY KANE		2024-11-28
Claire Barton		2022-10-31
Dylan Kerr		2022-10-31
Kobi Boakye		2024-11-28
Rebecca Escott-New		2025-12-17
Stuart Jenkin		2022-10-31

SAFE GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1048181

Accounts



Social
Interest
Group

Safe Ground

Annual Report

Trustees' Report & Consolidated
Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

Charity no. 1048181
Company no. 03080847

Contents

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors	3
Objectives and Activities	4
Chief Executive Statement.....	5
Strategic Report.....	6
Financial Review	11
Plans for the Future	13
Structure, governance and management.....	13
Statement of responsibilities of the trustees.....	15
Independent Auditor's Report	16
Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21
Notes to the Financial Statements	22

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Safe Ground was established in 1995 and joined Social Interest Group on the 1st November 2022. Social Interest Group is its only member, making it a subsidiary of Social Interest Group. Safe Ground now trades as SIG Safe Ground.

Directors and charity trustees

The directors of SIG Safe Ground are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and, throughout this document, are collectively referred to as the trustees. The current trustees and those who served during the period ended 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Chair

Karl Marlowe

Other Trustees

Dylan Kerr

Stuart Jenkin

Jeff Loo (left 19th March 2025)

Claire Barton

Cathy Kane (appointed 28th November 2024)

Kobi Boakye (appointed 28th November 2024)

Company Secretary

Michael Rutherford (left 5th September 2025)

Ian Hanham (appointed 5th September 2025)

Senior Leadership Team

Group Chief Executive

Gill Arukpe (left 30th April 2025)

Cathy Kane (Interim appointed 17th February 2025)

Director of Finance & Resources

Michael Rutherford (left 5th September 2025)

Ian Hanham (Interim appointed 29th July 2025)

Director of People & Culture

Maria Speight

Director of Services & Support

Angela Henry

Paul Addicott

Director of Development, Marketing & Communications

Greg Tythe

Director of External Affairs & Impact

Adam Moll

Director of Housing & Maintenance

Matthew Costin

Director of Compliance, Risk & Internal Audit

Jenny Ralls

Registered office

1 Waterloo Gardens

Milner Square

London

N1 1TY

Auditor

Buzzacott Audit LLP

130 Wood St

London

EC2V 6DL

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc

25 Gresham Street

London

EC2V 7HN

Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP

2 Putney Hill

London

SW15 6AB

DWF LLP

1 Scott Place

2 Hardman Street

Manchester

M3 3AA

Company registration number 03080847

Charity registration number 1048181

www.socialinterestgroup.org.uk

enquiries@socialinterestgroup.org.uk

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administration information set out on the previous page form a part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

Purposes and Aims

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. They are satisfied that the charity's aims and objectives meet the public benefit requirement and that the charity's activities support those aims.

The objects of the charity as set out in the Articles of Association for the public benefit:

The company's object is to advance the education of the public, particularly but not exclusively prisoners, in the arts, specifically drama, literature, and poetry, and to use the arts to rehabilitate prisoners, offenders, and community members by promoting and developing people's creative and artistic abilities, parenting skills, and relationship skills.

Activities

SIG Safe Ground has been designing and delivering creative, relational, and therapeutically informed programmes and services for over 30 years. Our work focuses on supporting people impacted by the criminal justice system through arts-based practice that rebuilds relationships, encourages personal development, and promotes anti-shame approaches to engagement and change.

We deliver experiential learning rooted in creativity, care, and connection. Our belief is that people are the experts in their own lives, and our work provides the tools and space for participants to reflect, grow, and build stronger relationships with themselves, with others, and with the wider world.

Our programmes create a positive impact; analysis of Fathers Inside shows a 40% reduction in re-offending between programme participants and their counterparts who did not participate (Justice Data Lab, 2016). Our most recent evaluation of the Fathers Inside programme (Blagden 2019) highlighted a statistically significant reduction in parental stress pre/post programme and a significant increase in less-restrictive attitudes towards parenting because of the programme. 76.5% of participants engaged in further ETE (education, training and employment) one month after completing Fathers Inside, compared to 53.6% before the programme.

Chief Executive Statement

As we conclude the financial year, I feel immense pride and gratitude reflecting on SIG Safe Ground's remarkable journey. This year is particularly special for us, marking a significant leadership transition. In March 2025, we bid farewell to Gill Arukpe MBE, visionary founder of Social Interest Group (SIG), of which SIG Safe Ground is a subsidiary. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Gill on behalf of our staff, trustees, and the individuals whose lives SIG has positively impacted. Her legacy will continue to inspire us into the future. We wish her every success in this new chapter of her journey.

I am honoured to step into the role of Interim CEO as we embark on the first year of our ambitious five-year strategy. The UK social care, criminal justice, and voluntary sectors face chronic underfunding, inflationary pressures, workforce shortages, and increasingly complex needs. With new government legislation poised to reshape how our services are commissioned, monitored, delivered and accessed, we expect further instability. Yet, despite these pressures, SIG Safe Ground remains a beacon of innovation, compassion, and resilience.

Across the year, SIG Safe Ground proudly supported fifty-four individuals and facilitated 38,937 family visits at our visitor centre outside HMP Altcourse. Forty-eight prisoners graduated from our arts-based, therapeutically informed programmes this year. Our monthly Family Days are essential opportunities for family and friends to connect, offering fewer restrictions and creating a critical space for men in custody and their families. We proudly report that 100% of participants in our programmes successfully completed their courses. Furthermore, for every £1 invested in our *Fathers Inside* parenting programme, we generate an impressive annual saving of £5.49 for the public purse, significantly lowering crime and prison costs.

These impressive figures testify to our trauma-informed, person-centred approach and our staff's passion, persistence, and endeavours to drive our mission. We empower individuals to reshape their identities, reclaim stability, and rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. We are proud to say we are effectively keeping people out of prison, out of hospital, and off the streets. We have strengthened our evaluation frameworks and continue to invest in our people. Ensuring our employees feel valued, safe, heard, and supported is central to our continued success as we move forward with renewed purpose and ambition.

Our new five-year strategy marks a pivotal moment for SIG Safe Ground, building on our impacts while setting a bold course for the years ahead. Our focus remains on delivering high-quality, inclusive services that effectively respond to the needs of the people and communities we serve, amidst a changing world. We know that the challenges facing our sector will not ease, but we firmly believe that meaningful change is not only possible but achievable. We witness this every day through the resilience of those we support, the dedication of our staff, and the strength of our partnerships. Together, we will continue to advocate for a more compassionate, equitable system that empowers people to thrive and achieve positive life outcomes.

On behalf of all at SIG Safe Ground, I would like to thank everyone who has been part of our journey. Whether you are a colleague, partner, funder, or someone who has accessed our services, your belief fuels our mission and everything we do. I am honoured to lead SIG Safe Ground into this next chapter, and I am genuinely excited about what we can achieve together.



Cathy Kane, Interim Group Chief Executive

9th October 2025

Strategic Report

As we celebrate 30 years in 2025, SIG Safe Ground remains a pioneering charity dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals within the criminal justice system through connection and creativity. By creating safe spaces and championing an anti-punitive approach, we empower them to embrace a strong sense of shared ownership and responsibility for themselves and each other. Our commitment to inclusivity ensures that we meet the diverse needs of programme participants, offering meaningful engagement to everyone, including those who may struggle with reading and writing, those facing cognitive or physical challenges, dependency issues, anxiety, or other barriers to education and group participation. Our dedication to anti-oppressive practices ensures that every voice is heard and valued.

We are proud of the excellent work accomplished this year and look forward to sharing our insights and reflections, which will help us continue enriching our programmes and creating positive change for individuals, families, and communities.

Vision: A society where creativity and connection drive rehabilitation, empowering communities affected by the criminal justice system to recover, rebuild and shape a culture of positive change.

Mission: Through the arts and therapeutic practices, we create spaces within the criminal justice system for growth, reflection, and community-building. We are champions of innovative approaches in prison systems that reduce recidivism and support sustainable, long-term change, guided by those with first-hand experience of the system.

Helping Families Navigate Prison Challenges

We adopt a creative approach to supporting individuals and families impacted by the criminal justice system. Evidence indicates that increased engagement with families within custodial environments can lead to reductions in reoffending rates. A vital part of the UK's prison reform efforts is the "Family and Significant Others Strategy" (FASO), aimed at strengthening family ties within prisons and decreasing recidivism. The FASO strategy includes a range of constructive measures, including promoting visits, facilitating effective communication, and establishing effective channels for family members to voice their concerns and receive feedback.

Our Family Services Manager developed the 2025 Family Strategy for HMP Altcourse, achieving an outstanding FASO measures score of 138 out of 144 points. Our organisation is committed to recognising the value of families and significant others by enabling in-person and virtual visitations, organising Family Days, and involving family members in the management of prisoners whenever feasible.

We serve hundreds of families, focusing on three primary areas: operating the Visitor Centre at HMP Altcourse, which includes providing support and play activities for children; delivering a family counselling service; and implementing arts-based, therapeutically informed programmes for individuals in custody. Together, these efforts help build stronger family connections and promote positive outcomes for everyone involved.

National Arts-Based Therapeutically Informed Programmes

"At the beginning of this course, the facilitators said, take this opportunity with both hands – you'll never get a chance to do something like this. Ha, I thought – what do they know? They don't see what makes me tick." But it's one of the best decisions I've made, and taking a look at myself and about good and bad choices I've made."

These quotes demonstrate the deep self-reflection and personal growth that participants are encouraged to embrace during their journey with us. They reveal how individuals begin to recognise the impacts of their past behaviours on their children, highlighting the necessity to make positive changes for the benefit of their families.

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Our approach centres on creating experiential programmes that address behaviours and social issues through a creative, therapeutic approach. We develop our programmes through collaboration with those we serve, including the Probation Service, private prisons, community groups and other third-sector organisations. Our flagship programmes, *Man Up* and *Fathers Inside*, have national recognition and are delivered across various custodial and community settings.

Fathers Inside

"I struggled so much to come to terms with being here, but coming to the end of this course has made me realise there is hope, and now I've got the toolbox to be a better me and give my boys the father they deserve."

Fathers Inside is SIG Safe Ground's flagship programme focused on family relationships. It is the first of its kind to be implemented in UK prisons. This programme supports participants in understanding the underlying factors contributing to their criminal behaviour and the impact these actions have had on their families. Through shared parenting experiences and coping strategies, individuals reflect on their personal narratives while appreciating the significance of positive communication and support within their partnerships or co-parenting situations. This programme facilitates growth but also promotes healthier family dynamics.

The programme culminates in a public showcase where participants can share their journey through the programme, the reflections they've made, and their creative work with prison staff, family members, and other guests. Additionally, we celebrate their voices by producing a poetry pamphlet after every programme, highlighting the powerful pieces written by the participants.

Man Up

"You can't enforce rehabilitation if you've never been shown how to live in the first place. SIG Safe Ground support people to really live for the first time."

Man Up? is a programme approved by the National Framework Interventions (NFI) that explores masculinity's influence on personal development, interpersonal relationships, and overall well-being. The NFI approval signifies that an independent panel has validated the programme's quality, evidence base, and its potential impact on reducing reoffending and violence through exploring identity, change, power, and what it means to be a man in today's society. The programme supports personal reflection, accountability, rebuilding positive relationships, and autonomy to develop and sustain meaningful change. With the upcoming national rollout of Man Up? next year, we anticipate significant reach and engagement, with an estimated 180 men expected to complete the programme.

This year also marked a key milestone in the growth of Man Up? through our co-licensing partnership with HMP Forest Bank. Working collaboratively with their intervention team, we supported them in delivering the programme on-site, embedding the work into their existing rehabilitative framework. This partnership model enables local ownership while maintaining programme fidelity and impact. It represents an important evolution in our approach—scaling creative, anti-shame, relational work in custodial settings through meaningful collaboration.

Our Own Stories

SIG Safe Ground continued its strategic partnership with Advance (Advance Advocacy and Nonviolence Community Education) for the third consecutive year, supporting women in reflecting on their journeys to date and moving forward violence-free. Advance runs Minerva women's centres across London, providing vital support to women and girls impacted by domestic abuse and the criminal justice system, empowering them to lead safe, equitable, and violence-free lives. "Our Own Stories is an empowering self-development programme developed in consultation with women in prison and effectively adapted into a one-day taster workshop designed for those accessing Advance services.

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Building on the solid foundation established at Minerva's East London Women's Centre in 2021, SIG Safe Ground returned in December to roll out the "Our Own Stories" programme to additional Minerva centres in Hammersmith, Stratford, and Finsbury Park. We conducted four engaging sessions, led by skilled female facilitators, at three of Advance's London locations. These sessions focused on the pervasive issue of negative self-talk, helping participants recognise and challenge these harmful internal narratives while developing healthier ways of thinking and expressing themselves.

A notable aspect of the programme is its emphasis on creative expression through writing and poetry. This encourages women to explore their thoughts and emotions, often for the first time, and empowers them to share their stories. The sessions have consistently received overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the demand for programme expansion, and we look forward to exploring ways to extend their duration in response to this interest. A small selection of work made in December:

I Come From

*I come from daydreaming when I was home alone,
I come from caring for my parents 'cause I didn't have a life of my own,
I come from taking my siblings and translating at school,
I come from wasn't able to go swimming with my class and play in the pool,
I come from sitting at home, filling out this or that form,
I come from my siblings playing in the park, which was their norm,
I come from hiding underneath my clothes from all that abuse,
I come from growing up in a house thinking what's the use.*

I Come From

*I come from a land cold and harsh, into a land of sunshine and blue seas,
I come from my mother tongue into a confusing English-speaking country where people with accents are hard to understand,
I come from politics, which were overlooked by my peers and educators,
I come from a single-parent family with many fathers,
I come from the sun but have been eclipsed by the clouds,
I come from the child, but was forced into adulthood,
I come from the creative, yes, I am rigid and ordered,
I come from bitterness and regret, but I am discovering love and home.*

Alumni

We continue building an alumni network of men participating in our programmes. Our commitment extends to maintaining contact with these individuals after completing their programmes. Our team successfully assisted one participant from the Man Up programme in securing accommodation for men in recovery. This individual has since become an advocate for our services, engaging in public speaking events, including appearances at several Liverpool Police events, where he shares his personal experiences. In recognition of his contributions, he received a SIG annual recognition award for his creativity. He was also nominated for an award by The Probation Service and is met Lord Timpson in May 2025 to discuss his journey.

In late 2024, we initiated a new group counselling session, designed for any men who have enrolled in our programmes. These sessions have proven highly effective, allowing us to sustain connections among the participants and build relationships between them. From the establishment of this initiative in November 2024 until the conclusion in May 2025, 32 men have benefited from group counselling and participated on an ongoing basis until their transfer from the prison facility.

Our work at HMP Altcourse

Taking a Whole Family Approach

HMP Altcourse is a category B local prison that accommodates up to 1,200 men in custody. This high turnover necessitates our focus on assisting many first-time visitors and families who may utilise our services for a limited duration, spanning just a few weeks or months.

At Altcourse, we are committed to leading and driving cultural shifts in best practice across the UK prison system. In collaboration with the dedicated on-site staff, we are initiating an innovative model designed to effectively serve and support families, emphasising integrating creative and trauma-informed practices at the core of our operations. This year, our primary objective is to implement our Family Counselling Service while reintroducing a play facility for visiting children. We are dedicated to creating environments that encourage reflection, play, learning, growth, and connection, thereby facilitating significant improvements in family culture.

Visitor Centre

"A wonderful visit; centre staff always go above and beyond."

The outside visitor centre plays a pivotal role in enhancing and sustaining essential family connections, which research indicates can reduce reoffending rates by as much as 39% (Ministry of Justice, 2017). This year, SIG Safe Ground facilitated over 38,000 visits at HMP Altcourse, with approximately one quarter of the visitors being children. In 2024, we completed a comprehensive refurbishment of the visitor centre, significantly enhancing its child-friendliness and accessibility.

SIG Safe Ground's dedicated Family Liaison Team is focused on managing the outside visitor centre, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere during incredibly challenging and stressful times for families. With compassion and understanding, they strive to make each visit as supportive as possible. Feedback collected from families underscores the centre's inviting and supportive atmosphere, which is critical for preserving these vital family bonds. Such connections contribute significantly to improved outcomes for individuals during incarceration and after release.

Family Days

Our Family Services Team organised 16 Family Days throughout the year, providing invaluable opportunities for 192 men in custody to establish meaningful connections with their families and embedding our arts-based approach. These special events allow for extended visits, featuring fewer restrictions than regular visiting hours. Together with 768 family members, they participated in various creative and interactive activities, including games and storytelling, all designed to help deepen family contact time. This nurturing environment strengthens family bonds and helps alleviate stress for everyone involved in a supportive environment.

We partner with the Give A Book scheme through the Prison Reading Group to enrich these experiences and offer a sense of play and normalcy during these challenging times. Each Family Day includes a carefully curated selection of books that cater to different age groups and interests, allowing children to choose one to take home. This initiative not only encourages reading as a shared activity between parents and children but also promotes literacy as part of our comprehensive prison-wide reading strategy. To continuously improve our services, we collect feedback at the end of each event, ensuring that their insights help us shape future Family Days into even more impactful experiences.

Family Counselling Service

"I can honestly say it saved me and my family."

The Family Counselling Service represents a fundamental aspect of our mission to enhance family relationships through targeted, compassionate interventions. We promote our anti-shame approach to create an environment where families can develop stronger connections and grow together. This year, we committed to over 950 hours of purposeful activities that facilitated family engagement, support and understanding, and healing among family members. The feedback we receive from participants underscores the profound impact of our service and the life-changing support we strive to provide.

In 2024 alone, we proudly supported 107 individuals through various sessions, including one-on-one, family, and group sessions. These sessions are designed to guide participants through their unique challenges, enabling them to build deeper, more meaningful relationships founded on trust and communication, particularly in recognising the effects of one's actions on children, a critical shift that research correlates with reducing reoffending.

Stay and Play and Dad & Kids Club

This year also marked an exciting milestone with the launch of an innovative family support collaboration at HMP Altcourse. Partnering with Liverpool City Council, we introduced the 'Stay and Play' and 'Dad and Kids Club' programmes, specifically created to strengthen family bonds in a supportive and structured environment. These groundbreaking initiatives provide fathers with the unique opportunity to engage in structured play sessions with their children. These sessions are facilitated to ensure joy, learning, and connection, allowing fathers to rediscover the joy of parenting while promoting valuable interactions with their kids. Simultaneously, their partners receive essential counselling services, ensuring that every family member benefits from tailored support that addresses their individual needs.

The pioneering nature of these initiatives represents a significant breakthrough in the prison estate, offering a holistic approach to family wellness that has previously been unavailable in such settings, ultimately paving the way for a hopeful and brighter future for families as they embark on a transformative journey together.

Thank You

This report and all the work SIG Safe Ground completed over the last year would not have been possible without the considerable and ongoing contributions of all our multiple partners, allies, supporters, participants and funders.

SIG Safe Ground would like to thank all our participants and Alumni for their engagement this year, and our Patrons - Baroness Helena Kennedy, Lord Lucas, Melly Still, Professor Renos Papadopoulos and Joelle Taylor. Thanks to all our sector colleagues, most notably the HMP Altcourse teams.

Transformation Journeys

"The sessions have helped Craig and our son, who is one. They interact more, helping Craig know his personality. My daughter feels secure that her dad is safe and part of her life."

Craig's Story

Craig, his partner, and their children have been deeply affected by his incarceration. His seven-year-old daughter has struggled the most, experiencing emotional issues and self-harming, as Craig was her primary caregiver before his arrest. This situation has taken a toll on Craig's mental health, causing anxiety and hopelessness as he worries about his family's well-being. While in prison, Craig joined the Father's Inside group, working with PJ Smith, a spoken word artist, and participants from Damien John Kelly House, an abstinence-based supported living accommodation. He engaged in writing workshops led by Toria Garbutt, a poet and spoken word artist, using poetry to cope with his feelings. He made a comprehensive toolbox to help him cope with his emotions when dealing with life in prison and beyond.

His openness and empathy towards others in the group helped him develop coping strategies, leading to his earning Redband status as a trusted prisoner and a respected role in healthcare, both highly regarded positions in the prison. After the programme, he continued group counselling with SIG Safe Ground's Family Counselling service. After discussions, the family chose to tell their daughter the truth about his incarceration, which she accepted well, leading to improvements in her behaviour. Craig's partner attended individual counselling sessions, where she expressed feeling overwhelmed but found relief in discussing her feelings and seeing her children happy with Craig. Craig's children attended "Stay and Play" sessions designed to help them express emotions and connect with their dad, which also helped them process their situation.

Over time, SIG Safe Ground built a strong, trusting relationship with the family, providing essential support during this challenging time. Craig and his family have made significant progress through these programmes. They have embraced the support, leading to positive changes and increased coping skills. Craig now enjoys one-on-one visits and is learning to manage his mental health better, while the family looks ahead with hope for the future.

Financial Review

At the end of the financial period, the charity had unrestricted general reserves of £200,473 (2023/24 - £94,869). The charity achieved a surplus of £105,604 during the period ended 31 March 2025 (2023/24 - surplus of £33,114).

The trustees consider the results acceptable, given the charity's status as a subsidiary undertaking in Social Interest Group, the wider economic environment, ongoing changes, and increased competition within the sector.

Principal risks and uncertainties

SIG Safe Ground operates in unique environments, creating spaces within the criminal justice system for growth, reflection, and community building through the arts and therapeutic practices. The organisation's risk management framework is designed to ensure that risks are identified, assessed, and managed in line with its 'parent', SIG's strategic objectives and risk appetite. It must also respond to Ministry of Justice and His Majesty's Prison Service changes and requirements.

The risk register is a living document with risks being actively mitigated and reviewed at leadership level on a monthly basis. Leadership risk is informed by incidents, complaints, safety reviews, stakeholder feedback and escalated from services and central departments where required. Movement on this register, such as addition of new risks, closure following mitigation, and any changes in impact and likelihood are overseen by the leadership team including CEO on a monthly basis, and quarterly by board, primarily at the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. Major projects and mobilisations have their own risk

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

log and remains a key responsibility of the project team, with support and oversight from both the leadership team and board.

The following outlines the principal risks and uncertainties currently facing SIG Safe Ground, aligned with SIG's risk appetite statements and strategic priorities.

Risk	Risk Description	Mitigation
Financial Sustainability	The organisation faces financial risks due to funding volatility, and rising operational costs.	Dynamic monthly budgeting, engagement with funders, and strategic partnerships to ensure financial resilience.
Operational Delivery and Service Continuity	Risks include workforce challenges, policies and procedures requiring full review, and system inefficiencies that may affect service quality and resourcing.	Improved recruitment, policy updates, and investment in systems and leadership development.
Reputational Risk	Potential reputational damage regulatory scrutiny, incidents, or public perception.	Quality assurance, incident protocols, and proactive stakeholder communication.
Harm to Individuals	Risk of harm to participants, staff or the public due to the nature of services provided.	Safety protocols, training, and monitoring systems to manage and reduce risks.
Regulatory and Legislative Compliance	Risks of non-compliance with evolving legal and regulatory requirements.	Policy reviews, training, and legal oversight to ensure compliance.
Governance and Strategic Oversight	Risks related to leadership transitions and board capacity.	Succession planning, recruitment, and enhanced governance reporting.
Technology and Data Integrity	Risks from cybersecurity threats, fragmented systems, and data quality issues.	Security testing, a new IT strategy, and data governance improvements.

Conclusion

The organisation continues to monitor and manage its risk landscape in alignment with its mission and values. This summary reflects the current understanding of key risks and the measures in place to address them. Ongoing review and adaptation ensure the organisation remains resilient and responsive to emerging challenges.

Reserves policy and going concern

Following SIG Safe Ground's joining the Group, the trustees reviewed the long-term level of reserves needed for the company. They that the reserves level should be the equivalent of at least one month's trading. At 31 March 2025, they were £200,473, around four months of trading. The trustees will continue to review the reserves policy and position.

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees were satisfied with the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and monitor income and the reserves position.

Plans for the Future

SIG Safe Ground remains committed to delivering safe, effective services that foster inclusive, empowered communities. As we look to the future, we will continue to invest in our people, systems, and partnerships to ensure our services remain responsive, resilient, and reflective of the people we support.

Investing in People: We will enhance staff development through targeted training, wellbeing initiatives, and retention strategies that build a skilled and supportive workforce. Embedding our Audit Framework and cultivating a positive safety culture will reinforce operational integrity and promote a shared commitment to safety across all services.

Expanding Inclusion and Engagement: Our focus will be on broadening our volunteering offer, growing our inclusivity programme, and advancing our technological capabilities to improve service accessibility and responsiveness. These initiatives will deepen community engagement and ensure our services meet the diverse needs of those we support.

Secure Financial Sustainability: Financial resilience remains a core priority. We will focus on contract retention and strategic growth, and diversify income through fundraising, donations, and commercial activity. Streamlining group procurement will further enhance value for money and operational efficiency.

Together, these strategic actions will strengthen our foundation and position SIG Safe Ground to lead with integrity, inclusion, and impact in the years ahead.

Structure, governance and management

SIG Safe Ground is a registered charity controlled by its governing document and a deed of trust. Its constitution is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11 July 1995, as amended by a special resolution dated 26 January 2011.

SIG Safe Ground is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital (Number 03080847), and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (Number 1048181).

The company is governed by a board of trustees whose principal responsibilities are setting and monitoring the organisation's strategic direction and establishing policy. All trustees volunteer their time and receive no financial benefits from the company.

The board of trustees meets at least four times a year. Individual trustees also support the CEO, responsible for the company's day-to-day management.

On 1st November 2022, the company joined Social Interest Group, and Social Interest Group became the sole member.

Appointment of trustees

The trustees are listed on page 1. The non-executive trustee directors hold office for an initial period of three years with the possibility of a second term of three years. The board consists of no fewer than three and no more than five persons appointed by the trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. No person under the age of 18 may be appointed as a trustee.

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Nominations Committee recruits trustees using specialist recruitment agents and advertisements. A rigorous interview process, which includes service users, takes place. Candidates usually attend a board meeting and visit projects before being confirmed in post.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees must familiarise themselves with the content of the Articles of Association, their legal obligations under charity and company law, SIG Safe Ground's organisational structure, and its recent financial performance. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events that will facilitate the performance of their role.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

SIG Safe Ground is a member of Social Interest Group, of which it is a subsidiary. It provides all support functions, senior management and strategic guidance. All Social Interest Group companies support the charity's charitable objectives: SIG Equinox Care, SIG Penrose Options, SIG Housing Trust and SIG Pathways to Independence.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

Social Interest Group non-executive directors set the Group Chief Executive's remuneration. They and all other staff are remunerated in accordance with a job evaluation process and market rates, which external consultants review.

Policy for employment of disabled persons

The charity's policy is not to discriminate against persons covered by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 because of their disability, whether in or applying for employment or in the delivery of services.

The key areas of our policy cover recruitment and employment (disabled applicants not being considered any less favourably on the grounds of their disability), service delivery (disabled applicants and service users not being treated less favourably on account of their disability), and information (ensuring information is accessible to all).

Employee information

The charity takes its investment in its staff's professional development seriously and aims to provide different learning opportunities. The charity aims to see staff develop and share learning so that value can be added and staff can contribute to our growth and success. To ensure all modules are covered, we introduced a new core training programme based around the Care Certificate, comprising face-to-face and e-learning.

The trustees would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication during the year in an extremely challenging climate. We confirm that the charity pays at least the London Living Wage to our employees working in London.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of SIG Safe Ground for company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (Charity SORP FRS 102).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the 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 a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that SIG Safe Ground will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose SIG Safe Ground's financial position with reasonable accuracy at all times and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding SIG Safe Ground's assets and taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the charity's assets in the event of winding up. At year-end, there was one such guarantee. The trustees are not members of the charity and have no beneficial interest in it.

The trustees' annual report, which includes the strategic report, was approved by the board of trustees and signed on their behalf on 9th October 2025 by:



Dr Karl Marlowe
Chair

Independent Auditor's Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safe Ground (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. 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 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 annual report, including 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 annual 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

Independent auditor's report to the members of Safe Ground

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, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic 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 trustees' report including the strategic 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 trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Safe Ground

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 16, 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the group and the parent charity and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, data protection legislation, the Care Standard Act and safeguarding regulation.
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of representatives of management and the review of minutes of Trustee meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- Making enquiries of where management considers there was susceptibility to fraud and knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Safe Ground

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- Tested the authorisation of expenditure; and
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- Agreeing financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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.



Hugh Swainson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Buzzacott Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

15 October 2025

Safe Ground

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	= Total Funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds £
Income from:							
Charitable Activities		554,950	-	554,950	472,125	-	472,125
Donations and legacies	2	100,000	-	100,000	85,000	-	85,000
Investment income	3	4,239	-	4,239	2,734	-	2,734
Total income		659,189	-	659,189	559,859	-	559,859
Expenditure on:							
Trading costs	4	(553,585)	-	(553,585)	(526,745)	-	(526,745)
NET INCOME	5	105,604	-	105,604	33,114	-	33,114
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		94,869	-	94,869	61,755	-	61,755
Total funds carried forward	13a	200,473	-	200,473	94,869	-	94,869

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 13a to the financial statements.

Safe Ground
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025

Balance Sheet

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	-	-	-	-
Current assets					
Debtors	11	98,371	-	98,371	192,675
Cash at bank and in hand		354,391	-	354,391	208,228
		<u>452,762</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>452,762</u>	<u>400,903</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(252,289)	-	(252,289)	(306,034)
Net current assets		<u>200,473</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,473</u>	<u>94,869</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>200,473</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,473</u>	<u>94,869</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds		200,473	-	200,473	94,869
TOTAL FUNDS	13a	<u>200,473</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,473</u>	<u>94,869</u>

Approved by the trustees on 9th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Karl Marlowe
Chair

Safe Ground: A company limited by guarantee, Company Registration Number 03080847 (England and Wales)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

a) Statutory information

SIG Safe Ground is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees. The registered office is 1 Waterloo Gardens, Milner Square, London, N1 1TY.

b) Basis of preparation

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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions under FRS 102 Paragraph 3.1B in respect of the requirements to prepare a statement of cash flows.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are drawn up on a going concern basis. The Board after reviewing the company position as at 31 March 2025, the budgets for 2025/26 and the projections for 2026/27 have adequate resources to continue to meet their liabilities over the period of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

g) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the charitable purposes.

h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

i) Central support costs

Central support costs are incurred by the parent company, Social Interest Group, and are for senior management, finance, human resources, payroll, workforce development, housing income management, quality & performance and information & communication technology. These departments are vital to the smooth running of SIG Safe Ground's charitable activities.

j) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

k) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use. Major components are treated as a separate asset where they have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits and are depreciated separately over its useful life. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Plant & Machinery – 25% reducing balance
- Fixtures & fittings – 25% reducing balance

l) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

m) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

n) Creditors and provisions

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

o) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Donations and Legacies

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations	100,000	50,000
Grants	-	35,000
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>85,000</u>
Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:		
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	35,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>

3 Investment Income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deposit account interest	<u>4,239</u>	<u>2,734</u>

4a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Staff costs (Note 6)	424,365	-	69,034	493,399	409,321
Recruitment & training	-	-	6,499	6,499	14,516
Subsistence & travel	16,213	-	439	16,652	16,651
Premises Costs	-	-	1,989	1,989	5,567
Office running costs	8,556	-	2,770	11,326	21,699
Insurance	-	-	4,593	4,593	9,671
Information technology	-	-	8,840	8,840	23,350
Bank charges	-	-	3	3	10
Legal & Professional	-	-	1,077	1,077	8,729
Depreciation	-	-	680	680	2,125
Audit fees	-	3,961	-	3,961	3,080
Other Costs	4,159	5	402	4,566	12,026
Total expenditure 2025	<u>453,293</u>	<u>3,966</u>	<u>96,326</u>	<u>553,585</u>	
Total expenditure 2024	<u>289,281</u>	<u>3,112</u>	<u>234,352</u>		<u>526,745</u>

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

4b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2024 Total £
Staff costs (Note 6)	254,508	-	154,813	409,321
Recruitment & training	-	-	14,516	14,516
Subsistence & travel	15,711	-	940	16,651
Premises Costs	-	-	5,567	5,567
Office running costs	8,308	-	13,391	21,699
Insurance	-	-	9,671	9,671
Information technology	-	-	23,350	23,350
Bank charges	-	-	10	10
Legal & Professional	-	-	8,729	8,729
Depreciation	-	-	2,125	2,125
Audit fees	-	3,080	-	3,080
Other Costs	10,754	32	1,240	12,026
Total expenditure 2024	<u>289,281</u>	<u>3,112</u>	<u>234,352</u>	<u>526,745</u>

5 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Audit fee	<u>3,961</u>	<u>3,840</u>

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	358,658	219,664
Social security costs	31,838	19,371
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	6,241	6,068
Agency and freelancer costs	27,628	9,405
	<u>424,365</u>	<u>254,508</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2024: £nil).

The key management personnel compensation during the year was borne by the parent entity Social Interest Group – SIG group total £982,979 (2024: £769,067).

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Staff numbers

	2025 No	2024 No
Operational	17	12
Administration	2	-
	<u>19</u>	<u>12</u>

8 Taxation

SIG Safe Ground is a registered charity and is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable income as it is spent on charitable purposes.

The Charity is part of Social Interest Group VAT registration. However, as virtually 100% of its income is exempt, the VAT on purchases is irrecoverable and therefore included in expenditure.

9 Related party transactions

SIG Safe Ground was charged £99,570 for central office functions provided by the parent charity Social Interest Group (2024: £240,355).

SIG Safe Ground owed £46,309 to its parent, the Social Interest Group at the year-end (2024: £200,923).

SIG Safe Ground owed £192,799 to SIG Penrose at the year-end (2024: £96,152).

SIG Safe Ground was owed £58,216 by SIG Pathways at the year-end (2024: £nil).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant & Machinery £	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
Cost of valuation			
At the start and end of the year	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	22,476	1,936	24,412
Charge for the year	-	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
Net Book Value			
At the end of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At the start of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	35,904	192,675
Amounts due from group undertakings	58,216	-
Other debtors	<u>4,251</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>98,371</u>	<u>192,675</u>

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Creditors	2,975	1,861
Amounts owed to group undertakings	239,108	297,075
Social security and other taxes	9,042	6,752
Pension Contributions	-	326
Other creditors	475	20
Accruals	689	-
	<u>252,289</u>	<u>306,034</u>

13a Movement in funds (current year)

	At 1/4/2024 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/2025 £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	94,869	105,604	200,473
Total Funds	<u>94,869</u>	<u>105,604</u>	<u>200,473</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net Movement £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	659,189	(553,585)	105,604

13b Movement in funds (prior year)

	At 1/4/2023 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/2024 £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	61,755	33,114	94,869
Total Funds	<u>61,755</u>	<u>33,114</u>	<u>94,869</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Movement £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	559,859	(526,745)	33,114
	<u>559,859</u>	<u>(526,745)</u>	<u>33,114</u>

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

14 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	At 31 March 2025
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>208,228</u>	<u>146,163</u>	<u>354,391</u>
Total	<u>208,228</u>	<u>146,163</u>	<u>354,391</u>

The charity held no debt during the period, as such the above analysis of cash and cash equivalents serves as a reconciliation of changes in net debt.

15 Guarantees and ultimate parent undertaking

Safe Ground, trading as SIG Safe Ground, is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Social Interest Group became the sole member of Safe Ground on the 1 November 2022, previously all trustees were members. Each member has guaranteed to pay £1 in the event that Safe Ground was wound up. Social Interest Group is the ultimate parent undertaking. Its charity registered number is 158402. Its company registered number is 9122052. Its registered office is: 1 Waterloo Gardens, Milner Square, London N1 1TY.

Social Interest Group:

1 Waterloo Gardens, Milner Square,
London, N1 1TY

Telephone:

020 3668 9270

Email:

enquiries@socialinterestgroup.org.uk

Social Interest Group (SIG) is a leading UK charity providing bespoke person-centred health and social care services through SIG Penrose, SIG Equinox, SIG Pathways to Independence, SIG Safe Ground, SIG Housing Trust and SIG Milner Gibson. Our mission is to empower independence through trauma-informed solutions and dynamic partnerships that keep people out of prison, out of hospital, and off the streets.

Charity no. 1048181 | Company no. 03080847

@socialinterestgroup

www.socialinterestgroup.org.uk



SAFE GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1048181

Accounts

Company number: 03080847

Charity Number: 1048181

Safe Ground

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024



Safe Ground

Contents

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors	3
Objectives.....	4
Chief Executive's Statement.....	5
Strategic Report	7
Our Focus	7
Significant Events.....	9
Financial Review 2023/24	11
Business Development	12
Structure, Governance and Management.....	12
Opinion.....	15
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance sheet.....	20
Notes to the Financial Statements	21

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Safe Ground was established in 1995 and joined Social Interest Group on the 1st November 2022. Social Interest Group is its only member, making it a subsidiary of Social Interest Group. Safe Ground now trades as SIG Safe Ground.

Directors and charity trustees

The directors of SIG Safe Ground are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and, throughout this document, are collectively referred to as the trustees. The current trustees and those who served during the period ended 31 March 2024 are as follows:

Chair

Karl Marlowe

Other trustees

Jeff Loo – Treasurer

Dylan Kerr

Stuart Jenkin

Claire Barton

Company Secretary

Michael Rutherford

Senior Leadership Team

Group Chief Executive

Gill Arukpe

Director of Finance & Resources

Michael Rutherford

Director of People & Culture

Maria Speight

Director of Services & Support

Angela Henry

Paul Addicott (Appointed 15th Jul 2024)

Director of Development, Marketing & Communications

Greg Tythe

Director of External Affairs & Impact

Adam Moll (Appointed 1st Apr 2023)

Director of Housing & Maintenance

Matthew Costin

Director of Compliance, Risk & Internal Audit

Jenny Ralls

Registered office

1 Waterloo Gardens
Milner Square
London
N1 1TY

Auditor

Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood St
London
EC2V 6DL

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Solicitors

Russell Cooke LLP
2 Putney Hill
London
SW15 6AB

DWF LLP
1 Scott Place
2 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AA

Company registration number 03080847

Charity registration number 1048181

www.socialinterestgroup.org.uk

enquiries@socialinterestgroup.org.uk

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administration information set out on the previous page form a part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives

Purposes and Aims

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. They are satisfied that the charity's aims and objectives meet the public benefit requirement and that the charity's activities support those aims.

The objects of the Charity as set out in the Articles of Association for the public benefit:

The Company's object is to advance the education of the public, particularly but not exclusively prisoners, in the arts, specifically drama, literature, and poetry, and to use the arts to rehabilitate prisoners, offenders, and community members by promoting and developing people's creative and artistic abilities, parenting skills, and relationship skills.

Activities

SIG Safe Ground is an expert in designing and delivering arts-based, therapeutic group work. We operate nationally in various custodial and community settings, creating spaces where transformational change can occur. Our work offers access to new perspectives, creates opportunities for discussion and debate, and invites participants to take risks, experiencing themselves and each other in new ways.

Our programmes create a positive impact; analysis of Fathers Inside shows a 40% reduction in re-offending between programme participants and their counterparts who did not participate (Justice Data Lab, 2016). Our most recent evaluation of the Fathers Inside programme (Blagden 2019) highlighted a statistically significant reduction in parental stress pre/post programme and a significant increase in less-restrictive attitudes towards parenting because of the programme. 76.5% of participants engaged in further ETE (education, training and employment) one month after completing Fathers Inside, compared to 53.6% before the programme.

Chief Executive's Statement

This year, we made remarkable progress and achieved meaningful milestones, including supporting 9,922 people through Safe Ground's programmes and family services. We improved staff retention by increasing training, development and staff pay and reduced our vacancy rate. We should take pride in and celebrate this significant achievement.

We remain dedicated to finding practical service solutions to support the demands of people in need and for commissioners responsible for strategically meeting those needs. We aim to do this from across a wide range of health and social care areas caused by the inequity of access for the poorest in our society to a good home, employment and health and social care. Many of the people we support feel trapped in the criminal justice system, homelessness cycle and within the mental health pathways.

In a world where socio-economic issues are increasingly entwined, our rich and diverse experience across multiple sectors and policy areas places us in a strong position to innovate and develop new models to support those facing multiple disadvantages.

The advent of a new government with fresh ideas and a fresh approach brings cause for optimism. We know that many immediate challenges they must resolve, from overcrowded prisons to underfunded social care, directly impact the people we support and our frontline staff teams trying to make a difference. Reforms will take time, and we are acutely aware of the financial restrictions the new administration must operate within. However, we are confident that we can and will be part of the solutions to make our public services more impactful, efficient, and equitable.

We at SIG Safe Ground take great pride in offering opportunities for participants in our peer work programs, staff recruitment, service reviews, focus innovation meetings, audits, and employment. This approach has resulted in impactful outcomes and improved our services and learning. Our dedicated efforts in establishing a genuine approach to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) have been a great source of inspiration. We recently were shortlisted for a Charity Times award for our EDI work. We wholeheartedly embrace and celebrate every voice in our communities and are resolute in dedicating substantial resources to our EDI programs to move beyond tokenism.

Our ambition of resident and participant inclusivity in all we do aims to bring about systems change and acknowledge the invaluable wisdom and experience of those most affected by systems and services. By sharing lived experiences and well-informed perspectives on critical issues, their voices ensure our efforts are meaningful in confronting injustices head-on. Our influential Theory of Change, centred on Identity, Community, and Relationships, has profoundly impacted our support for programme participants.

Our phenomenal staff are our greatest strength, displaying untold resilience, innovation and passion to support positive change in the most challenging circumstances. We are investing in the training and support required to keep our services safe and keep our staff feeling valued and fulfilled in their roles. Our culture, the 'How' we work together, is critical to achieving this. We have introduced changes to our incidents and investigations processes to nurture a trauma-informed culture that prioritises learning over blame and understands that there will be challenging situations in the sectors we work in. Adverse outcomes cannot always be avoided.

A significant achievement has been expanding our Criminal Justice Services by taking on Family Service contracts through partnerships with HMP Altcourse and HMP Lowdham Grange under SIG Safe Ground. This has allowed us to offer programs and support to families and those in prison, which has truly inspired the men who have completed our programs in custody and their families. They speak highly of the transformative effect and the positive changes it will bring to their future. Fifty-seven men completed the programmes last year; we gave 300 books to families on 11 family days and delivered over 1,562 hours of purposeful activity.

SIG Safe Ground has cultivated an inspiring and successful community. At the SIG annual recognition awards, SIG Safe Ground HMP Altcourse Family Service Manager was awarded for her innovative

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

approach, passion and outstanding delivery. I am deeply honoured to have received a prestigious Social Care Leadership Award for my dedication to leadership excellence.

Looking ahead, we are committed to continuously raising the bar in service delivery, incident management, and care and support provision to ensure everyone in our community receives the deserving support and attention. Standing at a crossroads for public services, we are more determined than ever to play our part in building a more just and equitable society where everyone has every opportunity to be the best version of themselves.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'G Arukpe', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Gill Arukpe, Group Chief Executive

27th November 2024

Strategic Report

Safe Ground (traded as SIG Safe Ground) is an award-winning charity that designs and delivers pioneering therapeutic group work nationally for people in prison and community settings. We have a strong track record of delivering impact and a comprehensive suite of group work programmes that focus on behaviours and social issues. Our excellent work continued throughout this year, and we are excited to share our learning and reflections.

We always expect groups to contain significant diversity of experience, background, offence type, learning needs and style, mental well-being, concentration, focus, friendship status and familiarity among participants. Our programmes are designed to accommodate equally meaningful participation from people who cannot read or write, do not have English as a first language, and may have cognitive or physical impairments, dependency issues, anxiety, or other difficulties with education, group work or participation. This was certainly true of the groups of participants we worked with this year.

Results and Impacts

This year, SIG Safe Ground worked with a total of 113 participants in prisons, delivering its programmes and group work sessions. The new family services and visitor centres received 7,795 adults and 2,014 children. These numbers are expected to grow next year as our family support services develop.

Our Focus

Promoting a Positive Safety Culture

At the start of the year, we set out to cultivate a positive safety culture and made significant progress in incident reporting, safeguarding and whistleblowing. Through focus groups and webinars, training, expert advice, and practical information, we've empowered colleagues and participants, fostering a culture of curiosity, learning and constructive feedback.

Our parent company, SIG, introduced new processes and procedures for reporting accidents, incidents, and near misses (AINMs) and a new whistleblowing system. This change emphasises the importance of confidentiality, collaboration, and protection, and we have trained a team of Whistleblowing Champions from across the organisation as approachable experts who can give advice. We gained rich feedback around improving physical safety, reviewing de-escalation, breakaway and team regulation training, leadership commitment to safety 'by design and default', and reviewing relevant policies and procedures.

We also recognise our services' challenging and unique safeguarding situations and have invested in comprehensive staff training to address complex care and support needs. Each service now has a trained local safeguarding lead who provides tailored support and training to meet the unique care requirements of the residents and participants they support. We will provide more targeted staff training to encourage reporting and align our procedures with the NHS's Patient Safety Incident Response Framework as best practice. We will also normalise shared learning in response to AINMs and ensure our response and approach to learning are trauma-informed.

Creating a Sustainable Workforce

SIG's People & Culture team supports the staff at SIG Safe Ground. The team led a powerful transformation throughout the year to elevate our recruitment, training, and development capabilities. This involved expanding the team, streamlining workflows, enhancing management capability, and prioritising permanent role fulfilment.

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

The team revamped our recruitment strategy, resulting in more efficient processes and new channel partnerships. The introduction of *Reach*, our first Applicant Tracking System, ushered in automation, reduced time-to-hire, and revolutionised our onboarding process, delivering a 60% decrease in our vacancy rate across the group. They reviewed our e-learning and broader training program and successfully implemented data analytics to produce regular reports and ensure compliance. Online training across the group saw a compliance surge from 75% to 82%.

Renewing our Investors in People accreditation underscored our commitment to employees' well-being. Recognising the pivotal role of fair compensation, we collaborated with SIG and the Board to enhance pay rates and address disparities. SIG strategically established an optimal payroll solution by embedding payroll into the People & Culture team and workflows.

Creating an Empowering and Inclusive Culture

Inclusivity ensures equity of opportunity and inclusion for all if fully embraced and understood. Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Programme has flourished this year, culminating in a group-wide programme that ardently fosters a culture of collective learning and continuous improvement across every echelon of SIG Safe Ground and the wider group.

We've spearheaded initiatives from policy development and recruitment processes to cost-of-living support, staff training, and workshops. We've also expanded our expertise in community consultations and working with SIG's External Affairs Team. Through these concerted efforts, SIG Safe Ground ensures top-tier, inclusive support for all who need us and the influence of industry standards and best practices.

Our volunteer EDI Ambassadors across SIG are dedicated to embedding inclusivity throughout our service delivery approaches, programs, and day-to-day activities. They support developing transparent career development and best practices models to ensure we provide demographic-sensitive services and programs. They nurture and retain strong links to our Participant and Resident Involvement Group, representing the voices of those accessing our services.

Together, they gauge various stakeholder opinions through workshops, support groups, community forums, and house meetings. The collective findings from these engagements inform and enhance local service delivery approaches and unroot any unconscious bias. This plan includes developing training in understanding learning-based challenges, discriminative behaviours, and learning styles of neurodiverse communities. Our plans for next year involve implementing an inclusion learning package for all staff and senior leadership.

Building Inclusive Communities

We formed strong partnerships with voluntary agencies to unite marginalised communities and drive positive change. Recognised as a Disability-Confident organisation, we aim to lead in improving behaviours and cultures internally and within our external networks and communities and reap the benefits of inclusive recruitment practices.

Supporting Systems Change

In response to feedback from residents and participants regarding how they felt trapped and unsupported by the current external health, housing and criminal justice systems, SIG, our parent company, invested in and established an External Affairs Directorate. Officially launched in June, this team empowers the voices of service residents and participants so key decision-makers can hear them in local and national government. Learning from their lived experience and their vision of what they need to help create solutions to enable them to succeed.

As we celebrate our inaugural year of accomplishments, we are resolute in our commitment to influencing and shaping national and local policy, all for the betterment of SIG's service residents and participants. To ensure our initiatives are firmly rooted in lived experience, we conducted extensive focus groups involving more than 230 residents, participants, staff, and commissioners across our services. This approach gave us intimate insights into the necessary changes to enhance health and social care services. Our research

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

findings unveiled clear themes and areas where our residents and participants felt statutory service delivery could be improved and had failed them, revealing multiple barriers to equitable and compassionate support and treatment, especially when they have a dual diagnosis – where they feel ping-ponged between health agencies, refusing to help while they are still using drugs and alcohol but mentally unwell. With this insight, we have developed strategic priorities for our influence and advocacy work, focusing on integrated care, community care, Mental Health Act reform, and destigmatising services through equitable practices.

Business Continuity

To retain our workforce, we invest in continuous personal and professional development through e-learning, broader training courses, and competitive staff salaries to retain our workforce. We also focus on shaping and improving our properties through a new home standard and quality estate management. This plan prioritises safety, energy efficiency, inclusivity, and accessibility to make a social and environmental impact and exceed residents' expectations. We continue to focus on enhancing service delivery through alliances, learning, a willingness to take risks, and ambition to generate new growth opportunities, attract a wider audience, and establish ourselves as a resilient and innovative sector leader.

Carbon Management Plan

We are working towards ISO14001 and are committed to the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, which aligns with the group's sustainability policy. Our partnership with Auditel, a highly respected carbon solutions company, includes producing a PPN 06/21-compliant Carbon Reduction Plan, demonstrating our commitment. Our focus on sustainability promotes sustainable transport through initiatives such as our CycleScheme. We embrace technologies to facilitate meetings and reduce paper consumption. Our emphasis on waste minimisation includes adopting circular practices and sustainable disposal of PPE and other waste through reduction, reuse and recycling to meet legislative and regulatory requirements for waste disposal.

Significant Events

Having transferred into Social Interest Group, the year concentrated on embedding the SIG Safe Ground culture in how we work within the group. The most significant development was the contract awarded by Sodexo, in which we partnered with them in HMPPS Altcourse and HMPPS Lowdham Grange. We want to thank Sodexo and the Ministry of Justice for their innovative approach to this contract model - a first of its kind for all involved. It represents a groundbreaking initiative that employs SIG Safe Ground's arts-based, therapeutically informed programs to rehabilitate more men in prison and have a genuinely inspiring impact on family integration, expanding our models, partnerships, and footprint to support families.

HMP Altcourse

Supporting Children and Families of Imprisoned Parents

In June, we took over the management of the Family Service at Sodexo's HMP Altcourse in Merseyside. Our new partnership sees SIG Safe Ground manage the Outside Visitor Centre in the family wing. This innovative and exciting new model supports families, putting creative and trauma-informed practice at the heart of our work. As a Category B prison housing 1,200 men, Altcourse receives a high remand population on short sentences. As a result, we supported 39,605 visitors in our first year of operation, many of whom were first-time visitors and families who may only have been with our service for a couple of weeks or months.

Our Family Liaison Team works to provide a warm and welcoming space during a highly stressful time in people's lives. In January, our new Family Counsellor joined the team, another first for SIG Safe Ground. This role enables us to create and deliver bespoke counselling for men engaged with our service and their families. Our monthly *Family Day* events offer extended special visits that provide relief and joy and an essential space for men in custody and their families and friends to spend quality time together.

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Importantly, they help reinforce the value of community support in the rehabilitation process. In partnership with the Give A Book Scheme through Prison Reading Groups, we've given out over 300 books for each event as part of a prison-wide reading strategy for children to choose a book to encourage reading with parents and at home.

Family Relationship Programmes

Healthy relationships are a critical criminogenic need to reduce reoffending. SIG Safe Ground supports family contact, and at HMP Altcourse, we have a unique opportunity to work with everyone affected by a man going to prison. We work with the men in custody on programmes while supporting their families, creating child-friendly environments, and providing family counselling. Our family relationships programmes are actively anti-punitive and offer opportunities for men to build a sense of shared ownership over the work and develop shared responsibility for themselves and each other. Through our unique group work model, we aid the development of new creative and non-traditional skills, enabling sustainable personal change with participants better understanding themselves and their lived experience's impact on family relationships to become better connected and accountable.

Impact Stories

This narrative from HMP Altcourse powerfully reminds us of the capacity for kindness in every setting, even those as unlikely as prisons. SIG Safe Ground's dedication to treating each visitor and resident with dignity and respect has cultivated an atmosphere where positive relationships can flourish, significantly altering the traditional perceptions of prison environments.

Heartwarming Gestures of Gratitude

The journey began with a family from Cheshire whose son spent 175 days at HMP Altcourse. During this challenging time, the family went through different emotions, from sadness to hope, mainly because of the support they received from the prison's Visitor Centre Team. The team's approach went beyond their usual duties; they provided a compassionate space that made it easier for the family, helping them handle the challenges of having a loved one in prison.

One of the most touching aspects of this family's experience was the extraordinary care shown during their visits. From dealing with initial problems, like the son's lack of access to basic amenities, to organising family days that brought happiness and a sense of normality, the staff's efforts were pivotal in turning the prison visit experience from stressful to comforting.

The family's thanks went beyond their son's transfer to another facility. Touched by the kindness and support of the Altcourse staff, the family returned to the prison to personally deliver gifts of tea, coffee, and a heartfelt card to the team. This gesture wasn't just a simple thanks but a recognition of the staff's lasting impact on their lives. This act of kindness also shows the human connections formed, going beyond the interactions one would expect in a prison.

Transformation Journeys

Man Up, our arts-based group work programme, has been delivered several times at HMP Altcourse since September. Designed to support groups of men across all ages, it asks them to consider the values, attitudes and thinking so often informed by those cultural norms and the associated pressures and expectations of being a 'man'. For the first time, SIG Safe Ground's Fathers Inside Program took place at HMP Altcourse, which was co-facilitated by our Family Counsellor. The 12 men who completed the four-week intensive program spoke highly of its impact and influence and the difference the toolkit will make in their future.

"This course, Fathers Inside, has helped me to deal with my emotions. I'm here in prison for a violent crime as I have an anger problem. Now, I've built a toolbox to help me to be the best version of myself. I've learnt so much from this course. I wish I had done it before I came to prison because I wouldn't be here now. I have laughed, cried, been told off, praised, and told how proud they are of me, which means a lot. And the lads. Wow. Seeing

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

so many grown men step out of their comfort zone. Perform plays, play games. It's something you don't see in prison."

"There are no words to say how much I appreciate everything you have done for me. Thank you so much."

"I've learnt so much from the course. I've built a toolbox to help me be the best version of myself. "

HMP Lowdham Grange

Supporting Rehabilitation and Family Integration

We know that culture change requires buy-in from all parties, whether staff, men or their families. Our programs are integral to the new Family Pathways strategy at HMP Lowdham Grange in Nottingham. Our partnership began in January 2024. As a Category B training prison that houses up to 920 men serving longer sentences of 1 and 4+ years, we are excited to have the opportunity to implement a 'whole-institution' approach to family work, fostering lasting and meaningful relationships, and ensuring a holistic approach to rehabilitation.

Our groundbreaking rehabilitation and family integration initiative promotes healing, growth, and strengthening familial bonds through innovative and transformative approaches. A significant milestone this year was our work on the prison wings. Engaging directly with the men was crucial in building trust and understanding, essential to our mission. These interactions on the wings led to meaningful conversations, bringing forth many ideas and profound insights into men's daily realities and challenges in prison.

The Family Day events at Lowdham were essential to our efforts. Feedback from these events has been very positive, showing a strong appreciation for their safe and supportive environment. We know that by helping men explore their identity and relationships, we can improve their well-being, families' well-being, and broader networks. We have laid the foundations to grow and improve the service to make a real impact.

Training and Community Building

Lasting change depends on having a supportive environment. As we embark on our journey to embed our service in Lowdham, we have completed extensive Prison Induction Training, which equips our staff with the essential skills they need to navigate the prison. More importantly, these training sessions were shared with newly recruited Prison Custody Officers (PCO) and Operational Support Officers (PSO), fostering early connections, a shared sense of purpose and integrating our philosophies into the fabric of prison daily operations to drive cultural change.

By participating alongside prison staff and engaging in team-building activities, SIG Safe Ground has established a solid foundation for its work, promoting an environment of growth and understanding. SIG Safe Ground is exploring the possibility of organising external exhibitions in collaboration with local art galleries and museums. These exhibitions will showcase our participants' artistic and creative works and educate the public about the rehabilitation process and the importance of supporting reintegration efforts.

Financial Review 2023/24

At the end of the financial period, the charity had unrestricted general reserves of £94,869 (2022/23 - £61,755). The charity incurred a surplus of £33,114 during the period ended 31 March 2024 (2022/23 - deficit of £24,029).

The trustees consider the results acceptable, given the charity's status as a subsidiary undertaking in Social Interest Group, the wider economic environment, ongoing changes, and increased competition within the sector.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

There are several new areas of work developing for us in the year ahead, all at the early stages of an agreement but significant as contributions to the new Probation formulation, new partnerships and delivery sites, and we look forward to those coming to fruition efficiently. There is always a risk that work in advanced discussion can fail to materialise. Cashflow and projections often do not seem to correlate for a small organisation like SIG Safe Ground. While we are used to the perennial risks of delivering high-quality services in an increasingly price-focused environment, we are aware of the risks ahead now more than ever. The Trustees are engaged and actively involved in strategic thinking and planning, and we work to future-proof the organisation with our approach. We intend to improve our communications, raise our profile and sustain our impact, driving commissioning and philanthropic funding and transforming individual, group and institutional dynamics.

Reserves policy and going concern

Following SIG Safe Ground's joining the Group, the trustees reviewed the long-term level of reserves needed for the company. They agreed to change the level of reserves to the equivalent of at least one month's trading. At 31 March 2024, they were £94,869. The trustees will continue to review the reserves policy and position.

The trustees were satisfied with the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and monitor income and the reserves position.

Business Development

We submitted bids to HMPPS for a new service to directly support men's transition from custody into the community. We're committed to leading and changing conversations here at Altcourse and nationally about what 'good practice' looks like across the UK prison system. Over the next few months, our primary focus will be fully embedding a new Counselling Service and reintroducing a play facility for children.

Fundraising

This year was made possible by the generous support of John Armitage Charitable Trust, The Weavers' Company and generous individual major donors.

Thank You

This report and all the work SIG Safe Ground completed over the last year would not have been possible without the considerable and ongoing contributions of all our multiple partners, allies, supporters, participants and funders.

SIG Safe Ground would like to thank all our participants and Alumni for their engagement this year, our Patrons - Baroness Helena Kennedy, Lord Lucas, Lord Ramsbotham, Melly Still, Professor Renos Papadopoulos and Joelle Taylor. Thanks to all our sector colleagues, most notably the HMP Altcourse and HMP Lowdham Grange teams.

Structure, governance and management

SIG Safe Ground is a registered charity controlled by its governing document and a deed of trust. Its constitution is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11 July 1995, as amended by a special resolution dated 26 January 2011.

SIG Safe Ground is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital (Number 03080847) and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (Number 1048181).

The Company is governed by a board of trustees whose principal responsibilities are setting and monitoring the organisation's strategic direction and establishing policy. All trustees volunteer their time and receive no financial benefits from the Company.

Safe Ground
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 March 2024

The board of trustees meets at least four times a year. Individual trustees also support the CEO, who is responsible for the Company's day-to-day management.

On 1st November 2022, the Company joined Social Interest Group, and Social Interest Group became the sole member.

Appointment of trustees

The trustees are listed on page 1. The non-executive trustee directors hold office for an initial period of three years with the possibility of a second term of three years. The board consists of no fewer than three and no more than five persons appointed by the trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. No person under the age of 18 may be appointed as a trustee.

The Nominations Committee recruits trustees using specialist recruitment agents and advertisements. A rigorous interview process, which includes service users, takes place. Candidates usually attend a board meeting and visit projects before being confirmed in post.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees must familiarise themselves with the content of the Articles of Association, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the organisational structure of SIG Safe Ground and its recent financial performance. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

SIG Safe Ground is a member of Social Interest Group, of which it is a subsidiary. It provides all support functions, senior management and strategic guidance. All Social Interest Group companies support The Charity in its charitable objectives: SIG Equinox Care, SIG Penrose Options, SIG Housing Trust and SIG Pathways to Independence.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

Social Interest Group non-executive directors set the Group Chief Executive's remuneration. They and all other staff are remunerated in accordance with a job evaluation process and market rates, which external consultants review.

Policy for employment of disabled persons

The charity's policy is not to discriminate against persons covered by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 because of their disability, whether in or applying for employment or in the delivery of services.

The key areas of our policy cover recruitment and employment (disabled applicants not being considered any less favourably on the grounds of their disability), service delivery (disabled applicants and service users not being treated less favourably on account of their disability), and information (ensuring information is accessible to all).

Employee information

The Charity takes its investment in its staff's professional development seriously and aims to provide different learning opportunities. The charity aims to see staff develop and share learning so that value can be added and staff contribute to our growth and success. To ensure all modules are covered, we introduced a new core training programme based around the Care Certificate, comprising face-to-face and e-learning.

The trustees would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication during the year in an extremely challenging climate. We confirm that the Charity pays at least the London Living Wage to our employees working in London.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of SIG Safe Ground for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (Charity SORP FRS 102).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the 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 a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that SIG Safe Ground will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose SIG Safe Ground's financial position with reasonable accuracy at all times and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding SIG Safe Ground's assets and taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the Charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the charity's assets in the event of winding up. At year-end, there was one such guarantee. The trustees are not members of the charity and have no beneficial interest in it.

The trustees' annual report, which includes the strategic report, was approved by the board of trustees and signed on their behalf on 27th November 2024 by:



Dr Karl Marlowe
Chair

Independent auditor's report to the members of Safe Ground

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safe Ground (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. 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 31st March 2024 and of 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 annual report, including 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 annual 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Safe Ground

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, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, 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 trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 14, 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

Independent auditor's report to the members of Safe Ground

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the group and the parent charity and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements.
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of representatives of management and the review of minutes of Trustee meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- Making enquiries of where management considers there was susceptibility to fraud and knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- Tested the authorisation of expenditure; and
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- Agreeing financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Independent auditor's report to the members of Safe Ground

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buzzacott LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hugh Swainson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor

130 Wood Street

London

EC2V 6DL

02 December 2024

Safe Ground**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)****For the year ended 31 March 2024****Statement of Financial Activities**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total Funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total Funds
	Note						
Income from:							
Charitable Activities		472,125	-	472,125	168,672	-	168,672
Donations and legacies	2	85,000	-	85,000	49,999	1,350	51,349
Investment income	3	<u>2,734</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,734</u>	<u>631</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>631</u>
Total income		<u>559,859</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>559,859</u>	<u>219,302</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>220,652</u>
Expenditure on:							
Trading costs	4	<u>(526,745)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(526,745)</u>	<u>(214,997)</u>	<u>(29,687)</u>	<u>(244,684)</u>
NET (LOSS)/INCOME	5	33,114	-	33,114	4,305	(28,337)	(24,032)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		61,755	-	61,755	57,450	28,337	85,787
Total funds carried forward	13a	<u><u>94,869</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>94,869</u></u>	<u><u>61,755</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>61,755</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 14a to the financial statements.

**Safe Ground
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2024**

Balance Sheet

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	Note				
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	-	-	-	-
Current assets					
Debtors	11	192,675	-	192,675	8,400
Cash at bank and in hand		208,228	-	208,228	112,911
		<u>400,903</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>400,903</u>	<u>121,311</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(306,034)	-	(306,034)	(59,556)
Net current assets		<u>94,869</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,869</u>	<u>61,755</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>94,869</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,869</u>	<u>61,755</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds				94,869	61,755
Restricted funds				-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	13a			<u>94,869</u>	<u>61,755</u>

Approved by the trustees on 27th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Karl Marlowe
Chair



Gill Arukpe
Chief Executive

Company number 03080847

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

a) Statutory information

SIG Safe Ground is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

The registered office is 1 Waterloo Gardens, Milner Square, London, N1 1TY.

b) Basis of preparation

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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions under FRS 102 Paragraph 3.1B in respect of the requirements to prepare a statement of cash flows.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are drawn up on a going concern basis. The Group has prepared a 10 year business plan. As well as considering the impact of a number of scenarios on the business plan, the Board also adopted a stress testing framework against the base plan. The Board after reviewing the company position, budgets for 2023/24 and the projections for 2024/25 have adequate resources to continue to meet their liabilities over the period of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

Social Interest Group will not recall the inter-company balances within the next 12 months, unless the Trustees deem that Equinox can afford to repay the balances. In addition, the trustees of both Social Interest Group and Penrose Options have expressed their intention to continue to provide support to Equinox Care, including providing working capital, for the foreseeable future.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

- 1 Accounting Policies (continued)**
- g) Fund accounting**
 Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the charitable purposes.
- h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**
 Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.
- i) Central support costs**
 Central support costs are incurred by the parent company, Social Interest Group, and are for senior management, finance, human resources, payroll, workforce development, housing income management, quality & performance and information & communication technology. These departments are vital to the smooth running of SIG Safe Ground's charitable activities.
- j) Operating leases**
 Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.
- k) Tangible fixed assets**
 Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use. Major components are treated as a separate asset where they have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits and are depreciated separately over its useful life.
 Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:
- Plant & Machinery – 25% reducing balance
 - Fixtures & fittings – 25% reducing balance
- l) Debtors**
 Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.
- m) Cash at bank and in hand**
 Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.
- n) Creditors and provisions**
 Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.
- o) Financial instruments**
 The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

2 Donations and Legacies

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations	50,000	49
Grants	35,000	51,300
	<u>85,000</u>	<u>51,349</u>
Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:		
John Armitage Charitable Trust	35,000	35,000
ACE - The New Normal - Arts Council Grant	-	1,350
Weavers	-	15,000
	<u>35,000</u>	<u>51,350</u>

3 Investment Income

	2024 £	2023 £
Deposit account interest	<u>2,734</u>	<u>631</u>

4a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Staff costs (Note 6)	254,508	-	154,813	409,321	207,269
Recruitment & training	-	-	14,516	14,516	480
Subsistence & travel	15,711	-	940	16,651	11,007
Premises Costs	-	-	5,567	5,567	12,929
Office running costs	8,308	-	13,391	21,699	1,561
Insurance	-	-	9,671	9,671	672
Information technology	-	-	23,350	23,350	704
Bank charges	-	-	10	10	134
Legal & Professional	-	-	8,729	8,729	4,509
Depreciation	-	-	2,125	2,125	1,165
Audit fees	-	3,080	-	3,080	1,428
Other Costs	10,754	32	1,241	12,027	2,826
Total expenditure 2024	<u>289,281</u>	<u>3,112</u>	<u>234,353</u>	<u>526,746</u>	
Total expenditure 2023	<u>220,711</u>	<u>1,428</u>	<u>22,542</u>		<u>244,684</u>

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

4b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2023 Total £
Staff costs (Note 6)	207,269	-	-	207,269
Recruitment & training	-	-	480	480
Subsistence & travel	11,007	-	-	11,007
Premises Costs	-	-	12,929	12,929
Office running costs	292	-	1,269	1,561
Insurance	-	-	672	672
Information technology	-	-	704	704
Bank charges	-	-	134	134
Legal & Professional	-	-	4,509	4,509
Depreciation	-	-	1,165	1,165
Audit fees	-	1,428	-	1,428
Other Costs	2,146	-	680	2,826
Total expenditure 2023	<u>220,711</u>	<u>1,428</u>	<u>22,542</u>	<u>244,684</u>

5 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	-	1,164
Operating lease rentals:		
• Property	-	12,929
Audit fee	<u>3,840</u>	<u>1,428</u>

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages	219,664	141,413
Redundancy and termination costs	-	9,707
Social security costs	19,371	11,018
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	6,068	9,859
Agency costs	<u>9,405</u>	<u>35,272</u>
	<u>254,508</u>	<u>207,269</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023: £nil).

The key management personnel compensation during the year was borne by the parent entity Social Interest Group (2023: £51,864).

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

7 Staff numbers

	2024 No	2023 No
Operational	<u>11.6</u>	<u>3</u>

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

8 Taxation

SIG Safe Ground is a registered charity and is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable income as it is spent on charitable purposes.

The Charity is part of Social Interest Group VAT registration. However, as virtually 100% of its income is exempt, the VAT on purchases is irrecoverable and therefore included in expenditure.

9 Related party transactions

SIG Safe Ground was charged £240,355 for central office functions provided by the parent charity Social Interest Group (2023: £Nil).

SIG Safe Ground owed £200,923 to its parent, the Social Interest Group at the year-end (2023: £44,363).

SIG Safe Ground owed £96,152 to SIG Penrose at the year-end (2023: £Nil).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant & Machinery £	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
Cost of valuation			
At the start and end of the year	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	22,476	1,936	24,412
Charge for the year	-	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
Net Book Value			
At the end of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At the start of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	192,675	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	8,400
	<u>192,675</u>	<u>8,400</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Creditors	1,861	-
Amounts owed to parent undertaking	297,075	44,363
Social security and other taxes	6,752	5,193
Pension Contributions	326	-
Other creditors	20	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	10,000
	<u>306,034</u>	<u>59,556</u>

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

13a Movement in funds (current year)

	At 1/4/2023 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/2024 £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	61,755	33,114	94,869
Total Funds	<u>61,755</u>	<u>33,114</u>	<u>94,869</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net Movement £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	<u>559,859</u>	<u>(526,745)</u>	<u>33,114</u>

13b Movement in funds (prior year)

	At 1/4/2022 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/2023 £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	57,450	4,305	61,755
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	7,644	(7,644)	-
London Community Foundation	13	(13)	-
London Healthy Partnership	4,565	(4,565)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,155	(1,155)	-
ACE The New Normal	6,688	(6,688)	-
Merton Giving	<u>8,272</u>	<u>(8,272)</u>	<u>-</u>
	28,337	(28,337)	-
Total Funds	<u>85,787</u>	<u>(24,032)</u>	<u>61,755</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Movement £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	219,302	(214,997)	4,305
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	-	(7,644)	(7,644)
London Community Foundation	-	(13)	(13)
London Healthy Partnership	-	(4,565)	(4,565)
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	(1,155)	(1,155)
ACE The New Normal	1,350	(8,038)	(6,688)
Merton Giving	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,272)</u>	<u>(8,272)</u>
	1,350	(29,687)	(28,337)
	<u>220,652</u>	<u>(244,684)</u>	<u>(24,032)</u>

Safe Ground
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

13b Movement in funds (prior year) (continued)
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation

A portion of this fund is reserved for the printing of materials for the new Fathers Inside/Family Man programme. The remaining fund goes primarily towards the Programmes Coordinator salary and core costs.

London Community Foundation

This grant was towards the creation and distribution of a creative journal, Thinking Space, to women across London and in prison.

London Healthy Partnership

Funding to provide a programme to reduce anxiety through reading and creative writing in a therapeutically informed group. Members read together and share feedback.

The National Lottery Community Fund

This fund was directly for the research of welfare beds in secure settings. This project has so far led to a significant policy change in a metropolitan region where the advisor to the PCC has stated he will no longer be working towards the building of a new secure children's unit, but rather, a radical alternative that will offer children less punitive responses and more therapeutic care.

ACE The New Normal

This is an Arts Council England funded project aimed at developing virtual resources to complement our existing resources reaching both people in prison and their families.

13 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>112,911</u>	<u>95,317</u>	<u>208,228</u>
Total	<u>112,911</u>	<u>95,317</u>	<u>208,228</u>

The charity held no debt during the period, as such the above analysis of cash and cash equivalents serves as a reconciliation of changes in net debt.

14 Guarantees and ultimate parent undertaking

Safe Ground, trading as SIG Safe Ground, is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The Social Interest Group became the sole member of Safe Ground on the 1 November 2022, previously all trustees were members. Each member has guaranteed to pay £1 in the event that Safe Ground was wound up. Social Interest Group is the ultimate parent undertaking. Its charity registered number is 158402. Its company registered number is 9122052. Its registered office is: 1 Waterloo Gardens, Milner Square, London N1 1TY.

SAFE GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1048181

Accounts

Company number 03080847
Charity Number: 1048181

Safe Ground

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023



Safe Ground

Contents

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors	3
Objectives.....	4
Chief Executive's Statement.....	5
Strategic Report	6
Results and Impacts.....	6
Client Transformations	6
Our Focus	8
Significant Events.....	9
Financial Review 2022/23	13
Plans for the Future.....	13
New Business.....	14
Other Group Activities.....	15
Communications.....	15
Structure, Governance and Management.....	16
Opinion.....	20
Statement of Financial Activities	24
Balance sheet.....	25
Notes to the Financial Statements	26

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Safe Ground was established in 1995 and joined Social Interest Group on the 1st November 2022. Social Interest Group is its only member, therefore making it a subsidiary of Social Interest Group. Safe Ground now trades as SIG Safe Ground.

Directors and charity trustees

The directors of SIG Safe Ground are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this document are collectively referred to as the trustees. The current trustees and those that served during the period ended 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Chair

Karl Marlowe (Appointed – 1st November 2022)

D Lennan – (resigned 1st November 2022)

Other trustees

T Fatima – Treasurer (resigned 1st November 2022)

Jeff Loo – Treasurer - (Appointed – 1st November 2022)

B McDonough – (appointed 1st July 2022, resigned 1st November 2022)

L Lines - (resigned 1st November 2022)

J Smith - (resigned 1st November 2022)

R Lambe - (resigned 1st November 2022)

Dylan Kerr - (Appointed – 1st November 2022)

Stuart Jenkin - (Appointed – 1st November 2022)

Claire Barton - (Appointed – 1st November 2022)

Company Secretary

Michael Rutherford- (Appointed – 1st November 2022)

Executive Officers

Group Chief Executive

Gill Arukpe

Director of Finance & Resources

Michael Rutherford

Director of People & Culture

Maria Speight

Registered office

1 Waterloo Gardens
Milner Square
London
N1 1TY

Auditor

Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood St
London
EC2V 6DL

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Solicitors

Russell Cooke LLP
2 Putney Hill
London
SW15 6AB

DWF LLP
1 Scott Place
2 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AA

Company registration number 03080847

Charity registration number 1048181

www.socialinterestgroup.org.uk

enquiries@socialinterestgroup.org.uk

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st of March 2023.

Reference and administration information set out on the previous page form a part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives

Purposes and Aims

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity meet the public benefit requirement and that the charity's activities are in support of those aims.

The objects of the Charity as set out in the Articles of Association for the public benefit:

The object of the Company is to advance the education of the public, in particular, but not exclusively prisoners in the arts, specifically the art of drama, literature and poetry, and to use the arts to rehabilitate prisoners, offenders and community members by promoting and developing people's creative and artistic abilities, parenting and relationship skills.

Activities

SIG Safe Ground is an expert in the design and delivery of arts-based, therapeutic group work. We operate nationally in various custodial and community settings, creating spaces in which transformational change can occur. Our work offers access to new perspectives, creates opportunities for discussion and debate, and invites participants to take risks, experiencing themselves and each other in new ways.

Our programmes create a positive impact; analysis of Fathers Inside shows a 40% reduction in re-offending between programme participants and their counterparts who did not participate (Justice Data Lab, 2016). Our most recent evaluation of Fathers Inside (Blagden 2019) highlighted a statistically significant reduction in parental stress pre/post programme and a significant increase in less-restrictive attitudes towards parenting because of the programme. 76.5% of participants engaged in further ETE (education, training and employment) one month after completing Fathers Inside, compared to 53.6% prior to the programme.

Chief Executive's Statement

With figures showing 1 in 4 adults predicted to experience a common mental health disorder, and 10% will experience depression in their lifetime, our services find themselves amid a mental health crisis. The pandemic's legacy effects have made access to primary and secondary healthcare increasingly difficult. Economic and social imbalances continue to grow with substantial increases in homelessness and the numbers of people in prison.

The number of families and single people in temporary accommodation is rising daily. We continue to see a rise in people referred to us who have spent long periods in hospitals, prison and being homeless. Often requiring a high degree of support for harm reduction, reablement after long-term mental ill-health and disorders, increase in suicidal tendencies, depression, dual diagnosis, alcohol dependency, and illegal and prescription substance use.

Charities are under severe financial strain. Facing soaring energy bills and declining incomes as some grant givers and commissioners cut back against a significant rising demand in people needing our support and care. The recruitment issues in the sector continue to make staff retention and growth challenging as we compete to hire and retain the best people. Research shows a high percentage of the sector using their reserves to support contracted work, which is not sustainable. I am pleased to say we have not had to do this.

We have worked hard to make working at SIG Safe Ground a rewarding experience personally and professionally and to find the best ways to offer support to reduce the impacts of rising fuel and living costs. We kept salaries at the London and Living Wage, carried out a salary review, gave two staff pay awards and increased our bank pay hourly rate by 3%.

This year, we joined the lobby for the government to provide more help to our sector. In January, we launched a new vision and mission: to stop the inequity of access to public services and opportunities for a good home, health care, social support, and employment. We will address the imbalance through new partnership working, influencing policy change and driving local systems change to bridge gaps in provision and break down barriers.

We remain committed to supporting local authorities, health trusts and Ministry of Justice and HMPPS in the development of solutions for people in prison and those experiencing homelessness, stepping down from hospital or returning from prison or living on the street.

SIG Safe Ground is exceptionally skilled at finding solutions that help people in prison turn their lives around and support their families. This year's considerable achievement for SIG Safe Ground was securing new contracts with several prisons to embed its programmes, including at HMP Altcourse, with the additional management of Altcourse's Visitors Centre. We officially opened our first Independent Approved Premises (IAP), Penrose Drive, via SIG Safe Ground's sister charity, SIG Penrose, where we have been delivering SIG Safe Ground programmes.

We continue to secure our long-term financial stability through contract retention, growth and income diversification. We retendered for and won several crucial long-running service contracts, helping people secure and retain accommodation and supporting various social needs. We continue to utilise trainees with lived experience across projects, focusing on people at the highest risk of re-offending, suicide and self-harm, drug and alcohol overdose and disengagement with treatment services.

I look back at all our achievements across SIG Safe Ground and the Group during 2022/23. Not only have we supported thousands of people, but we continue to overcome the challenges we face, changing how we work to improve and enhance the quality and performance of our services and implementing new services and projects to grow and extend our impact.



Gill Arukpe, Group Chief Executive
6th December 2023

Strategic Report

Safe Ground (traded as SIG Safe Ground) is an award-winning charity designing and delivering pioneering therapeutic group work nationally for people in prison and community settings. We have a strong track record of delivering impact and a comprehensive suite of group work programmes that focus on behaviors and social issues. Our excellent work continued throughout this year, and we are excited to share our learning and reflections.

We always expect groups to contain significant diversity of experience, background, offence type, learning needs and style, mental well-being, concentration, focus, friendship status and familiarity among participants. Our programmes are designed to accommodate equally meaningful participation from people who cannot read or write, do not have English as a first language, and may have cognitive or physical impairments, dependency issues, anxiety, or other difficulties with education, group work or participation. This was certainly true of the groups of participants we worked with this year.

Results and Impacts

This year SIG Safe Ground worked with a total of 173 participants across 13 different sites, mainly prisons, in a range of programmes and group work sessions:

- Family Focus
- Minerva Wraparound service
- Fathers Inside
- The Comfort Zone
- Man Up
- Thinking Space Journals
- Mens Groups with SIG EDI
- West Midlands Police
- Sisterhood

Client Transformations

Man Up

SIG Safe Ground has long recognised that the stereotypes, pressures, and expectations of being a man shape an individual's identity, particularly in the context of the hyper-masculine, insecure and authoritarian environment that is prison. Our response was the Man Up Programme, conceived during a pilot project with men at HMP Wandsworth in 2014.

Brendon's Story

We first met Brendon when it was suggested he might be interested in participating in a Man Up programme we ran at HMP Peterborough. Man Up is a group work programme designed to support young and adult men to consider the pressures and expectations of being a 'man', many of which can exacerbate harmful behaviours. The programme takes place over three consecutive days, culminating in a performance to an invited audience of staff members.

Group work is always complex, but Man Up participants explore emotive themes, including Identity, Relationships and unmet needs, which invariably make the process all the more challenging. Sometimes, the process can leave participants feeling exposed, and whilst this is an integral part of the experience, the level of commitment taking part requires can't be understated.

Brendon is a young person who is autistic. He had a job as an orderly (a cleaner). However, he kept himself to himself as much as possible, avoided engaging in group conversations and was highly apologetic for anything he felt he'd done wrong. Before his current custodial sentence, he spent much of his adolescence in secure mental-health settings, and his familial relationships and support network were fraught. We understood that when Brendon felt overwhelmed or uncomfortable, he would react in extreme, often violent, ways that risked his and others' safety.

When we met the group to conduct pre-programme interviews, Brendon was apprehensive about his ability to participate and initially decided that the programme wasn't for him. He politely excused himself from the introductory session and left the room. However, with encouragement from SIG Safe Ground and his Key Worker, he decided to give it a go.

Ahead of the group, we received additional communication from the prison SEND department, with a list of diagnoses attributed to Brendon and a note that said a 'one-page profile' was also available. We were warned that he might become anxious and need to leave the room and have neurodiversity needs that would be detrimental to his positive engagement in the group. Staff members expected him to act up or play the 'class clown' as soon as he felt uncomfortable.

Over three days, staff members (all with the best intent) asked us about Brendon's participation or offered unsolicited advice on his 'behaviour'. They made assumptions that Brendon was messing about and suggested it would be a success if he were 'even just to be a tree' in the final performance. We held Brendon to higher expectations than this because we know that our participants can do far more than they might often be given credit for. In turn, Brendon far exceeded our expectations. He was thoughtful and considered in his reflections, his confidence grew, and despite warnings from staff, he didn't leave the room once over the three days, nor act the class clown when he felt uncomfortable. And he was by no means the most challenging participant. The rest of the group supported him when he needed time to form his ideas fully, and Brendon showed great patience, especially when others were vying for attention. He showed respect and care, listening carefully to others' contributions and offering insightful responses. When it came to preparing the final performance, Brendon played an integral role.

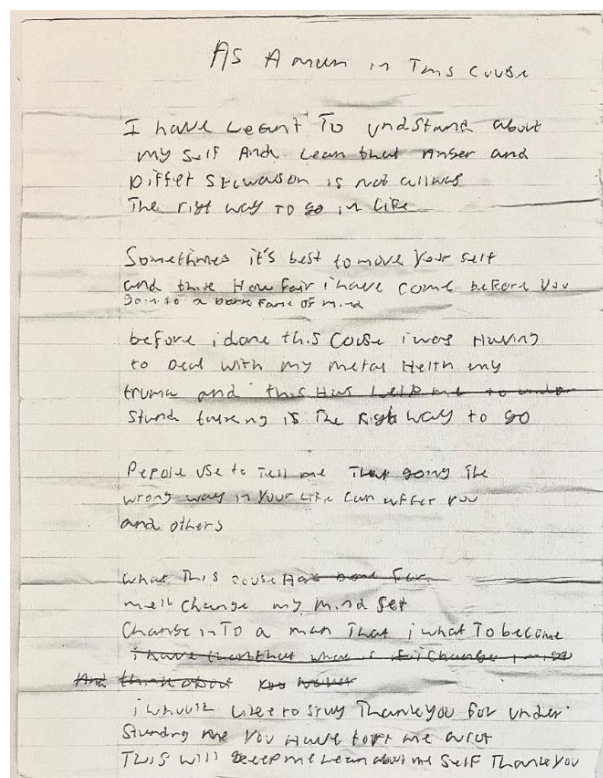
The group devised and performed an extended role-play based on characters they had created to an audience of 22 staff members, including the Deputy Director of the prison, officers, OMT, Governors and other SMT members. The story follows two young people caught up in the Criminal Legal System. Brendon accepted a particularly challenging role, as his character was not immediately relatable to him and his personal experience like most other roles were. Brendon showed bravery in his commitment to his performance and nominated himself to close the performance with a speech he'd worked on in his own time. Brendon kindly allowed us to have the original copy of his speech. When we asked if he was sure, he told us that he was; he'd 'remember it in his head':

"I have learned to understand about myself and learn that anger ... is not always the right way to go in life. Sometimes, it's best to move yourself and think how far I have come before you go into a bad frame of mind. Before I done this course, I was having to deal with my mental health and my trauma, and this has helped understand talking is the right way to go."

People used to tell me that going the wrong way in life can affect you and others. What this course has done for me is change my mindset. Change into a man I want to become. I would like to say thank you for understanding me. You have taught me a lot. This will help me learn about myself. Thank you."

This was the first group Brendon engaged in prison, which was a significant personal achievement. The goal of SIG Safe Ground's methodology and how we approach our work is to make room for participants to be themselves. Brendon embraced this courageously and, in the process, found a way to understand himself. That is what resilience is. And in a prison environment, where the easier option for everybody is not even to try, that is a huge, huge achievement. We felt incredibly proud of Brendon, but the most outstanding achievement was that, despite everything, Brendon felt proud of himself.

Craig's Story



"As a man in this course...

I have learnt to understand about myself and learn that anger ... is not always the right way to go in life.

Sometimes it's best to move yourself and think how far I have come before you go into a bad frame of mind.

Before I done this course I was having to deal with my mental health, my trauma, and this has helped understand talking is the right way to go.

People used to tell me that going the wrong way in life can affect you and others.

What this course has done for me is change my mindset. Change into a man I want to become.

I would like to say thank you for understanding me, you have taught me a lot. This will help me learn about myself. Thank you."

Our Focus

Joining Social Interest Group (SIG)

Our move into Social Interest Group in November this year represented the beginning of a new era. An era in which we can offer a SIG Safe Ground experience to new groups, in new communities, in new and creative ways, strengthening our legacy as we go. We want to thank everyone at SIG who has made us feel so welcome and expressed such enthusiasm about what we do. Our work is as necessary as ever. We can achieve anything by working together with an ambitious strategy and an even more ambitious SIG team.

Brand Refresh

We undertook the brand refresh to strengthen and galvanise the Group and enhance our excellent reputation in supporting the hardest-to-reach to create positive change for people and communities. We worked with staff, residents, and participants across the Group to shape the vision of our rebranding and launched our new visual identity in June. This momentous change project supports our growth as we take on new areas of work and new subsidiaries, expanding our horizons on a public stage.

Theory of Change rollout

Our newly developed Theory of Change articulates our unique approach to positively impacting the lives we support. This transformation journey focuses on three elements to make a crucial difference: identity, relationships and community. We launched the Theory of Change at our Staff Conference in October as we begin embedding it into our working methods to ensure best practice is achieved and evidenced. Learn more about our Theory of Change at www.socialinterestgroup.org.uk.

Reimagining the way we work

'Reimagine the way we work' is an organisation-wide review to use SIG's central resources better to maximise impact and income and improve quality whilst reducing risk. We launched several initiatives and implemented changes over the year to enhance the quality and performance of our services:

Quality and Performance

We grew our Compliance, Risk and Audit Team to develop further Risk Management, Governance, Safeguarding and Health and Safety within SIG. We launched new Quality and Performance meetings to support operational teams to focus on essential priorities and reduce duplication. Meetings provide a platform to share what is working well, what they are proud of, and where we, as a SIG community, need to improve processes, best practices, and training.

Staff Safety

We are committed to creating the safest environment for staff. This year, we added two new modules to our staff risk management training to enhance support for the growing number of people coming to us with highly complex support and care needs. Additionally, we set up a Quality Review Group and Safeguarding Review Group to strengthen how we capture trends, concerns and learnings across the Group and ensure staff meet the expected standards of our Quality Handbook, a digital best practice guide introduced last year.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion - Men's Group

In January, SIG Safe Ground partnered with SIG's EDI Team to develop a series of online sessions inviting men across the organisation to consider how their conceptions and practice of masculinity impact their experiences at work and inform broader conversations on physical and psychological safety among staff, residents and participants. The first session occurred in March, with two more sessions planned in the year. Early feedback was that participants felt able to have conversations they were not having elsewhere and that ongoing participation in the group could make a tangible difference to people's work experience.

Significant Events

Investors in People

SIG was awarded Investors in People, an important accreditation, particularly in supporting our growth plans. We worked over many months with staff to achieve this. We continue our Investors in People journey, using the findings from the review to shape our 3-year strategic plan starting next year. We started developing our reward and recognition strategy to ensure we make working at SIG a rewarding experience personally and professionally by offering growth and development.

ISO90001

We received ISO9001 accreditation in January. ISO remains a necessary certificate held by SIG, assuring stakeholders that we have effective systems and processes and work to improve continuously. SIG has maintained certification since its inception.

Pilot Sessions with West Midlands Police

In December 2021, SIG Safe Ground conducted a pilot training session with Sandwell Youth Offending Service, focused on working with girls under 18 to enhance the specialist skills of staff in the service and support learning processes, which led to embedded practice development. In May 2022, we conducted the second pilot session with six officers from West Midlands Police. Participants had a wealth of combined experience; all worked with girls and young women as part of their roles and were incredibly generous with their time and contribution to the process.

"I think all young people have distinct needs when in contact with the legal system, I think puberty and hormone issues are sometimes overlooked but I do think that young girls and women may have additional needs and consideration around these issues. We are all individual and there is not a one size fits all but the legal systems seems to adopt that approach." **Participant.**

"A concrete learning of my participation in the session is the value of reflecting and thinking about the reason(s) that have led up to an event(s) taking place in a person's life that have led me to coming into contact/working with them in my role at work." **Participant.**

Their response in the session and the follow-up feedback highlighted a need and willingness to continue reflecting on police practice and policy around issues of significant priority, including:

- The value of long-term Reflective Practice opportunities for staff at all service levels.
- Continued specialist training around particular sensitivities in working with girls and young women in WMP and multi-disciplinary groups.
- The value and importance of in-person high-quality participatory training alongside short online or individual learning packages.

Sisterhood at Sandwell Children's Trust, Youth Offending Service

Sandwell Children's Trust approached SIG Safe Ground in April 2021 to develop work focusing on the experiences and perspectives of girls in their Youth Offending Service. This work continued in 2023 when we completed the design of Sisterhood.



Sisterhood is a set of 15 elements thoughtfully curated to complement one-to-one work Key Working sessions with girls, and each exercise and activity intends to encourage self-reflection, provoke meaningful conversation, inspire creative self-expression, and nurture lasting relationships for change. We hope the girls will use Sisterhood and be inspired by all they have discovered and created long after their involvement with Sandwell children's Trust has ended. We travelled to Sandwell in January to introduce staff to Sisterhood and discuss how it could be utilised to achieve its full potential. In March, we shared the final product with Key Workers to begin using with the girls. We were delighted to meet some amazing artists through the development of this resource and to expand our network of collaborators. The feedback was excellent, and Sandwell Children's Trust is commissioning SIG Safe Ground to design equivalent journals for boys accessing the service.

Working with SIG

We started working with other members of SIG to grow our collaborative work with the Ministry of Justice and Police to influence cultural changes in how the criminal justice system supports people in prison and custody and to help decrease the number of people returning to prison.

HMPPS CFO Activity Hub, Croydon

The CFO Activity Hub in Croydon is one of two activity hubs set up by Reed in Partnership with SIG Penrose, in contract with the Co-Financing Org (CFO) and Ministry of Justice. Activity Hubs provide safe and supportive spaces for men and women on licence or serving a community sentence to access essential services. SIG Safe Ground delivered four programmes in Croydon, including Man Up. As we move towards a co-delivery model for the final third of the contract, we are excited to see what we can achieve working alongside Penrose.

Offender Personality Disorder and Housing and Accommodation Services (OPD HASS), London

SIG Safe Ground provided its Thinking Space Journals to SIG Penrose, HerStory House service, a specialist high-supporting female residential service designed for women with multiple and complex care needs. Commissioned jointly by HMPPS and NHS England & NHS Improvement as part of the Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) pathway for women at highest risk, the service provides a safe, psychologically informed and enabling environment to facilitate the eventual move-on to fully independent living in the community. We delivered Thinking Journals within the service's Wellbeing Hub as part of its therapeutic programmes and activities to enable residents and other women screened into the pathways opportunity to learn new skills and create positive and healthy relationships.

Brighton Women's Service (BWS)

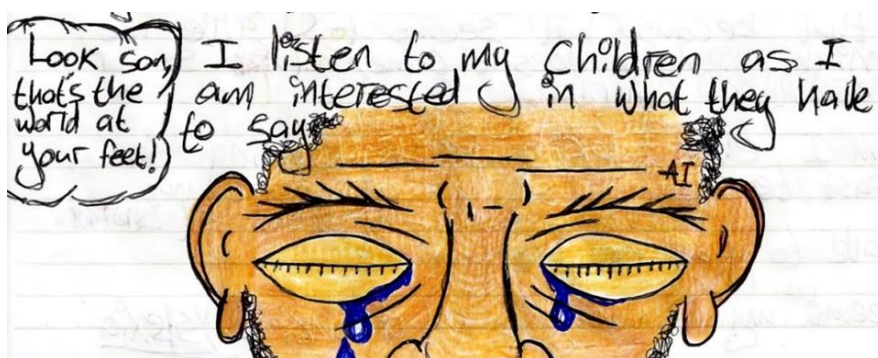
SIG Equinox used SIG Safe Ground's Thinking Journals as part of the service's resident Care and Recovery Plans. As a female-only residential project for women experiencing homelessness and severe trauma with support requirements related to drugs and alcohol, offending behaviour and mental health, Thinking Journals helped provide a positive, supportive environment for women to develop skills and resilience to eventually move on to independent living and prepare for the next part of their journey.

Thinking Space Journals

With participants at Minerva's East London Women's Centre and, more recently, with all 58 young women currently in custody at HMP Peterborough, we're working towards a new goal of sharing a Thinking Space Journal with every woman in prison in England.

Family Focus at HMP Wayland

The Family Focus Programme is designed for self-directed learning and intended to introduce the themes and content developed further in our flagship programme, Fathers Inside. Participants work through seven modules over four weeks, supported by staff and with relevant access to wraparound services. At the time of writing, the first Family Focus cohort at HMP Wayland submitted their work to SIG Safe



Ground for certification. We look forward to seeing this group again and welcoming the next cohort to the programme.

The Minerva Wraparound Service, London

Our Own Stories women's programme continues to run as part of the Minerva Wrap Around Service for women across London. We extended the Minerva Wraparound Service in London several times. Similarly to last year, we adapted the delivery model to meet the needs, numbers and logistical requirements of the women involved. The result was **Make Your Mark**, a drop-in programme supporting women to engage with artworks from around the world as a vehicle for considering their own lives, creative expression, and relationships.

Following SIG Safe Ground's success of Advance in our bid for London Women's Services, we return next year to deliver Our Own Stories again at Minerva's East London Women's Centre. SIG Safe Ground has gained a strong foothold at the centre since it opened in 2021, delivering several programmes and developing relationships with staff.

Fathers Inside at HMPs Parc, Norwich and Lowdham Grange

HMP Lowdham Grange is a privately operated category B prison near Nottingham housing 888 men, many of whom are serving life sentences. In the summer of 2021, SIG Safe Ground was approached to submit a proposal for work there. Having carefully considered our proposal and the benefits of our work, a group of prisoner representatives decided to invest in two of SIG Safe Ground's programmes from the Prisoner Amenities Fund, including Fathers Inside.

We delivered a revised Fathers Inside Programme to 52 men across HMPs Parc, Norwich and Lowdham Grange. SIG Safe Ground's Fathers Inside Programme is now a core element of HMP Parc's Family Interventions Unit, ensuring our relationship with the staff team goes from strength to strength.

We're gonna be doing a play, ^{around} ~~about~~ fathers Inside
about all our individual experience
we all opened up and spoke straight from the heart
none of which was a convenience

Now I hope you all enjoy the ~~show~~ show
that we've all put together
Because the "MAIN" reason (I) believe we ~~at~~ completed
~~the~~ fathers Inside as a group! (UNIT)!
Is to show that "NO" matter where a father ~~is~~ lives!
He'll be loving "HIS" young ones FOREVER!!!

Enjoy your Visits
EVERYONE

HYPE ENDING!

The Comfort Zone

In 2020, Healthy London Partnership, in collaboration with Arts Council England and the Mayor of London, called for proposals from arts and cultural organisations to help improve the health and wellbeing of people with mental health issues in either Southwark or Merton. This led to SIG Safe Ground designing and piloting The Comfort Zone programme in 2021.

Following two pilots demonstrating measurable impact among participants and significant interest in the Social Prescribing network in Merton, SIG Safe Ground successfully applied to Merton Giving to fund the delivery of four online programmes for residents in the borough between February and August 2022. Feedback from these has been incredibly positive:

"This programme has been more effective than any therapy or workgroup I have experienced. It left me feeling connected, hopeful and excited for the future." **Participant.**

Man Up at HMPs Parc and Peterborough

SIG Safe Ground delivered three Man Up Programmes to young adults at Peterborough during March, and we returned in November to continue our work. Our partnership with HMP Peterborough and HMP Parc will continue throughout the year under the terms of SIG Safe Ground's new license agreement, whereby they will now deliver Man Up under the new license agreement.

Financial Review 2022/23

At the end of the financial period, the charity had unrestricted general reserves of £61,755 (2021/22 - £57,447). The charity incurred a deficit of £24,029 during the period ended 31 March 2023 (2021/22 - surplus of £55,994).

Given the status of the charity as a subsidiary undertaking in Social Interest Group, the wider economic environment and on-going changes and increased competition within the sector, the trustees consider the results to be acceptable. Principal risks and uncertainties

There are several new areas of work developing for us in the year ahead, all at early stages of agreement but significant as contributions to the new Probation formulation, new partnerships and delivery sites and we look forward to those coming to fruition efficiently. There is always a risk that work in advanced discussion can fail to materialise and for a small organisation like SIG Safe Ground, often cashflow and projections seem not to correlate. While we are used to the perennial risks of delivering high quality services in an increasingly price focused environment, now more than ever we are aware of the risks ahead. The Trustees are engaged and actively involved in strategic thinking and planning and we work to future proof the organisation with our approach. We intend to improve our communications, raise our profile and sustain our impact, driving commissioning and philanthropic funding and transforming individual, group and institutional dynamics.

Reserves policy and going concern

Following SIG Safe Ground joining the Group the trustees have reviewed the long-term level of reserves needed for the company. The trustees agreed to change the level of reserves to equivalent of at least 3 months trading. At 31 March 2023 they were £61,755. The trustees will continue to review the reserves policy and position.

The trustees were satisfied of the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and continue to monitor income and the reserves position.

Plans for the Future

At SIG Safe Ground, we pride ourselves on being a learning organisation, constantly developing and innovating to adapt to changes in our environments, and ensuring we continue to focus on delivering the best possible outcomes to the people we support. Over the next five years, our ambitions include:

Increase the number of Prisons SIG Safe Ground provides its programs and the number of activities we deliver for families in Prison Visitor Centers across England and Wales.

Becoming an employer of choice by developing a **Staff Academy of Learning**, ensuring all our staff feel safe, valued and invested, and adding value by enhancing our volunteering offer and increasing volunteer who can support SIG Safe Grounds work.

Working with the NHS and Integrated Care Boards to **shift more mental health treatment and recovery services from the hospital to the community** by offering evidence-based and innovative alternative delivery models that can benefit from SIG Safe Ground programs to encourage wellness and improve understanding around behaviors.

Deploying an External Affairs Team to ensure we make positive social change by sharing **frontline and lived experiences to have a meaningful influence on policy development** and provide opportunities for our participants and residents to be heard at the highest levels of government.

Supporting a fairer, more impactful criminal justice system by working collaboratively with HMPPS and other key partners to deliver positive resettlement outcomes. **Expanding our promising Approved Premises delivery model** run by SIG Penrose a sister charity within the Group and demonstrating its impact on people leaving prison at the highest risk.

Identifying opportunities within the prison estate to roll out **SIG Safe Ground's unique approach to providing visitor centres**. Influence and shape cultural change in how people in prison are supported through SIG Safe Ground's methodology and our External Affairs Team.

Extending our specialist gender-based services to women with multiple complex needs and significant enduring trauma by building on our therapeutic model of trauma and shame-informed practice to create positive, female-led environments and responding to the need to restore trust in external frameworks and wider systems change, working through our **'I Am More Than' Project** and **Theory of Change** to break the stigma and shaming narrative for women with complex needs and risks.

Growth and development to support a minimum of 30,000 people, triple income to £60 million and continue to grow and flourish, adding **three new charities** to the Group to expand and enhance our range and offer to the people we support.

New Business

SIG Safe Ground Licensing Programme

SIG Safe Ground worked with SIG to develop a licensing model to help the charity generate additional revenue. Licensing allows SIG Safe Ground to expand its training and consultancy offer and reach more secure and community settings. It provides client organisations with greater autonomy and flexibility over their delivery schedules while ensuring programme integrity and outcomes via a comprehensive range of quality indicators.

Sodexo Partnership at HMPs Altcourse and Lowdham Grange

A considerable achievement for SIG Safe Ground this year was securing two new contracts at HMPs Altcourse and Lowdham Grange, working with Sodexo, who manages both prisons on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. SIG Safe Ground programmes and methodology will be an integral part of both prisons' family strategies, with the additional management of the Visitors Centre at Altcourse, a new venture for us. We're very excited to develop our work this way and have the opportunity to introduce our methodology towards a whole-prison approach.

Other Group Activities

Fundraising

We recruited a Grant Writer in the year to help build on our first-year successes. Our funding priorities remain capacity-building grants to develop and enhance our services and technology and implement our strategic ambitions and plans.

This year was made possible by the generous support of:

Aurum Charitable Trust
AB Charitable Trust
John Armitage Charitable Trust
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation

SIG Run Club launch

March saw the launch of SIG's first-ever Run Club. Run Club is a place for SIG Safe Ground staff, residents, and participants to share their journey to improved well-being. The club comprises mixed running abilities. Whether members have never run before or are experienced marathon runners, it is a place where they can support each other to become more active and healthier. Initially started as a virtual support group to share individual journeys, the group now arranges in-person meet-ups to officially organise running events and support each other's running challenges. The club hopes to start fundraising for SIG next year.

Communications

Our focus this year has been on sustainability, growth and development. We made the decision to focus on quality rather than quantity of content, which meant reducing social media posting to focus on refreshing our vision, mission and brand and supporting the implementation of our Theory of Change. As part of our strategic aims to make positive social change, we also started developing plans for our own External Affairs Team to showcase our work and impact and share the lived experience and voices of the people using our services to ensure they are understood and heard.

Joelle Taylor named as Koestler Curator for 2023

SIG Safe Ground was delighted to see our Patron, Joelle Taylor, take on the Koestler Awards Exhibition Curator 2023 role. This year saw the highest number of entries to the awards since 2015. Joelle spent a week in July reviewing all entries and selecting 200 pieces of artwork, music, and writing. Joelle said,

"I've spent about 20 years working in prisons, and I'm aware of the vast range and diversity of arts that are created within the criminal justice system, and the opportunity to be able to introduce that to a wider public is compelling. Having spent so long working with people in the criminal justice system, it wasn't a surprise that the works were so excellent and so finely tuned and so varied". SIG Safe Ground looks forward to seeing the finished exhibition later in 2023. We are delighted Joelle has expressed renewed interest in continuing her support as Patron, and we're excited to involve her in our future work with groups.

Being Well Being Equal

SIG Safe Ground was pleased to be included in the Being Well, Being Equal report by Spark Inside, which features a case study of SIG Safe Ground's work with young men (pg. 54). The report looks at prioritising the wellbeing of young men in custody aged 18-25 and in highlights the experiences of young Black men, who are significantly overrepresented in the prison system.

Now and Men, Durham University Podcast

Over the years, we have worked with hundreds of men in prisons, secure training centres, children's homes, schools and community settings nationwide. Over time, we've considered all the big questions about being a man and explored how men might practice their masculinity to support, encourage and develop empathy, humanity and honesty. We've come to realise the necessity of these conversations for men everywhere. Dan Boyden, SIG Safe Ground's lead facilitator for Man Up, Family Man and Father Inside Programmes, was invited to contribute to the University of Durham's monthly podcast, Now and Men. Created and hosted by Dr Stephen Burrell, Sandy Ruxton and Professor Nicole Westmarland, who are researchers from the Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA) based in the Sociology Department of Durham University, the podcast discussed the pressures of being a male in prison environments that can often be hyper-masculine, harsh and hierarchical and how SIG Safe Ground works within prisons to drive change prison culture.

Thank You

This report and all the work SIG Safe Ground completed over the last year would not have been possible without the considerable and ongoing contributions of all our multiple partners, allies, supporters, participants and funders.

SIG Safe Ground would like to thank all our participants and Alumni for their engagement this year. Our former Board Members: Laura Lines, Richard Lambe, Jason Smith, Tatheer Fatima, Grace Wyld, Diane Lennan, and Barbara McDonough.

Our Patrons: Baroness Helena Kennedy, Lord Lucas, Lord Ramsbotham, Melly Still, Professor Renos Papadopoulos and Joelle Taylor.

Our core team: Charlie Weinberg, Emily Ansorge, Callie Davidson, Lindsay Murphy, and Grace Ayanfalu. All our freelancers, notably Ruth Milne, Nicola Hollinshead, Rae Matthews, David Kendall, Dan Boydon, Duncan Lawrence, Michael Conroy, and Dominic Waldron, who delivered important work for us this year.

Our sector colleagues: Social Interest Group, Clinks, The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance, Suhaimah Mazoor Khan; Anastasia Chamberlen; National Prison Radio; Healthy London Partnership, the Prisoner Learning Alliance; Francesca Cooney and the Prisoners' Education Trust, and all participants, the team at Advance Charity, including Frances R, Stevie B and Kellie T.

All the organisations who were part of the Women's Service Alliance: Advance, Clean Break, Working Chance, Birth Companions, Hibiscus, Housing for Women, Women in Prison, and Pecan. Merton Giving, who funded The Comfort Zone, particularly Anne Webster.

The team at HMP Parc, notably Corin Morgen-Armstrong, Leanne Jenkins, Sandie Francis, Gemma Jones and the team on T4. The team at HMP Norwich, notably David Buck, Pete Donovan and Zenildo Cassoneca. HMP Peterborough team, notably Davina Patel and Neil Martin. The team at Lowdham Grange, notably Rachal Winter and Jess McGinn. The team at HMP Wayland, notably Fred Savage and Alan Shadwell. The Croydon CFO Activity Hub and Reed team, notably Grace Buck, Manisha Dhoul, Anna Toogood and Munim Ali.

Structure, Governance and Management

Safe Ground is a registered charity controlled by its governing document and a deed of trust. Its constitution is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11 July 1995 as amended by special resolution dated 26 January 2011.

Safe Ground is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital (Number 03080847) and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (Number 1048181).

The Company is governed by a board of trustees, whose principal responsibilities are the setting and monitoring of the strategic direction of the organisation and the establishment of policy. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no financial benefits from the Company.

The board of trustees meets a minimum of four times a year. Individual trustees also have the responsibilities to support the CEO, who has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Company.

On 1st November 2022, the Company joined Social Interest Group, and Social Interest Group become the sole member. Safe Ground now trades as SIG Safe Ground.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are listed on page 1. The non-executive trustee directors hold office for an initial period of three years with the possibility of a second term of three years. The board consists of no fewer than three and no more than five persons appointed by the trustees at any time at a meeting or in writing. No person under the age of 18 may be appointed as a trustee.

Trustees are recruited by the Nominations Committee using specialist recruitment agents and by advertisement. A rigorous interview process takes place, which includes service users. Candidates usually attend a board meeting and visit projects before being confirmed in post.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees must familiarise themselves with the content of the Articles of Association, their legal obligations under charity and company law, the organisational structure of SIG Safe Ground and its recent financial performance. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

Safe Ground is a member of Social Interest Group of which it is a subsidiary. It provides all support functions, senior management and strategic guidance. The Charity is supported in its charitable objectives by all Social Interest Group companies: Equinox Care, Penrose Options, SIG Housing Trust and Pathways to Independence.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

The Group Chief Executive's remuneration is set by Social Interest Group non-executive directors. Their remuneration and all other staff are remunerated in accordance with a job evaluation process and market rates, which is reviewed by external consultants.

Policy for employment of disabled persons

It is the charity's policy not to discriminate against persons falling under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 for reasons of their disability whether in, or applying for, employment or in the delivery of services.

The key areas of our policy cover recruitment and employment (disabled applicants not being considered any less favourably on the ground of their disability) service delivery (disabled applicants and service users not being treated less favourably on account of their disability) and information (ensuring information is accessible to all).

Employee information

The Charity requires line managers to conduct one-to-one meetings with their staff on a regular basis together with an annual appraisal.

The Executive Management Team meet on a weekly basis and updates from this meeting and the monthly Senior Managers Team meeting are disseminated to the Managers' meeting and then to the individual projects' monthly staff meeting.

The Charity takes its investment in its staff's professional development seriously and aims to provide different learning opportunities. It is the Charity's aim to see staff develop and share learning so that value can be added, and staff contribute to our growth and success. We introduced a new core training programme based around the Care Certificate made up of face-to-face and e-learning to ensure all modules are covered.

The trustees would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication during the year, in a climate that continues to be extremely challenging. We confirm that the Charity pays at least the London Living Wage to our employees working in London.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of SIG Safe Ground for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (Charity SORP FRS 102).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the 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 a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that SIG Safe Ground will continue in operation.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The member of the charity guarantees to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at the year-end was one. The trustees are not members of the charity and have no beneficial interest in it.

The trustees' annual report, which includes the strategic report, was approved by the board of trustees and signed on their behalf on 6th December 2023 by:



Dr Karl Marlowe
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SIG Safe Ground (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. 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 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic 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 trustees' report including the strategic 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 by the charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Other matters

In the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, the corresponding figures in these financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, are not audited because the company took advantage of s477 small company audit exemption as permitted by the Companies Act 2006 and opted for an independent examination as required by the Charities Act 2011 in the prior period.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements.
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of representatives of management and the review of minutes of Trustee meetings.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- Making enquiries of where management considers there was susceptibility to fraud and knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Tested and reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- Tested the authorisation of expenditure; and
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- Agreeing financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buzzacott LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hugh Swainson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

22 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total Funds £	Unrestricted funds (Restated) £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total Funds (Restated) £
	Note						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	218,671	1,350	220,021	239,711	42,226	281,937
Investment income	3	631	-	631	26		26
		<u>219,302</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>220,652</u>	<u>239,737</u>	<u>42,226</u>	<u>281,963</u>
Total income							
		<u>219,302</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>220,652</u>	<u>239,737</u>	<u>42,226</u>	<u>281,963</u>
Expenditure on:							
Trading costs	4	(214,997)	(29,687)	(244,684)	197,244	28,725	225,969
		<u>(214,997)</u>	<u>(29,687)</u>	<u>(244,684)</u>	<u>197,244</u>	<u>28,725</u>	<u>225,969</u>
NET (LOSS)/INCOME	5	4,305	(28,337)	(24,032)	42,493	13,501	55,994
		<u>4,305</u>	<u>(28,337)</u>	<u>(24,032)</u>	<u>42,493</u>	<u>13,501</u>	<u>55,994</u>
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		57,450	28,337	85,787	14,957	14,836	29,793
		<u>57,450</u>	<u>28,337</u>	<u>85,787</u>	<u>14,957</u>	<u>14,836</u>	<u>29,793</u>
Total funds carried forward	12a	<u>61,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,755</u>	<u>57,450</u>	<u>28,337</u>	<u>85,787</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 14a to the financial statements.

Balance sheet

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds (Restated) £
	Note				
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	-	-	-	1,165
Current assets					
Debtors	11	8,400	-	8,400	10,595
Cash at bank and in hand		112,911	-	112,911	189,204
		<u>121,311</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121,311</u>	<u>199,799</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(59,556)	-	(59,556)	(115,177)
Net current assets				61,755	84,622
NET ASSETS		<u>61,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,755</u>	<u>85,787</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds				61,755	57,450
Restricted funds				-	28,337
TOTAL FUNDS	13a			<u>61,755</u>	<u>85,787</u>

Approved by the trustees on 6th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Karl Marlowe
Chair

Company number 03080847

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

a) Statutory information

SIG Safe Ground is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees. The registered office is 1 Waterloo Gardens, Milner Square, London, N1 1TY.

b) Basis of preparation

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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions under FRS 102 Paragraph 3.1B in respect of the requirements to prepare a statement of cash flows.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are drawn up on a going concern basis. The Group has prepared a 10 year business plan. As well as considering the impact of a number of scenarios on the business plan, the Board also adopted a stress testing framework against the base plan. The Board after reviewing the company position, budgets for 2023/24 and the projections for 2024/25 have adequate resources to continue to meet their liabilities over the period of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

Social Interest Group will not recall the inter-company balances within the next 12 months, unless the Trustees deem that Equinox can afford to repay the balances. In addition, the trustees of both Social Interest Group and Penrose Options have expressed their intention to continue to provide support to Equinox Care, including providing working capital, for the foreseeable future.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

g) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the charitable purposes.

h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

i) Central support costs

Central support costs are incurred by the parent company, Social Interest Group, and are for senior management, finance, human resources, payroll, workforce development, housing income management, quality & performance and information & communication technology. These departments are vital to the smooth running of SIG Safe Ground's charitable activities.

j) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

k) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use. Major components are treated as a separate asset where they have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits and are depreciated separately over its useful life.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Plant & Machinery - 25% reducing balance
- Fixtures & fittings - 25% reducing balance

l) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

m) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

n) Creditors and provisions

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

o) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

p) Change in accounting policy and restatement of comparatives

In the years prior to 31 March 2022 contract income was recognised in the period cash was received, and not deferred to recognise when the work was delivered. The financial impact of recognising income on a cash receipts basis is to accelerate the recognition of income. The change in accounting policy from income recognition on a cash basis to an accruals basis has the effect of deferring a portion of contract income into the next accounting period which therefore reduces the charity's unrestricted funds. The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 reflect the change in accounting policy.

The change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively and comparatives have been restated to reflect income recognised on an accruals basis. The revised policy is further explained in note 1 (e). The impact of the restatement is given below:

The effect of the change on the comparatives is set out below

Net assets at 31 March 2022 (as previously stated)	193,143
Impact of restatement	<u>107,356</u>
Net assets at 31 March 2022 (as restated)	<u>85,787</u>

2 Donations and Legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Donations	49	2,781
Grants	51,350	157,226
Contracts	<u>168,672</u>	<u>121,930</u>
	<u>220,021</u>	<u>281,937</u>
Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:		
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	-	20,000
John Armitage Charitable Trust	35,000	41,667
Goldsmith Fund	-	15,000
Aurum Charitable Trust	-	43,333
ACE - The New Normal - Arts Council Grant	1,350	12,150
Weavers	15,000	-
Merton Giving - Comfort Zone	-	9,335
AB Charitable Trust	-	15,000
Other grants	-	741
	<u>51,350</u>	<u>157,226</u>

3 Investment Income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deposit account interest	631	26

4a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Staff costs (Note 6)	207,269	-	-	207,269	168,628
Recruitment & training	-	-	480	480	1,841
Subsistence & travel	11,007	-	-	11,007	5,201
Premises Costs	-	-	12,929	12,929	27,647
Office running costs	292	-	1,269	1,561	2,321
Insurance	-	-	672	672	4,264
Information technology	-	-	704	704	1,474
Bank charges	-	-	134	134	192
Legal & Professional	-	-	4,509	4,509	8,240
Depreciation	-	-	1,165	1,165	387
Audit fees	-	1,428	-	1,428	2,400
Other Costs	2,146	-	680	2,826	3,374
Total expenditure 2023	220,711	1,428	22,542	244,684	
Total expenditure 2022	176,977	2,400	46,592		225,969

4b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2022 Total £
Staff costs (Note 6)	168,628	-	-	168,628
Recruitment & training	-	-	1,841	1,841
Subsistence & travel	5,201	-	-	5,201
Premises Costs	-	-	27,647	27,647
Office running costs	1,023	-	1,298	2,321
Insurance	-	-	4,264	4,264
Information technology	-	-	1,474	1,474
Bank charges	-	-	192	192
Legal & Professional	-	-	8,240	8,240
Depreciation	-	-	387	387
Audit fees	-	2,400	-	2,400
Other Costs	2,125	-	1,249	3,374
Total expenditure 2022	176,977	2,400	46,592	225,969

5 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	1,164	387
Operating lease rentals:		
• Property	12,929	27,647
Audit fee	1,428	2,400

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	141,413	131,579
Redundancy and termination costs	9,707	-
Social security costs	11,018	5,901
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	9,859	10,157
Agency costs	35,272	20,991
	<u>207,269</u>	<u>168,628</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2022: £nil).

The key management personnel compensation during the year was £51,864 including a redundancy payment of £9,707 (2022: £54,027).

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

7 Staff numbers

	2023 No	2022 No
Operational	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

8 Taxation

SIG Safe Ground is a registered charity and is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable income as it is spent on charitable purposes.

The Charity is part of Social Interest Group VAT registration. However, as virtually 100% of its income is exempt, the VAT on purchases is irrecoverable and therefore included in expenditure.

9 Related party transactions

SIG Safe Ground owed £44,363 to its parent, the Social Interest Group at the year-end (2022: Nil).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant & Machinery £	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
Cost of valuation			
At the start and end of the year	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	21,738	1,509	23,247
Charge for the year	738	421	1,165
At the end of the year	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
Net Book Value			
At the end of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At the start of the year	<u>738</u>	<u>427</u>	<u>1,165</u>

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	-	3,666
Prepayments and accrued income	8,400	6,929
	<u>8,400</u>	<u>10,595</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts owed to parent undertaking	44,363	-
Social security and other taxes	5,193	-
Other creditors	-	5,421
Accruals and deferred income	10,000	109,756
	<u>59,556</u>	<u>115,177</u>

13a Movement in funds (current year)

	At 1/4/2022 (Restated) £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/2023 £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	57,450	4,305	61,755
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	7,644	(7,644)	-
London Community Foundation	13	(13)	-
London Healthy Partnership	4,565	(4,565)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,155	(1,155)	-
ACE The New Normal	6,688	(6,688)	-
Merton Giving	8,272	(8,272)	-
	<u>28,337</u>	<u>(28,337)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds	<u>85,787</u>	<u>(24,032)</u>	<u>61,755</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net Movement £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	219,302	(214,997)	4,305
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation		(7,644)	(7,644)
London Community Foundation		(13)	(13)
London Healthy Partnership		(4,565)	(4,565)
The National Lottery Community Fund		(1,155)	(1,155)
ACE The New Normal	1,350	(8,038)	(6,688)
Merton Giving		(8,272)	(8,272)
	<u>1,350</u>	<u>(29,687)</u>	<u>(28,337)</u>
	<u>220,652</u>	<u>(244,684)</u>	<u>(24,032)</u>

13b Movement in funds (prior year)

	At 1/4/2021 Restated £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/2022 Restated £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	14,957	42,493	57,450
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	9,116	(1,472)	7,644
London Community Foundation	-	13	13
London Healthy Partnership	4,565		4,565
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,155		1,155
ACE The New Normal	-	6,688	6,688
Merton Giving	-	8,272	8,272
	<u>14,836</u>	<u>13,501</u>	<u>28,337</u>
Total funds	29,793	55,994	85,787

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net Movement £
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	239,737	(197,244)	42,493
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	20,000	(21,472)	(1,472)
London Community Foundation	741	(728)	13
ACE The New Normal	12,150	(5,462)	6,688
Merton Giving	9,335	(1,063)	8,272
	<u>42,226</u>	<u>(28,725)</u>	<u>13,501</u>
Total funds	<u>281,963</u>	<u>(225,969)</u>	<u>55,994</u>

The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation

A portion of this fund is reserved for the printing of materials for the new Fathers Inside/Family Man programme. The remaining fund goes primarily towards the Programmes Coordinator salary and core costs

London Community Foundation

This grant was towards the creation and distribution of a creative journal, Thinking Space, to women across London and in prison.

13b Movement in funds (prior year) (continued)

London Healthy Partnership

Funding to provide a programme to reduce anxiety through reading and creative writing in a therapeutically informed group. Members read together and share feedback

The National Lottery Community Fund

This fund was directly for the research of welfare beds in secure settings. This project has so far led to a significant policy change in a metropolitan region where the advisor to the PCC has stated he will no longer be working towards the building of a new secure children's unit, but rather, a radical alternative that will offer children less punitive responses and more therapeutic care.

ACE The New Normal

This is an Arts Council England funded project aimed at developing virtual resources to complement our existing

14 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows for each of the following periods

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Less than one year	-	15,503

15 Guarantees and ultimate parent undertaking

Safe Ground, trading as SIG Safe Ground, is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Social Interest Group became the sole member of Safe Ground on the 1 November 2022, previously all trustees were members. Each member has guaranteed to pay £1 in the event that Safe Ground was wound up. Social Interest Group is the ultimate parent undertaking. Its charity registered number is 158402. Its company registered number is 9122052. Its registered office is: 1 Waterloo Gardens, Milner Square, London N1 1TY.

SAFE GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1048181

Accounts

Digital Certificate

The approved PDF file has been digitally certified. Please check the Digital Certificate information in your PDF viewer to verify the Digital Certificate authenticity and the PDF has not been tampered with.

On behalf of:	Hartley Fowler LLP
PDF digital certificate:	IRIS Software Group Limited
Digital certificate issued by:	GlobalSign

Please keep a copy of this document for your records. Hartley Fowler LLP is powered by IRIS OpenSpace.

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03080847 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1048181

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
FOR
SAFE GROUND**

SAFE GROUND

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8 to 9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 18

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

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The object of the Company is to advance the education of the public, in particular but not exclusively prisoners in the arts, specifically the art of drama, literature and poetry and to use the arts to rehabilitate prisoners, offenders and community members by promoting and developing people's creative and artistic abilities, parenting and relationship skills.

Significant activities

Safe Ground is expert in the design and delivery of arts-based, therapeutic group work. We operate in a range of custodial and community settings nationally, creating spaces in which transformational change can occur. Our work offers access to new perspectives, creates opportunities for discussion and debate, and invites participants to take risks, experiencing themselves and each other in new ways.

Our programmes do create a positive impact; analysis of Fathers Inside shows a 40% reduction in re-offending between programme participants and their counterparts who did not participate (Justice Data Lab, 2016). Our most recent evaluation of Fathers Inside (Blagden 2019) highlighted a statistically significant reduction in parental stress pre/post programme and a significant increase in less-restrictive attitudes towards parenting because of the programme. 76.5% of participants engaged in further ETE (education, training and employment) one month after completing Fathers Inside, compared to 53.6% prior to the programme.

Until March 2020 when a nationwide lockdown forced an end to group work in secure settings and our face-to-face work was put on hold, Safe Ground's flagship programmes had continued to deliver impact and generate interest from a range of stakeholders. They remain an integral part of our organisational strategy and we look forward to establishing the revised versions of Fathers Inside and Family Man and expanding our network when it is safe to do so.

"You guys gave me so much power and helped me out through everything. It's really shocking to realise that I thought I was strong before but now I feel really strong."

Our Own Stories Participant, 2021

Throughout the challenges of 2019/2020 the team worked tirelessly to adapt our ways of working, build on our impact, and produce outcomes for both existing, emerging and new audiences. At HMP Parc, where they are adequately resourced to deliver short programmes, Man Up was delivered twice to small groups of men on the Family Interventions Unit.

Our Own Stories was modified for online delivery, reaching 38 women between July 2020 and February 2021; new programmes Great Minds and The Common Room provided spaces where group members came together to share their emotional responses during the covid pandemic. Our Human Writes series and Thinking Space packs demonstrate our commitment to producing high quality creative resources stimulating thoughts, ideas and stories in their users; Family Focus is an audio-visual family relationship programme developed in response to a call for digital resources suitable for in cell learning; The Comfort Zone represents the value of Safe Ground processes in community settings. The programme's inclusion as part of a new integrated service models for mental health can be replicated in secure settings.

"I used the word nourishing about my experience of the group. There was something that felt nurturing about the experience of feeling seen in my fullness ie. both what I present in a more explicit way on a day-to-day level, and also the parts I usually try to keep hidden."

Great Minds Participant, 2020/21

Between April 2020 and March 2021, we worked with a total of 72 men and women who joined us online from across England and Wales. We distributed hard copy resources to approximately 400 people in secure and community settings nationally. We are more committed than ever to the creation of inclusive and empathetic communities, working towards a world without punishment.

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity meet the public benefit requirement; and that the charity's activities are in support of those aims.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

When the U.K. went into lockdown, visits were suspended indefinitely, and we spent some time considering how we could offer comfort and meaningful activity for men and women going through lockdown in prison. Our earliest contribution took the form of illustrated letters, each of which included short instalments of an original short story for children, 'The Little Foxes'. It was our intention that these letters could provide inspiration to those who received them. Within the context of 23-hour lockdowns in prisons, we wanted to demonstrate that imagination and creativity can prosper anywhere. Our letters sampled various techniques for communicating through letter writing, including through the use of illustration. Human Writes is a series of ten, unique, creative reading and writing resources, designed by Safe Ground to inspire artistic expression through group or self-directed learning.

Our Own Stories women's programme continues to run as part of the Minerva Wrap Around service for women across London. At the beginning of the year we adapted the programme for online delivery and have welcomed 38 women over 6 week programmes since April. Programme delivery will continue online until face to face work can resume safely.

As an immediate response to the impact of lockdown and Covid restrictions on women in London, we designed and produced our Thinking Space Cards and Journals. We were generously funded by the London Community Foundation to create a set of high-quality resources as an offer of immediate practical support to the vulnerable women we work with through the Minerva Wrap Around project, prisons and other community and secure settings working with women across London. These resources comprise of a hardback journal, a set of strength cards, and a blank greetings card.

Revisions to Fathers Inside have continued despite delivery being paused for most of the year. The final version of the complete FI manual and training resources is almost ready for production.

With new technology and socially distanced experiences in mind, we began to design and deliver services for a new online world. Two weeks later, we held our first public Reflective Group, Great Minds- a space open to everyone, designed to encourage and support collective reflection for personal and professional development. From England to Mexico, Ireland to the United States, group members came together to think about their emotional responses, thoughts, ideas and concerns during the Covid-19 pandemic. We brought back Great Minds in April, after ending it in December, for a time-bound 8 week run, which provided a further space for reflection.

Covid-19 exacerbated the already significant barriers to positive family ties faced by people in prison and we recognised family support would be more crucial than ever. In consultation with colleagues in secure settings, we began the developed Family Focus, a family relationships programme designed for self-directed/in-cell learning. The programme has been designed in order to sustain a focus on family relationships for men unable to access group work at the moment. These resources act as both engagement tools for face-to-face group work when it returns, and stand-alone personal development materials.

In 2020 Safe Ground was invited by the Prisoner Learning Alliance (PLA) to host a once monthly reflective practice group for prison-based educators among their membership, called The Common Room. Participants with a broad range of experience as teachers working in secure settings joined us online from all over the country to reflect as a group on their experiences of, and their relationships to their work. Safe Ground continues to work closely with the PLA to evaluate the need and the impact of these processes for educators among their membership.

The bid we submitted to design a new community programme with the London Health Partnership was successful. The Comfort Zone was designed as an online therapeutic creative reading and writing programme for residents in Merton suffering from social isolation and low-level mental health issues. Delivery will begin in 2021.

Over the year we have continued to contribute to policy and practice through a range of formal and informal routes; contributing to important conversations around the new Probation contracts with HMPPS, participating in online events and conferences with Voice of the Child, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and MizogArts.

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review and reserves

Income for the period was £281,963 (2021: £229,652). Expenditure was £225,969 (2021: £192,984).

The surplus for the period was £55,994 (2021: £36,668).

Reserves carried forward at the year end are £193,143 (2021: £137,149) of which £163,334 (2021: £122,313) is unrestricted and £29,809 (2021: £14,836) is restricted.

Safe Ground's reserves policy aims to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves which will enable it to meet its future commitments and ensure that there are adequate funds to run the charity for a period of at least six months, having regard to the requirements of its planned projects. Management and Trustees maintain a consistent and vigilant review of the financial health and well being of the organisation.

In the last financial year, Safe Ground's expenditure against its unrestricted funds amounted to £197,244 (2021: £163,110). At 31 March 2022, the charity's unrestricted reserves amounted to £163,334 (2021: £122,313). This level of reserves is therefore more than sufficient to meet the charity's reserves policy.

This level of unrestricted reserves has been built up over the last few years and has permitted the charity to continue to fund its core development plans during a period when the funding for such expenditure has become ever more restricted. Contract income within and across the secure estate and prison education commissioning are both expected to increase over the next year which the Trustees hope will again deliver increasing contributions towards core costs.

The Trustees were satisfied of the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and continue to monitor income and the reserves position. The board are also exploring the potential for a merger with a like minded charity..

Principal risks and uncertainties

Although Covid 19 curtailed much of our in person work in 2020, we adapted many of our programmes and feel prepared for 2022. Alongside our extensive activities during the lockdown period, we have been able to continue to plan and develop future work. We have a solid basis for our financial position over the next 12 months with a good base of secured income and a large range of possible new opportunities for development. Covid 19 has limited financial impact on this financial year.

The impact of Covid 19 on people in prison and their families is a priority concern for Safe Ground. Our work and function is only significant if it can support people in crisis or in need of our services. The risks facing Safe Ground for the year ahead continue to be financial stability- particularly in the context of a period of hiatus for all delivery and impact collection, funding priorities and access to our network of delivery sites for development work.

The Trustees decided not to implement the furlough scheme, but in consultation with the team, we decided to reduce our hours and continue to deliver quality services. As a result of this decision we have been able to ensure the impact of a range of new and existing interventions outlined above. The staff team have made a huge contribution and sacrifice to the organisation, and this may lead to a retention risk in the year ahead.

There are several new areas of work developing for us in the year ahead, all at early stages of agreement but significant as contributions to the new Probation formulation, new partnerships and delivery sites and we look forward to those coming to fruition efficiently. There is always a risk that work in advanced discussion can fail to materialise and for a small organisation like Safe Ground, often cashflow and projections seem not to correlate. While we are used to the perennial risks of delivering high quality services in an increasingly price focused environment, now more than ever we are aware of the risks ahead. The Trustees are engaged and actively involved in strategic thinking and planning and we work to future proof the organisation with our approach. We intend to improve our communications, raise our profile and sustain our impact, driving commissioning and philanthropic funding and transforming individual, group and institutional dynamics.

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

FUTURE PLANS

The New Normal: We await confirmation of the awards from Arts Council England for The New Normal project. We have begun to partner with relevant agencies to develop pioneering, accessible and engaging material for people in prison via digital routes. We are at the start of this with HMP Berwyn & HMP Wayland and are keen to work with HMPPS and others to create resources that can act as engagement, follow up, and complimentary resources to our face-to-face work on relationships, during, and after, the Covid19 restrictions. This project will see us work with prison education providers, in-cell TV providers, people in prison and their family members, Ministry of Justice and HMPPS representatives, artists, facilitators and broadcasters to design a complete module ready for production and inclusion in 'virtual' learning environments.

Reed in Partnership: Safe Ground to work with Reed in Partnership to deliver Human Citizenship and Community & Social Activities at the Croydon Activity Hub over a 28-month period to begin in June 2021.

New delivery with the Forward Trust in Health and Well Being probation contracts is in advanced negotiation due to begin in June 2021 for four years.

In Prisons: For 2022, despite the huge impact Covid 19 has had on people in prison and their families, we have a significant amount of relevant work in planning, and are ready to deliver our programmes face to face when this becomes available. HMP Parc will continue to deliver Fathers Inside and Man Up across two separate age groups on site. Covid is less of an interruption to delivery in this establishment as internal staff deliver with the support of Safe Ground team members on a quality assurance basis. We have contracted delivery of Man Up and Fathers Inside across both HMPs Wayland and Norwich. We will deliver these programmes as soon as appropriate.

Our Own Stories: is planned to continue until at least March 2022 and we very much hope to extend the service and develop an alumni package for women participants.

We will continue to publish our regular series of blogs (Critical Care) in coordination with The Zahid Mubarek Trust and Project 507 on the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies website.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Safe Ground is a registered charity controlled by its governing document and a deed of trust. Its constitution is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11 July 1995 as amended by special resolution dated 26 January 2011.

Safe Ground is also a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Company is governed by a board of trustees, whose principal responsibilities are the setting and monitoring of the strategic direction of the organisation and the establishment of policy. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no financial benefits from the Company.

The board of trustees meets a minimum of four times a year. Individual trustees also have the responsibilities to support the CEO, who has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Company.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by the board of trustees. The board seeks to ensure that there is an appropriate balance of experience and representation relevant to the operations of the Company.

Recruitment of new trustees is undertaken by the board through nomination and interview. Induction of new trustees is done through meetings with individual staff members, attending events and training sessions run by the Company and detailed discussion with other board members.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03080847 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1048181

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

Registered office

4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Principal address

2 Langley Lane
London
SW8 1GB

Trustees

D Lennan - Chair
T Fatima - Treasurer
D Rodger (resigned 20/5/22)
L Lines
J Rehouse (resigned 15/12/21)
J Smith
J Bailey (resigned 20/5/22)
R Lambe
G Wyld (resigned 27/10/21)
B McDonough (appointed 15/12/21)

Independent Examiner

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

D Lennan - Chair - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SAFE GROUND

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Safe Ground ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

Jonathan Askew
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

28 October 2022

SAFE GROUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	239,711	42,226	281,937	229,475
Other trading activities	4	-	-	-	100
Investment income	5	26	-	26	77
Total		<u>239,737</u>	<u>42,226</u>	<u>281,963</u>	<u>229,652</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	6				
Charitable activities		197,244	28,725	225,969	192,984
NET INCOME		42,493	13,501	55,994	36,668
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		122,313	14,836	137,149	100,481
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>164,806</u>	<u>28,337</u>	<u>193,143</u>	<u>137,149</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SAFE GROUND (REGISTERED NUMBER: 03080847)**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	1,165	-	1,165	1,552
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	10,595	-	10,595	2,291
Cash at bank and in hand		160,867	28,337	189,204	166,526
		<u>171,462</u>	<u>28,337</u>	<u>199,799</u>	<u>168,817</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(7,821)	-	(7,821)	(33,220)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>163,641</u>	<u>28,337</u>	<u>191,978</u>	<u>135,597</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>164,806</u>	<u>28,337</u>	<u>193,143</u>	<u>137,149</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>164,806</u>	<u>28,337</u>	<u>193,143</u>	<u>137,149</u>
FUNDS	17				
Unrestricted funds				164,806	122,313
Restricted funds				<u>28,337</u>	<u>14,836</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>193,143</u>	<u>137,149</u>

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

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

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

SAFE GROUND (REGISTERED NUMBER: 03080847)

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 October 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

D Lennan - Chair - Trustee

T Fatima - Treasurer - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Safe Ground is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donations or grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the donations or grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from contracts in respect of services provided is recognised when, and to the extent that, performance occurs and is measured at the fair value of the consideration receivable.

Income deferred is shown within creditors.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Since there is no direct cost to holding Trustee Board meetings and no Trustee Board expenses are reimbursed, governance costs only include the independent examination fee.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs include all those overhead costs of office, utility services and other services and costs, which are in support of the activity. They have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued
Tangible fixed assets

Plant and machinery	- 25% on reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Creditors

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

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	2,781	1,920
Grants	157,226	123,555
Contracts	121,930	104,000
	<u>281,937</u>	<u>229,475</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES - continued

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	20,000	29,166
John Armitage Charitable Trust	41,667	20,000
Aurum Charitable Trust	-	40,000
Goldsmith Fund	15,000	20,000
London Community Foundation	-	5,824
Clinks/HMPPS	-	4,000
London Healthy Partnership	-	4,565
Aurum Charitable Trust	43,333	-
ACE - The New Normal - Arts Council Grant		
	12,150	-
Merton Giving - Comfort Zone	9,335	-
AB Charitable Trust	15,000	-
Other grants	741	-
	<u>157,226</u>	<u>123,555</u>

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fundraising events	-	100
	<u>-</u>	<u>100</u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	26	77
	<u>26</u>	<u>77</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	176,977	48,992	225,969
	<u>176,977</u>	<u>48,992</u>	<u>225,969</u>

SAFE GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	147,637	144,988
Printing, postage and stationery	886	5,772
Conferences, events and business development	2,125	2,060
Freelancers	20,991	1,875
Travel	5,201	621
Repairs and maintenance	137	-
	<u>176,977</u>	<u>155,316</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Information technology	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	<u>36,686</u>	<u>8,432</u>	<u>1,474</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>48,992</u>

Included in finance costs is £nil (2021: £nil) in respect of fees charged by the Independent Examiner for the provision of payroll services.

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2022 Charitable activities	2021 Total activities
	£	£
Insurance	4,264	4,534
Telephone	1,298	1,492
Sundries	1,249	1,226
Rent	27,647	17,140
Staff training	1,841	2,408
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	387	516
	<u>36,686</u>	<u>27,316</u>

Finance

	2022 Charitable activities	2021 Total activities
	£	£
Bank charges	192	138
Financial outsourcing	8,240	6,567
	<u>8,432</u>	<u>6,705</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
8. SUPPORT COSTS - continued
Information technology

	2022 Charitable activities £	2021 Total activities £
Computer running costs	1,474	1,247

Governance costs

	2022 Charitable activities £	2021 Total activities £
Independent examiners' fee	2,400	2,400

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation - owned assets	387	516

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

11. STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	131,579	126,303
Social security costs	5,901	8,581
Other pension costs	10,157	10,104
	<u>147,637</u>	<u>144,988</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Charitable project staff	4	4

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The key management personnel compensation during the year was £54,027 (2020: £58,685).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	185,920	43,555	229,475
Other trading activities	100	-	100
Investment income	77	-	77
Total	<u>186,097</u>	<u>43,555</u>	<u>229,652</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	163,110	29,874	192,984
NET INCOME	<u>22,987</u>	<u>13,681</u>	<u>36,668</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	99,326	1,155	100,481
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>122,313</u>	<u>14,836</u>	<u>137,149</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2021	21,493	1,367	22,860
Charge for year	245	142	387
At 31 March 2022	<u>21,738</u>	<u>1,509</u>	<u>23,247</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2022	<u>738</u>	<u>427</u>	<u>1,165</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>983</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>1,552</u>

SAFE GROUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	3,666	-
Prepayments and accrued income	6,929	2,291
	<u>10,595</u>	<u>2,291</u>

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	-	3,817
Other creditors	5,421	1,262
Accruals and deferred income	2,400	28,141
	<u>7,821</u>	<u>33,220</u>

Accruals and deferred income includes deferred income of £nil (2021: £25,741).

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	15,503	20,670
Between one and five years	-	15,503
	<u>15,503</u>	<u>36,173</u>

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/21	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	122,313	42,493	164,806
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	9,116	(1,472)	7,644
London Community Foundation	-	13	13
London Healthy Partnership	4,565	-	4,565
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,155	-	1,155
ACE - The New Normal	-	6,688	6,688
Merton Giving	-	8,272	8,272
	<u>14,836</u>	<u>13,501</u>	<u>28,337</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>137,149</u>	<u>55,994</u>	<u>193,143</u>

SAFE GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	239,737	(197,244)	42,493
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	20,000	(21,472)	(1,472)
London Community Foundation	741	(728)	13
ACE - The New Normal	12,150	(5,462)	6,688
Merton Giving	9,335	(1,063)	8,272
	<u>42,226</u>	<u>(28,725)</u>	<u>13,501</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>281,963</u>	<u>(225,969)</u>	<u>55,994</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	99,326	22,987	122,313
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	-	9,116	9,116
London Healthy Partnership	-	4,565	4,565
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,155	-	1,155
	<u>1,155</u>	<u>13,681</u>	<u>14,836</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>100,481</u>	<u>36,668</u>	<u>137,149</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	186,097	(163,110)	22,987
Restricted funds			
Clinks/HMPPS	4,000	(4,000)	-
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	29,166	(20,050)	9,116
London Community Foundation	5,824	(5,824)	-
London Healthy Partnership	4,565	-	4,565
	<u>43,555</u>	<u>(29,874)</u>	<u>13,681</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>229,652</u>	<u>(192,984)</u>	<u>36,668</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation

A portion of this fund is reserved for the printing of materials for the new Fathers Inside/Family Man programme. The remaining fund goes primarily towards the Programmes Coordinator salary and core costs.

London Community Foundation

This grant was towards the creation and distribution of a creative journal, Thinking Space, to women across London and in prison.

London Healthy Partnership

Funding to provide a programme to reduce anxiety through reading and creative writing in a therapeutically informed group. Members read together and share feedback.

The National Lottery Community Fund

This fund was directly for the research of welfare beds in secure settings. This project has so far led to a significant policy change in a metropolitan region where the advisor to the PCC has stated he will no longer be working towards the building of a new secure children's unit, but rather, a radical alternative that will offer children less punitive responses and more therapeutic care.

ACE The New Normal

This is an Arts Council England funded project aimed at developing virtual resources to complement our existing resources reaching both people in prison and their families.

The Merton Giving Renewal Fund

The funding is to enable to delivery of 6 programmes of 'The Comfort Zone' to residents in Merton. The programme is designed for people suffering anxiety and mild mental health concerns.

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

SAFE GROUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1048181

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03080847 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1048181

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
FOR
SAFE GROUND

SAFE GROUND

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8 to 9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 19

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The object of the Company is to advance the education of the public, in particular but not exclusively prisoners in the arts, specifically the art of drama, literature and poetry and to use the arts to rehabilitate prisoners, offenders and community members by promoting and developing people's creative and artistic abilities, parenting and relationship skills.

Significant activities

Safe Ground is expert in the design and delivery of arts-based, therapeutic group work. We operate in a range of custodial and community settings nationally, creating spaces in which transformational change can occur. Our work offers access to new perspectives, creates opportunities for discussion and debate, and invites participants to take risks, experiencing themselves and each other in new ways.

Our programmes do create a positive impact; analysis of Fathers Inside shows a 40% reduction in re-offending between programme participants and their counterparts who did not participate (Justice Data Lab, 2016). Our most recent evaluation of Fathers Inside (Blagden 2019) highlighted a statistically significant reduction in parental stress pre/post programme and a significant increase in less-restrictive attitudes towards parenting because of the programme. 76.5% of participants engaged in further ETE (education, training and employment) one month after completing Fathers Inside, compared to 53.6% prior to the programme.

Until March 2020 when a nationwide lockdown forced an end to group work in secure settings and our face-to-face work was put on hold, Safe Ground's flagship programmes had continued to deliver impact and generate interest from a range of stakeholders. They remain an integral part of our organisational strategy and we look forward to establishing the revised versions of Fathers Inside and Family Man and expanding our network when it is safe to do so.

"You guys gave me so much power and helped me out through everything. It's really shocking to realise that I thought I was strong before but now I feel really strong."
Our Own Stories Participant, 2021

Throughout the challenges of 2019/2020 the team worked tirelessly to adapt our ways of working, build on our impact, and produce outcomes for both existing, emerging and new audiences. At HMP Parc, where they are adequately resourced to deliver short programmes, Man Up was delivered twice to small groups of men on the Family Interventions Unit.

Our Own Stories was modified for online delivery, reaching 38 women between July 2020 and February 2021; new programmes Great Minds and The Common Room provided spaces where group members came together to share their emotional responses during the covid pandemic. Our Human Writes series and Thinking Space packs demonstrate our commitment to producing high quality creative resources stimulating thoughts, ideas and stories in their users; Family Focus is an audio-visual family relationship programme developed in response to a call for digital resources suitable for in cell learning; The Comfort Zone represents the value of Safe Ground processes in community settings. The programme's inclusion as part of a new integrated service models for mental health can be replicated in secure settings.

"I used the word nourishing about my experience of the group. There was something that felt nurturing about the experience of feeling seen in my fullness ie. both what I present in a more explicit way on a day-to-day level, and also the parts I usually try to keep hidden."
Great Minds Participant, 2020/21

Between April 2020 and March 2021, we worked with a total of 72 men and women who joined us online from across England and Wales. We distributed hard copy resources to approximately 400 people in secure and community settings nationally. We are more committed than ever to the creation of inclusive and empathetic communities, working towards a world without punishment.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity meet the public benefit requirement; and that the charity's activities are in support of those aims.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

When the U.K. went into lockdown, visits were suspended indefinitely, and we spent some time considering how we could offer comfort and meaningful activity for men and women going through lockdown in prison. Our earliest contribution took the form of illustrated letters, each of which included short instalments of an original short story for children, 'The Little Foxes'. It was our intention that these letters could provide inspiration to those who received them. Within the context of 23-hour lockdowns in prisons, we wanted to demonstrate that imagination and creativity can prosper anywhere. Our letters sampled various techniques for communicating through letter writing, including through the use of illustration. Human Writes is a series of ten, unique, creative reading and writing resources, designed by Safe Ground to inspire artistic expression through group or self-directed learning.

Our Own Stories women's programme continues to run as part of the Minerva Wrap Around service for women across London. At the beginning of the year we adapted the programme for online delivery and have welcomed 38 women over 6 week programmes since April. Programme delivery will continue online until face to face work can resume safely.

As an immediate response to the impact of lockdown and Covid restrictions on women in London, we designed and produced our Thinking Space Cards and Journals. We were generously funded by the London Community Foundation to create a set of high-quality resources as an offer of immediate practical support to the vulnerable women we work with through the Minerva Wrap Around project, prisons and other community and secure settings working with women across London. These resources comprise of a hardback journal, a set of strength cards, and a blank greetings card.

Revisions to Fathers Inside have continued despite delivery being paused for most of the year. The final version of the complete FI manual and training resources is almost ready for production.

With new technology and socially distanced experiences in mind, we began to design and deliver services for a new online world. Two weeks later, we held our first public Reflective Group, Great Minds- a space open to everyone, designed to encourage and support collective reflection for personal and professional development. From England to Mexico, Ireland to the United States, group members came together to think about their emotional responses, thoughts, ideas and concerns during the Covid-19 pandemic. We brought back Great Minds in April, after ending it in December, for a time-bound 8 week run, which provided a further space for reflection.

Covid-19 exacerbated the already significant barriers to positive family ties faced by people in prison and we recognised family support would be more crucial than ever. In consultation with colleagues in secure settings, we began to develop Family Focus, a family relationships programme designed for self-directed/in-cell learning. The programme has been designed in order to sustain a focus on family relationships for men unable to access group work at the moment. These resources act as both engagement tools for face-to-face group work when it returns, and stand-alone personal development materials.

In 2020 Safe Ground was invited by the Prisoner Learning Alliance (PLA) to host a once monthly reflective practice group for prison-based educators among their membership, called The Common Room. Participants with a broad range of experience as teachers working in secure settings joined us online from all over the country to reflect as a group on their experiences of, and their relationships to their work. Safe Ground continues to work closely with the PLA to evaluate the need and the impact of these processes for educators among their membership.

The bid we submitted to design a new community programme with the London Health Partnership was successful. The Comfort Zone was designed as an online therapeutic creative reading and writing programme for residents in Merton suffering from social isolation and low-level mental health issues. Delivery will begin in 2021.

Over the year we have continued to contribute to policy and practice through a range of formal and informal routes; contributing to important conversations around the new Probation contracts with HMPPS, participating in online events and conferences with Voice of the Child, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and MizogArts.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review and reserves

Income for the period was £229,652 (2020: £219,097). Expenditure was £192,984 (2020: £252,395).

The surplus for the period was £36,668 (2020: £33,298 deficit).

Reserves carried forward at the year end are £137,149 (2020: £100,481) of which £122,313 (2020: £99,326) is unrestricted and £14,836 (2020: £1,155) is restricted.

Safe Ground's reserves policy aims to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves which will enable it to meet its future commitments and ensure that there are adequate funds to run the charity for a period of at least six months, having regard to the requirements of its planned projects. Management and Trustees maintain a consistent and vigilant review of the financial health and well being of the organisation.

In the last financial year, Safe Ground's expenditure against its unrestricted funds amounted to £163,110 (2020: £208,334). At 31 March 2021, the charity's unrestricted reserves amounted to £122,313 (2020: £99,326). This level of reserves is therefore more than sufficient to meet the charity's reserves policy.

This level of unrestricted reserves has been built up over the last few years and has permitted the charity to continue to fund its core development plans during a period when the funding for such expenditure has become ever more restricted. Contract income within and across the secure estate and prison education commissioning are both expected to increase over the next year which the Trustees hope will again deliver increasing contributions towards core costs.

There are no funds in deficit and the trustees have no uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern based on the income in the year ahead.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Although Covid 19 curtailed much of our in person work in 2020, we adapted many of our programmes and feel prepared for 2022. Alongside our extensive activities during the lockdown period, we have been able to continue to plan and develop future work. We have a solid basis for our financial position over the next 12 months with a good base of secured income and a large range of possible new opportunities for development. Covid 19 has limited financial impact on this financial year.

The impact of Covid 19 on people in prison and their families is a priority concern for Safe Ground. Our work and function is only significant if it can support people in crisis or in need of our services. The risks facing Safe Ground for the year ahead continue to be financial stability- particularly in the context of a period of hiatus for all delivery and impact collection, funding priorities and access to our network of delivery sites for development work.

The Trustees decided not to implement the furlough scheme, but in consultation with the team, we decided to reduce our hours and continue to deliver quality services. As a result of this decision we have been able to ensure the impact of a range of new and existing interventions outlined above. The staff team have made a huge contribution and sacrifice to the organisation, and this may lead to a retention risk in the year ahead.

There are several new areas of work developing for us in the year ahead, all at early stages of agreement but significant as contributions to the new Probation formulation, new partnerships and delivery sites and we look forward to those coming to fruition efficiently. There is always a risk that work in advanced discussion can fail to materialise and for a small organisation like Safe Ground, often cashflow and projections seem not to correlate. While we are used to the perennial risks of delivering high quality services in an increasingly price focused environment, now more than ever we are aware of the risks ahead. The Trustees are engaged and actively involved in strategic thinking and planning and we work to future proof the organisation with our approach. We intend to improve our communications, raise our profile and sustain our impact, driving commissioning and philanthropic funding and transforming individual, group and institutional dynamics.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FUTURE PLANS

The New Normal: We await confirmation of the awards from Arts Council England for The New Normal project. We have begun to partner with relevant agencies to develop pioneering, accessible and engaging material for people in prison via digital routes. We are at the start of this with HMP Berwyn & HMP Wayland and are keen to work with HMPPS and others to create resources that can act as engagement, follow up, and complimentary resources to our face-to-face work on relationships, during, and after, the Covid19 restrictions. This project will see us work with prison education providers, in-cell TV providers, people in prison and their family members, Ministry of Justice and HMPPS representatives, artists, facilitators and broadcasters to design a complete module ready for production and inclusion in 'virtual' learning environments.

Reed in Partnership: Safe Ground to work with Reed in Partnership to deliver Human Citizenship and Community & Social Activities at the Croydon Activity Hub over a 28-month period to begin in June 2021.

New delivery with the Forward Trust in Health and Well Being probation contracts is in advanced negotiation due to begin in June 2021 for four years.

In Prisons: For 2022, despite the huge impact Covid 19 has had on people in prison and their families, we have a significant amount of relevant work in planning, and are ready to deliver our programmes face to face when this becomes available. HMP Parc will continue to deliver Fathers Inside and Man Up across two separate age groups on site. Covid is less of an interruption to delivery in this establishment as internal staff deliver with the support of Safe Ground team members on a quality assurance basis. We have contracted delivery of Man Up and Fathers Inside across both HMPs Wayland and Norwich. We will deliver these programmes as soon as appropriate.

Our Own Stories: is planned to continue until at least March 2022 and we very much hope to extend the service and develop an alumni package for women participants.

We will continue to publish our regular series of blogs (Critical Care) in coordination with The Zahid Mubarek Trust and Project 507 on the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies website.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Safe Ground is a registered charity controlled by its governing document and a deed of trust. Its constitution is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11 July 1995 as amended by special resolution dated 26 January 2011.

Safe Ground is also a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Company is governed by a board of trustees, whose principal responsibilities are the setting and monitoring of the strategic direction of the organisation and the establishment of policy. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no financial benefits from the Company.

The board of trustees meets a minimum of four times a year. Individual trustees also have the responsibilities to support the CEO, who has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Company.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by the board of trustees. The board seeks to ensure that there is an appropriate balance of experience and representation relevant to the operations of the Company.

Recruitment of new trustees is undertaken by the board through nomination and interview. Induction of new trustees is done through meetings with individual staff members, attending events and training sessions run by the Company and detailed discussion with other board members.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03080847 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1048181

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Registered office
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Principal address
2 Langley Lane
London
SW8 1GB

Trustees
Ms D Lennan - Chair
Mrs T Fatima - Treasurer (appointed 12/11/20)
Mr A Stebbings (resigned 1/4/20)
Ms D Rodger
Ms L Lines
Mr J Rehouse
Mr J Smith
Ms J Bailey
Mr R Lambe
Miss G Wyld

Independent Examiner
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 8 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Ms D Lennan - Chair - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SAFE GROUND

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Safe Ground ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

Jonathan Askew
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

9 December 2021

SAFE GROUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	185,920	43,555	229,475	218,139
Other trading activities	4	100	-	100	710
Investment income	5	77	-	77	248
Total		186,097	43,555	229,652	219,097
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	6				
Charitable activities		163,110	29,874	192,984	252,395
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		22,987	13,681	36,668	(33,298)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		99,326	1,155	100,481	133,779
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		122,313	14,836	137,149	100,481

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	1,552	-	1,552	2,068
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	2,291	-	2,291	7,629
Cash at bank and in hand		150,949	15,577	166,526	151,072
		<u>153,240</u>	<u>15,577</u>	<u>168,817</u>	<u>158,701</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(32,479)	(741)	(33,220)	(60,288)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>120,761</u>	<u>14,836</u>	<u>135,597</u>	<u>98,413</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>122,313</u>	<u>14,836</u>	<u>137,149</u>	<u>100,481</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>122,313</u>	<u>14,836</u>	<u>137,149</u>	<u>100,481</u>
FUNDS	17				
Unrestricted funds				122,313	99,326
Restricted funds				<u>14,836</u>	<u>1,155</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>137,149</u>	<u>100,481</u>

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

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

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2021

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8 December 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Ms D Lennan - Chair - Trustee

Mrs T Fatima - Treasurer - Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Safe Ground is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donations or grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the donations or grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from contracts in respect of services provided is recognised when, and to the extent that, performance occurs and is measured at the fair value of the consideration receivable.

Income deferred is shown within creditors.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Since there is no direct cost to holding Trustee Board meetings and no Trustee Board expenses are reimbursed, governance costs only include the independent examination fee.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs include all those overhead costs of office, utility services and other services and costs, which are in support of the activity. They have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Plant and machinery	- 25% on reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Creditors

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

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	1,920	287
Grants	123,555	117,302
Contracts	104,000	100,550
	<u>229,475</u>	<u>218,139</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES - continued

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
The Tudor Trust	-	14,968
Dulverton Trust	-	27,500
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	29,166	4,167
John Armitage Charitable Trust	20,000	20,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,000
Aurum Charitable Trust	40,000	36,667
Goldsmith Fund	20,000	5,000
London Community Foundation	5,824	-
Clinks/HMPPS	4,000	-
London Healthy Partnership	4,565	-
	<u>123,555</u>	<u>117,302</u>

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Fundraising events	<u>100</u>	<u>710</u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021 £	2020 £
Deposit account interest	<u>77</u>	<u>248</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Charitable activities	<u>155,316</u>	<u>37,668</u>	<u>192,984</u>

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs	144,988	150,129
Printing, postage and stationery	5,772	1,869
Conferences, events and business development	2,060	3,621
Freelancers	1,875	33,784
Travel	621	15,756
Project Production Costs	-	222
Research materials	-	1,500
	<u>155,316</u>	<u>206,881</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Information technology	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	<u>27,316</u>	<u>6,705</u>	<u>1,247</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>37,668</u>

Included in finance costs is £nil (2020: £360) in respect of fees charged by the Independent Examiner for the provision of payroll services.

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2021 Charitable activities £	2020 Total activities £
Insurance	4,534	3,723
Telephone	1,492	1,503
Sundries	1,226	1,023
Rent	17,140	26,773
Office equipment	-	1,282
Staff training	2,408	1,478
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	516	689
	<u>27,316</u>	<u>36,471</u>

Finance

	2021 Charitable activities £	2020 Total activities £
Bank charges	138	209
Financial outsourcing	6,567	5,749
	<u>6,705</u>	<u>5,958</u>

Information technology

	2021 Charitable activities £	2020 Total activities £
Computer running costs	1,247	685

Governance costs

	2021 Charitable activities £	2020 Total activities £
Independent examiners' fee	2,400	2,400

SAFE GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>516</u>	<u>689</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

11. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	126,303	129,713
Social security costs	8,581	10,336
Other pension costs	<u>10,104</u>	<u>10,080</u>
	<u>144,988</u>	<u>150,129</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Charitable project staff	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The key management personnel compensation during the year was £54,027 (2020: £58,685).

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	190,004	28,135	218,139
Other trading activities	710	-	710
Investment income	<u>248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>248</u>
Total	190,962	28,135	219,097
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	208,334	44,061	252,395
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>(17,372)</u>	<u>(15,926)</u>	<u>(33,298)</u>

SAFE GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	116,698	17,081	133,779
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>99,326</u>	<u>1,155</u>	<u>100,481</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	<u>22,476</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>24,412</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2020	21,166	1,178	22,344
Charge for year	<u>327</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>516</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>21,493</u>	<u>1,367</u>	<u>22,860</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2021	<u>983</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>1,552</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>1,310</u>	<u>758</u>	<u>2,068</u>

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,291</u>	<u>7,629</u>

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Social security and other taxes	3,817	3,722
Other creditors	1,262	-
Accruals and deferred income	<u>28,141</u>	<u>56,566</u>
	<u>33,220</u>	<u>60,288</u>

Accruals and deferred income includes deferred income of £25,741 (2020: £54,166).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	20,670	18,603
Between one and five years	15,503	-
	<u>36,173</u>	<u>18,603</u>

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	99,326	22,987	122,313
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	-	9,116	9,116
London Healthy Partnership	-	4,565	4,565
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,155	-	1,155
	<u>1,155</u>	<u>13,681</u>	<u>14,836</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>100,481</u>	<u>36,668</u>	<u>137,149</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	186,097	(163,110)	22,987
Restricted funds			
Clinks/HMPs	4,000	(4,000)	-
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	29,166	(20,050)	9,116
London Community Foundation	5,824	(5,824)	-
London Healthy Partnership	4,565	-	4,565
	<u>43,555</u>	<u>(29,874)</u>	<u>13,681</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>229,652</u>	<u>(192,984)</u>	<u>36,668</u>

SAFE GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	116,698	(17,372)	99,326
Restricted funds			
The Henry Smith Charity	17,081	(17,081)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	1,155	1,155
	<u>17,081</u>	<u>(15,926)</u>	<u>1,155</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>133,779</u></u>	<u><u>(33,298)</u></u>	<u><u>100,481</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	190,962	(208,334)	(17,372)
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	4,167	(4,167)	-
The Henry Smith Charity	-	(17,081)	(17,081)
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,000	(7,845)	1,155
The Tudor Trust	14,968	(14,968)	-
	<u>28,135</u>	<u>(44,061)</u>	<u>(15,926)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>219,097</u></u>	<u><u>(252,395)</u></u>	<u><u>(33,298)</u></u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	116,698	5,615	122,313
Restricted funds			
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	-	9,116	9,116
The Henry Smith Charity	17,081	(17,081)	-
London Healthy Partnership	-	4,565	4,565
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	1,155	1,155
	<u>17,081</u>	<u>(2,245)</u>	<u>14,836</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>133,779</u></u>	<u><u>3,370</u></u>	<u><u>137,149</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	377,059	(371,444)	5,615
Restricted funds			
Clinks/HMPPS	4,000	(4,000)	-
The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	33,333	(24,217)	9,116
The Henry Smith Charity	-	(17,081)	(17,081)
London Community Foundation	5,824	(5,824)	-
London Healthy Partnership	4,565	-	4,565
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,000	(7,845)	1,155
The Tudor Trust	14,968	(14,968)	-
	<u>71,690</u>	<u>(73,935)</u>	<u>(2,245)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>448,749</u>	<u>(445,379)</u>	<u>3,370</u>

Clinks/HMPPS

Funding for the adaptation of the Family Man and Fathers Inside group work programmes.

The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation

A portion of this fund is reserved for the printing of materials for the new Fathers Inside/Family Man programme. The remaining fund goes primarily towards the Programmes Coordinator salary and core costs.

The Henry Smith Charity

Funds contributing towards the core costs of the Programmes Manager and the Executive Director to deliver prison work.

London Community Foundation

This grant was towards the creation and distribution of a creative journal, Thinking Space, to women across London and in prison.

London Healthy Partnership

Funding to provide a programme to reduce anxiety through reading and creative writing in a therapeutically informed group. Members read together and share feedback.

The National Lottery Community Fund

This fund was directly for the research of welfare beds in secure settings. This project has so far led to a significant policy change in a metropolitan region where the advisor to the PCC has stated he will no longer be working towards the building of a new secure children's unit, but rather, a radical alternative that will offer children less punitive responses and more therapeutic care.

The Tudor Trust

The grant from the Tudor Trust funds the salary of the Development Director and the CEO's salary to enable her to dedicate time to fundraising. It also funds external consultancy and assistance with funding applications.

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.