

INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1073291

Details

Other names INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [03525955](#)

Registered 1999-01-13

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

Contact

Address 64-68 Balliol Road
Bootle
Merseyside
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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY ARE:1. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BEING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED BY RELIEVING THEIR NEEDS AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY;2. THE RELIEF OF POVERTY, THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SICKNESS AND DISTRESS OF PERSONS IN NEED BY REASON OF ADDICTION TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER SIMILAR SUBSTANCES AND THEIR FAMILIES, IN PARTICULAR (BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING) BY THE PROVISION OF SERVICES DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE LONG TERM REHABILITATION OF SUCH PERSONS AND THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO THEIR FAMILIES;3. THE PREVENTION OF DEPENDENCE ON DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER SIMILAR SUBSTANCES;4. THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE DANGERS OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER SIMILAR SUBSTANCES AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEANS OF DEALING WITH SUCH DANGERS;FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY. AS A RESULT OF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS); CRIME (EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY).

Activities: We support the long term recovery and reintegration of the most socially excluded members of society across Merseyside. We provide individually tailored packages to assist with re-entry into mainstream activities such as employment, education, or voluntary work. This is all delivered on a one-to-one basis to ensure that every individual can achieve a positive outcome shaped by them.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Knowsley
- Liverpool City
- Sefton
- St Helens
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£402,128	£404,374	-	-
2024-03-31	£357,239	£394,558	-	-
2023-03-31	£401,912	£374,695	-	-
2022-03-31	£334,085	£353,006	-	-
2021-03-31	£403,574	£306,773	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Shields		2025-12-11
BARRY CANNING EATON		2016-04-01
JON WILD		
NIGEL EDMUND BELLAMY		
STUART ANTON CREAK		
Sarah Greenwood		2024-12-10
Sharron McGuinness		2022-10-10
Simon Morris		2019-10-04

INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1073291

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03525955 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1073291

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
for
Independence Initiative Limited

V & R Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Independence Initiative Limited

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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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 2025. 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 aims

The Aims and Objects of the Charity are:

-To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from being socially excluded by relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society.

- The relief of poverty, the physical and mental sickness and distress of persons in need by reason of addiction to drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and their families, in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) by the provision services designed to facilitate the long term rehabilitation of such persons and the provision of support to their families.

- The prevention of dependence on drugs, alcohol and other similar substances.

- The education and training of the public regarding the dangers of drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and constructive means of dealing with such dangers.

The charity's definition of 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of the following factors: substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; ill health (physical or mental); relationship and family breakdown; domestic violence; unemployment; financial hardship; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Key Activities

Our organisation has always stood out for the personalised, one-to-one support we provide to people dealing with substance misuse. This support includes crisis help, access to therapeutic interventions, and creative ways of building confidence and self-esteem-laying the groundwork for lasting recovery.

Over time, we've expanded this approach to include people leaving prison, who can now live in our transitional housing project, The Key. Referrals come from local prisons, probation services, GPs, and other key agencies. Each person we support receives a tailored action plan that reflects their short-, medium-, and long-term goals.

In addition to one-to-one support, we continue to run small group sessions for both residents and members of the wider community. Through this, we're broadening our impact, engaging people who face social exclusion and isolation, and helping them rebuild their lives.

The Key - Transitional Housing

Our transitional housing service, The Key, continues to operate from our Balliol Road site and community houses. We remain a leading provider in the area of stable housing for individuals dealing with substance misuse alongside other complex challenges like offending histories, mental health issues, homelessness, and long-term physical conditions.

In 2024/25, we had 19 beds available and supported 41 individuals through this service.

The Indy Pantry - Affordable Food and Goods Access

The Indy Pantry, our community membership scheme, has grown steadily. It offers affordable weekly shopping for food and essential items. Membership rose from 685 to 832 people, with an average of 108 visits per week by April 2025.

Community Engagement

We've continued to strengthen our community ties through various "Micro Projects," including gardening, canoeing, football, canal clean-ups, and educational courses in digital skills, numeracy, employment preparation, and more.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

In planning our work, we follow the Charity Commission's guidelines on public benefit. We always consider how our activities help us achieve our mission.

Our work-through The Key and our broader community projects-delivers several public benefits:

- Reducing homelessness, crime, and the fear of crime
- Lowering the societal costs of criminal behaviour
- Improving physical and mental health, and reducing strain on emergency services
- Lessening the impact of addiction on children, families, and communities
- Helping people develop skills to improve their job prospects.
- This year, we've also made a significant impact by addressing food poverty and supporting local people through the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Operating Highlights

Throughout the year, we kept our transitional housing service with 19 beds, supporting residents consistently. We aim to increase this figure in the future, building on the success we shared in last year's report, including our involvement with the Davidson Prize. The Davidson Prize is a British annual award that celebrates innovative and collaborative architectural ideas focused on improving how we live at home.

We've also started working with new agencies who are keen to help find suitable housing for people at risk of homelessness. Alongside this, we continued to offer:

- One-to-one support and guidance
- Help accessing health, legal, and welfare services.
- Support reconnecting with family (where appropriate)
- Opportunities to join positive group activities, such as gardening and DIY.
- Access to training, education, and employment pathways

To illustrate the impact of our work, the report also includes two real-life case studies from individuals we've supported this year.

MALE AGE 35

DRUG USE CANNABIS/ALCOHOL/COCAINE

This gentleman had previously been a semi-professional footballer and held professional job roles. Unfortunately, due to several bereavements and lifestyle choices, he began using cocaine and alcohol excessively and found himself in a position whereby he was rough sleeping and managing a chronic addiction. Alongside this he was managing severe anxiety and depression. His profile did not fit that of a rough sleeping profile, so he was victimised and assaulted quite often which exacerbated his addiction and anxiety - as the rough sleeper cohort believed him to be an undercover police officer. He was signposted to The Key by a street outreach worker and commenced his recovery journey with us.

In the time he has been a resident we have sourced a referral to the mental health team, and he has secured the correct medication, and his mood is much improved. It took months for him to trust us or to even engage with us on any activity or one-to-one as he was just burnt out. He is currently back playing football again with Liverpool Homeless Football Club and attends their drop-in sessions. He is volunteering at a local storage unit once a week and is now immersed in the community activity here at The Indy. He also volunteers to stock control in the Pantry once a week. He has also reached out to us to support him in finding his birth mother, as he was adopted and now feels ready to commence this journey of reconnection.

MALE AGE 37

DRUG USE CANNABIS & COCAINE

This gentleman has been subject to severe emotional and physical neglect with his twin brother at a very early age. They were placed in Local Authority Care and Foster Care, but both quickly accelerated into a life of crime (county lines). At a very young age they were groomed by older criminals. Consequently, he was given small sentences regularly and then a very long hefty sentence. His twin brother abandoned him and did not visit him, which reinforced his low self-worth and his already low attachment to others. He was referred to The Key after his last most serious sentence. He arrived very guarded and with a strong dislike for what he saw as systems and institutions, all of which he blamed for his lack of opportunities at an early age. Again, the mistrust was ingrained, and the team had to work hard to be consistent in small things to be able to approach the big things. He used to call us "the babysitters" when he first arrived. He would mask his mental and emotional health.

Slowly but surely, he began to open up and he commenced a buddy gym session with a support worker which led to a gym membership which then led to attending the drop-in sessions at Liverpool Homeless Football Club, along with our staff and other residents. That is when he discovered his passion for running. He has become quite the competitive runner, with 5k, 10k and now half marathons all of which he uses to raise charitable funds for causes close to his heart (such as disadvantaged children's charities). He has found a very positive protective factor in a new partner who has a young family - in his own words he is able to now enjoy Birthdays and Christmas for the first time ever. He has undertaken some vocational training, the Digital IT course that we operate and volunteers at The Pantry with customers who love his customer service. He packs and carries the shopping bags - when he isn't there they ask where he is!

Fundraising activities

In 2024/25 we continued our successful funding strategy that included grant applications for The Key properties, the Pantry, and grant/trust funding.

During this financial year we continued to receive income from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund (£66.2k), and from Lloyds Bank Foundation (£25k)

Other significant grant funding included:

- Our contract with Voluntary Organisation Learning Association (VOLA) to deliver Digital Inclusion skills to residents of Sefton as part of the IT-Mersey contract continued. This contract was worth £19.3k during 2024/25
- We received funding from WEA for Numeracy courses worth £17.8k.

We also managed to receive a large number of other grants that are listed below:

Summer/Winter Clothing	£4,000	Provision of clothing grants to community members
Warm Hub	£3,500	Provision of facilities for community members
Hedley Foundation	£3,000	Grant towards construction of work shed
John Moores Foundation	£7,500	Grant towards running costs
Burbo Bank	£5,000	Grant towards construction of work shed
Regenerus	£763	Grant towards environmental improvements
Total	£23,763	

We also received several grants towards the running costs of our community Pantry "Indy Pantry" totalling £26k as follows:

ASDA Foundation	£1,400
Riverside Foundation	£3,908
Feeding Britain	£18,986
Pantry Donations	£1,730

Our grant funding strategy looking forward focuses on providing added and enriching activities for our residents as well as continuing to respond to the needs of the wider community across North Merseyside to engage people facing some of the same complex and multi-faceted challenges as our residents.

The charity Choose Life continues to run from and provide services at the Balliol Road premises and we continue to offer space for local groups from the wider community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

As an organisation with ever-increasing demand for its services, the Board of Trustees believes that the Charity should be able to maintain free (unrestricted) reserves within a range that equates to between 3 and 6 months of operating costs for the organisation. These reserves should be held in cash or easily realisable form. This position is currently being achieved but is regularly monitored.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking Ahead: Our Strategic Focus

Throughout the year, we've been actively developing our long-term plans, with a continued focus on The Key, our transitional housing project. Over the next 12 months, our goal is to increase the number of residents we can support. We're also working closely with One Vision Housing, who help fast-track residents into permanent social housing once they're ready to move on from our service.

The Indy Pantry: A Growing Community Hub

The Indy Pantry has remained a popular and much-needed resource for the local community. It's playing an increasingly important role in making our site a welcoming community hub. Over the past year, member visits have averaged 105 per week-proof of the strong demand for affordable access to food and essentials.

Exciting Plans for Our Site: Inspired by The Davidson Prize

Winning The Davidson Prize in 2023 opened exciting new possibilities for the future of our Balliol Road site. The competition theme-"Somewhere to Call Home"-called for creative ideas that provide stability, safety, and a sense of belonging for people recovering from homelessness or housing insecurity.

Working in partnership with MUTT Architects and Neighbourhood, our proposal outlines an expanded, supportive living space that helps people rebuild their lives. If our planning application is approved and funding can be secured, we'll increase the number of rooms at Balliol Road from 9 to 16 in the first phase-with the potential to grow even further in future phases.

Building on Our Success

We're proud of the reputation we've earned with funders for delivering real results. We're committed to continuing our investment in grassroots, community-led work and are actively exploring new partnerships across a wide range of priorities. This is essential to making a lasting impact and ensuring our services can evolve to meet future needs.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Our first trustees came from Bootle Maritime City Challenge, the original funder of our work. They formed a steering group, and when we became a registered charity in 1998, they became our founding trustees.

As our organisation evolved, we identified gaps in the skills we needed and brought in new trustees to fill those roles. Trustees are recruited through adverts and professional networks, and they reflect the changing needs of the organisation. Every trustee stands for re-election every three years.

Supporting Our Trustees

All trustees receive a full induction when they join. This includes information about the charity's work, the role and responsibilities of trustees, and useful guides recommended by the Charity Commission. We also support ongoing learning and development. Many of our trustees bring valuable experience from other charities, public services, and businesses, which encourages strong peer learning.

Trustees are officially appointed by the Board. Each year trustees of the board steps down by rotation and can stand for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

How We're Run

Our board of trustees-who also serve as directors under company law-sets the overall direction and policies of Independence Initiative. The board meets at least four times a year.

Day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive, who leads our staff team. Each staff member has clear responsibilities to help deliver the charity's work effectively.

New Trustee Induction

New trustees receive an information pack that includes the previous year's financial statements, staff reports, business plans, and a breakdown of how the organisation is structured. They also build their understanding by attending board meetings and seeing how decisions are made.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Strategy Sub Group

This year, a dedicated Strategy Sub-Group met regularly to explore key financial and strategic issues in detail. They provided insights and recommendations to help the full board make well-informed decisions.

Related parties

No transactions occurred during the year with related parties.

Keeping People and the Organisation Safe

We take risk management (including safeguarding) seriously to make sure our charity and its residents are safe.

How We Manage Risk

Our Board of Trustees regularly reviews any risks that could affect the charity-whether financial, operational, or strategic. We've put strong systems in place to protect against problems like fraud or mistakes, and we take action to reduce any risks we identify.

Insurance and Financial Planning

We hold the right insurance policies, including cover for our trustees. We also keep a financial contingency in place, which means we're prepared for unexpected situations-even the costs of closing the charity, if that ever became necessary.

Health and Safety

Health and safety checks are carried out regularly. Everyone who enters our building-clients, staff, or visitors-must sign in and out so we always know who's on site.

Security and Equipment

Valuable items are kept securely in our locked Safe Store. Staff must sign out equipment when they use it and return it afterward. All electrical equipment is safety tested every year by a certified professional.

Staff Safety

To help our team feel safe and supported, mobile phones are provided for all staff, and managers are available 24/7 to support colleagues working at The Key transitional housing service.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03525955 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1073291

Registered office

64-68 Balliol Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7EJ

Trustees

Nigel Edmund Bellamy
Barry Canning Eaton
Stuart Anton Creak
Simon Morris CHAIR
Jon Wild
Sharron McGuinness
Sarah Greenwood (appointed 10.12.24)

Independence Initiative Limited

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

V & R Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Solicitors

Brabners LLP
Horton House
Exchange Flags
Liverpool
L2 3YL

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

.....
Simon Morris - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independence Initiative Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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 member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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.

G J Rummens FCCA
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

V & R Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Date:

Independence Initiative Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		1,731	-	1,731	777
Charitable activities					
Support services		195,220	154,176	349,396	305,429
Community pantry		26,377	24,294	50,671	50,200
Investment income	2	130	-	130	833
Other income		200	-	200	-
Total		<u>223,658</u>	<u>178,470</u>	<u>402,128</u>	<u>357,239</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Support services		224,719	152,214	376,933	362,888
Community pantry		3,147	24,294	27,441	31,670
Total		<u>227,866</u>	<u>176,508</u>	<u>404,374</u>	<u>394,558</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(4,208)	1,962	(2,246)	(37,319)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		292,976	14,863	307,839	345,158
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>288,768</u></u>	<u><u>16,825</u></u>	<u><u>305,593</u></u>	<u><u>307,839</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

Balance Sheet

31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	300,057	3,697	303,754	299,676
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	7	8,200	-	8,200	4,259
Debtors	8	7,073	-	7,073	3,010
Cash at bank and in hand		12,047	13,128	25,175	45,221
		<u>27,320</u>	<u>13,128</u>	<u>40,448</u>	<u>52,490</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(13,922)	-	(13,922)	(14,258)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>13,398</u>	<u>13,128</u>	<u>26,526</u>	<u>38,232</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		313,455	16,825	330,280	337,908
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(24,687)	-	(24,687)	(30,069)
NET ASSETS		<u>288,768</u>	<u>16,825</u>	<u>305,593</u>	<u>307,839</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				288,768	292,976
Restricted funds				<u>16,825</u>	<u>14,863</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>305,593</u>	<u>307,839</u>

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

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

The 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.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

Balance Sheet - continued

31 March 2025

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 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Simon Morris - Trustee

1. 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 trustees and management continue to closely monitor the charity's finance in order to make certain it remains in a position to meet its short term liabilities as they fall due, and to be able to discharge any outstanding liabilities in the event of winding up. Short term working capital requirements are met through the use of an approved overdraft facility. No adjustments have been made in these financial statements to reflect the position if the charity ceased as a going concern.

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.

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.

Governance costs

Expenditure on the governance costs of the charity includes both direct and apportioned staff support costs. The apportioned staff costs are allocated to governance costs on the basis that they represented an element that specifically relate and contribute to the strategic and future development of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance and Straight line over 4 years
Motor vehicles	- 33% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

The Freehold Property is not being depreciated as it is the charity's policy to continually review the value and maintain it out of expenditure charged to revenue to a standard which ensures that the estimated residual value exceeds the NBV.

A deed of covenant is in place whereby on sale of the property for any use other than a drug rehabilitation centre, an amount of 50% of the difference between the sale value and open market value with restricted use is payable to the Metropolitan Borough Council of Sefton. As there is no intention to sell the property, no liability (either contingent or actual) is provided in these financial statements. This restriction expires on 24th July 2038.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Deposit account interest	130	833
	<u>130</u>	<u>833</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	4,649	3,583
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets	(200)	-
	<u>4,449</u>	<u>3,583</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

5. STAFF COSTS

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Chief Executive	1	1
Client Support Services	5	5
Management & Admin	3	3
General Charitable Activities	4	5
	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>

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

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2024	295,000	54,692	2,750	9,694	362,136
Additions	-	8,727	-	-	8,727
Disposals	-	(20,672)	(2,000)	-	(22,672)
At 31 March 2025	295,000	42,747	750	9,694	348,191
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2024	-	53,559	2,750	6,151	62,460
Charge for year	-	2,878	-	1,771	4,649
Eliminated on disposal	-	(20,672)	(2,000)	-	(22,672)
At 31 March 2025	-	35,765	750	7,922	44,437
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2025	295,000	6,982	-	1,772	303,754
At 31 March 2024	295,000	1,133	-	3,543	299,676

7. STOCKS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Stocks	8,200	4,259

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Other debtors	6,830	3,010
Prepayments	243	-
	7,073	3,010

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 11)	5,383	5,385
Trade creditors	133	396
Social security and other taxes	3,186	2,730
Pension	769	832
Accrued expenses	4,451	4,915
	<u>13,922</u>	<u>14,258</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 11)	<u>24,687</u>	<u>30,069</u>

11. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	<u>5,383</u>	<u>5,385</u>
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans - 1-2 years	<u>5,383</u>	<u>5,521</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans - 2-5 years	<u>16,150</u>	<u>17,415</u>
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Bank loans more 5 yr by instal	3,154	7,133

The above constitutes a loan received under the Bounce Back Loan Scheme which is repayable by instalments over 5 years, commencing in June 2021, with an interest of 2.5%.

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	272,200	(4,208)	267,992
Cessation fund	20,776	-	20,776
	292,976	(4,208)	288,768
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	63	(19)	44
VOLA	3,542	(1,771)	1,771
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	11,258	(1,980)	9,278
John Moores Foundation	-	3,850	3,850
Burbo Bank	-	1,882	1,882
	14,863	1,962	16,825
TOTAL FUNDS	307,839	(2,246)	305,593

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	223,658	(227,866)	(4,208)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	-	(19)	(19)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	25,000	(25,000)	-
Sefton CVS	7,500	(7,500)	-
The Asda Foundation	1,400	(1,400)	-
VOLA	21,213	(22,984)	(1,771)
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	66,180	(68,160)	(1,980)
Feeding Liverpool	18,986	(18,986)	-
Regenerus	763	(763)	-
Workers Education Association	17,770	(17,770)	-
Hedley Foundation	3,000	(3,000)	-
John Moores Foundation	7,750	(3,900)	3,850
Burbo Bank	5,000	(3,118)	1,882
Riverside Foundation	3,908	(3,908)	-
	178,470	(176,508)	1,962
TOTAL FUNDS	402,128	(404,374)	(2,246)

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	282,893	(10,693)	272,200
Cessation fund	20,776	-	20,776
	<u>303,669</u>	<u>(10,693)</u>	<u>292,976</u>
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	88	(25)	63
VOLA	-	3,542	3,542
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	10,148	1,110	11,258
Nationwide Community Foundation	31,253	(31,253)	-
	<u>41,489</u>	<u>(26,626)</u>	<u>14,863</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>345,158</u>	<u>(37,319)</u>	<u>307,839</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	182,116	(192,809)	(10,693)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	-	(25)	(25)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	25,000	(25,000)	-
Sefton CVS	10,000	(10,000)	-
The Asda Foundation	1,000	(1,000)	-
VOLA	23,702	(20,160)	3,542
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	65,405	(64,295)	1,110
Feeding Liverpool	8,960	(8,960)	-
Nationwide Community Foundation	-	(31,253)	(31,253)
J H Rausing	6,620	(6,620)	-
Neighbourly Foundation	5,010	(5,010)	-
Merseyside Community Foundation	5,000	(5,000)	-
Workers Education Association	17,151	(17,151)	-
Sefton Council	2,000	(2,000)	-
Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund	3,000	(3,000)	-
Enterprise Credit Union	775	(775)	-
Feeding Britain	1,500	(1,500)	-
	<u>175,123</u>	<u>(201,749)</u>	<u>(26,626)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>357,239</u>	<u>(394,558)</u>	<u>(37,319)</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Workers Educational Association

This fund represents a new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills called MULTIPLY.

ASDA

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

Summer & Winter Clothes - Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards providing clothing, bedding, and other items to residents of Sefton during the current cost of living crisis.

Warm Hub - Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards providing a community space during the winter months for community members during the current cost of living crisis.

Feeding Britain - Liverpool City Region

This grant represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry. Feeding Liverpool is the City of Liverpool's food alliance, connecting and equipping people and organisations to work towards good for all. Building on their work since 2015 tackling hunger and food insecurity.

15. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The general (unrestricted) fund may be used at the discretion of the board of trustees in furtherance of the charitable company's objectives.

16. DESIGNATED FUND

The cessation fund was set aside by the charity trustees/directors in the event of the charity winding up its activities. The amount designated is an estimate of the additional costs that would be incurred upon cessation.

Independence Initiative Limited

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	1,731	777
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	130	833
Charitable activities		
Pantry income	26,377	26,095
Other income	16,548	12,432
Residents housing benefit	178,673	140,979
Grants	178,469	176,123
	400,067	355,629
Other income		
Gain on sale of tangible fixed assets	200	-
Total incoming resources	402,128	357,239
 EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	234,198	221,997
Social security	14,006	12,083
Pensions	2,855	2,525
Rent	24,100	24,932
Insurance	4,262	5,657
Telephone	11,041	11,690
Postage and stationery	2,458	2,884
General expenses	2,902	4,185
Travel	3,863	4,210
Cleaning and security	5,665	6,968
Building repairs & maintenance	5,796	9,442
Professional costs	13,094	9,155
Training and subscriptions	1,011	1,921
Water rates	4,232	3,290
General rates	5,060	6,892
Heat & light	28,917	26,859
Pantry costs	24,441	27,437
Project costs	8,527	5,415
Fixtures and fittings	2,878	704
Motor vehicles	-	666
Computer equipment	1,771	2,213
	401,077	391,125
 Support costs		

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	70	75
Bank loan interest	827	958
	897	1,033
Governance costs		
Independent examination	2,400	2,400
	404,374	394,558
Total resources expended		
Net expenditure	(2,246)	(37,319)

INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1073291

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03525955 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1073291

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
for
Independence Initiative Limited

V & R Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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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 2024. 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 aims

The Aims and Objects of the Charity are:

-To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from being socially excluded by relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society.

- The relief of poverty, the physical and mental sickness and distress of persons in need by reason of addiction to drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and their families, in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) by the provision services designed to facilitate the long term rehabilitation of such persons and the provision of support to their families.

- The prevention of dependence on drugs, alcohol and other similar substances.

- The education and training of the public regarding the dangers of drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and constructive means of dealing with such dangers.

The charity's definition of 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of the following factors: substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; ill health (physical or mental); relationship and family breakdown; domestic violence; unemployment; financial hardship; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Significant activities

Historically, the unique selling point of the organisation has been the one-to-one nature of support we have provided to people experiencing substance misuse problems. Highly personalised support over a period has included crisis support, access to psychosocial interventions and creative methods of engagement designed to build confidence and self-esteem as a foundation for more effective recovery. This has been broadened to people leaving secure estates that can become residents of our transitional housing project "The Key". People are referred to us from local prisons, other key agencies, probation services, and GP's. Each person is assessed, and an individual action plan is negotiated with them that meets their short, medium and long-term aspirations. However, our activities have evolved, and our one-to-one model of support is now supplemented with small group work with our residents and other community members. We continue to grow and develop our wider role in the community through which we are involving and supporting people facing social exclusion and isolation.

The Key, our transitional housing service based at our Balliol Road site and in our houses in the community, has been continued during this year. We remain a significant provider of transitional housing for people experiencing substance misuse problems combined with other chronic issues. So, we provide stable housing and intensive support for people experiencing difficult combinations of drug and alcohol use, offending histories, mental ill-health, homelessness, and long-term physical health conditions. During this financial year however, the number of beds available was 19. We have housed 34 people during 2023/24.

"The Indy Pantry", our community membership scheme that allows people to get great value for money on a weekly shop for food and other essential goods, has grown significantly in terms of membership and weekly visitors. From 530 to 685 members, and an average of 105 visits per week (as of April 2024).

Independence Initiative has continued to work much more closely with the local community, delivering on several "Micro Projects" such as gardening, canoeing, football, canal cleanups, and delivering courses in Digital Skills, Numeracy, Employment, Art & Crafts, and others too.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The public benefits we deliver through both the Key and our wider projects are:

- reductions in the risk of homelessness, the risks of crime and the fear of crime
- reducing the costs to society of criminality
- improving the levels of physical and mental health (including substance misuse), reduce emergency attendances at A&E and the number of in-patient nights
- helping reduce the impact of addiction on children, families and the wider community and motivate clients to develop the skills required to improve their options in the labour market.

Significantly during this year we have helped reduce food poverty, and have supported our community with regard to the national cost of living crisis.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Operating Highlights

During 2023/24 we continued with our transitional housing, and we managed to maintain a level of support that assisted our residents throughout the year. Part way through the year we reduced the number of beds we offer from 25 to 19. We vacated one property that had become difficult to occupy for reasons of local anti-social behaviour. We were also affected by a reduction in referrals from the Probation Services during the first Quarter as a result of "through the gate" operations being greatly reduced. The number of residents we will be able to help should increase as we look to build on the success of the Davidson Prize (<https://thedavidsonprize.com/results/2023-results>) as mentioned in the "Looking Forward" section of this report.

For a number of relatively unconnected reasons the financial statements show an unrestricted deficit of £10,693. Occupancy in two of our transitional houses dropped dramatically from November 23 to January 24, before recovering gradually through the early part of 2024 back up to target levels. This meant that the overall occupancy across the year turned out at 15.25 residents, some way down below the 16.75 resident target built into the 2023/24 budget. As a result the income for the houses was approximately £19.4k lower than anticipated. However, anticipated income from residents' housing benefit had been forecast higher meaning that overall this was only £10k lower than the previous year.

There were also reduced levels of grant income in year as 2 years income had been received in the previous year from one funder, and increased costs during the year, in particular energy costs. During 2024/25 we have put in place closer monitoring of occupancy levels in our properties and we continually review our financial information. We can see this reflected in the first months of 2024/25.

Moving forward we have identified several new agencies who are keen to work with us in finding effective housing for local people who are often at risk of homelessness and in need of wraparound psychosocial support. We have continued to offer people personal support, facilitated access to local health, advice, and other welfare services, encouraged the re-development of connections with families (where appropriate), facilitated positive group activities such as gardening and maintenance projects and supported access to learning and employability programmes. This continued throughout the year.

To provide examples of the kind of challenges that our beneficiaries face and the ways in which we discharge our public benefit and pursue our charitable aims, we set out (below) two case studies from people we have supported during the year.

Case Study 1 - Male 48

I have never been so grateful for a service like The Indy. I have struggled with substance misuse and mental health since being a teenager. I was at my lowest ebb, when I was referred to the Indy by probation.

I have been a repeat Offender and drug user all my adult and jail replaced my family. I was in children's homes and young offenders and adult male prison all for short bouts.

Every time I was discharged the same pattern of acquisitive petty crime to feed my addiction would start and I would have no address to register with a GP so I would be without mental health medication; everything would spiral, and the same pattern would emerge.

My family has long disowned me. So the only route I knew was to commit an offence to go back into the system, where I knew I would get food, shelter and warmth and safety.

The turning point for me was being beat up by other rough sleepers who stole my shoes and coat. I ended up hospitalised and nearly lost my sight. I knew something had to change at this point.

I met with the team at the Indy and immediately felt at ease. I felt safe. I haven't bathed or shaved for weeks, and they didn't judge me. I moved in and I felt safe. They helped with all my basic needs, benefits, GP all of which I struggle to set up and maintain. I had nothing, clothes were provided, toiletries, I got my dignity and self-respect back.

I was able to keep my outpatients' appointments with staff assisting, the consultant said I would have lost my sight if I hadn't attended aftercare, I'm so grateful for this.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

I have completed several courses, IT, maths, and maintain the garden (excellent therapy for me). I also have two volunteer positions, one at a local community centre in the garden and one at the Indy Pantry. I have also attended an offsite first aid course too.

I am making steps back to integrate with my family but understand this will also take time.

I am so grateful for the support the Indy has offered me as it's allowed me to feel like a person again, not a number, not an Offender not a nuisance to society!

Case Study 2 - Male 38

I never thought that I would end up in the position I found myself in. Homeless. Broken relationship. Estranged child. Disowned by family. On probation.

I was a first time Offender at 34. I had a job. I'd travelled. I had a family and a mortgage, owned a car. I was on paper living the dream. I had always struggled with my mental health. I'm the oldest child of alcoholic parents and there is deep seated adverse childhood experience. I did not realise the impact this would have on me, until I started using cocaine.

At first it was just the weekend, wind down from a stressful week, that's what I told myself. It got to the point where I was using in the car most mornings before school run and work.

My mental health was chronic, my finances, relationships, my drug debts and my self-esteem. I spiralled quickly and self-loathing was a massive part of the self-destruction. I despised myself, I was repeating a pattern with my own family and couldn't stop it, passing the pain down onto the next generation, my daughter. I felt guilt and shame.

I committed serious offences whilst under the influence of cocaine, drug induced psychosis.

I have little recollection but know it had a huge impact on the victims and my family. I was ashamed. I vowed during my sentence to get help and support. The resettlement team put me in touch with Independence Initiative. I had a three-way video call whilst in custody with the manager and probation. I knew this was the service for me.

I couldn't return home due to exclusion zones and due to my crime, my extended family didn't want to house me either.

The Indy not only offered me a safe space but a home. A sense of belonging and being part of a community. They have helped signpost me to counselling for trauma (received as a child) and I am now under a specialist mental health team as I do have a mental health diagnosis with ongoing support and direct access. I have access albeit supervised with my daughter. I have received help with budgeting, shopping most independent living skills (I did not have any on arrival).

I have completed a lot of in-house courses for personal development and with a view to volunteering in the future. I know I would not have got this far without the Indy, as I have struggled with support, so I know on my own I would have been recalled to prison for poor behaviour and lack of engagement.

It's like being part of a team here, the staff are always cheering you and motivating you to do better. They care, it shows, they invest in you, and it makes you want to invest in yourself.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Fundraising activities

At the start of 2023/24 we implemented an updated funding strategy that included grant applications for The Key properties, the Pantry, and grant/trust funding.

During this financial year we continued to receive income from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund (£65.4k), and from Lloyds Bank Foundation (£25k)

Other significant grant funding included:

- Our contract with VOLA to deliver Digital Inclusion skills to residents of Sefton as part of the IT-Mersey contract continued. This contract was worth £16.4k during 2023/24
- We received funding from WEA for Numeracy courses worth £17.2k.

We also managed to receive a large number of other grants that are listed below:

Summer/Winter Clothing	£4,000	Provision of clothing grants to community members
Warm Hub 23/24	£4,000	Provision of facilities for community members
Community Cashback	£5,000	
UKSPF Digital Inclusivity	£6,720	For supply of new IT equipment and broadband
Neighbourly - B&Q Foundation	£4,760	Grant for roof repairs
Sefton CVS Heritage Grant	£2,000	Grant towards construction of pergola
Total	£26,480	

We also received several grants towards the running costs of our community Pantry "Indy Pantry" totalling £24.1k as follows:

Sefton Councillors	£2,000
Duchy of Lancaster	£3,000
Feeding Britain	£1,500
Neighbourly	£250
Enterprise Credit Union	£775
J H Rausing	£6,620
Feeding Liverpool (LCR)	£8,960
ASDA Foundation	£1,000
Total	£24,105

Our grant funding strategy looking forward focuses on providing additional and enriching activities for our residents as well as continuing to respond to the needs of the wider community across North Merseyside to engage people facing some of the same complex and multi-faceted challenges as our residents.

The charity Choose Life continues to operate from and provide services at the Balliol Road premises and we continue to offer space for local groups from the wider community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

As an organisation with ever-increasing demand for its services, the Board of Trustees believes that the Charity should be able to maintain free (unrestricted) reserves within a range that equates to between 3 and 6 months of operating costs for the organisation. These reserves should be held in cash or easily realisable form. This position is currently being achieved but is regularly monitored.

LOOKING AHEAD

Ongoing strategic plans have been considered throughout the year, and we continue to focus activities and plans on our transitional housing project, aiming to grow our occupancy levels over the next 12 months. We also continue to work alongside One Vision Housing as they provide fast-track access to suitable social housing for residents leaving our accommodation.

The community pantry (The Indy Pantry) has proved to be very popular with members of the local community and will continue to enhance our premises as a community hub. Over the past year the weekly average number of member visits have risen to 105 per week, clearly demonstrating the need for such a service.

We continue to plan for the future of our current site as a result of winning The Davidson Prize for 2023. The theme of the third annual Davidson Prize was "Somewhere to Call Home". The brief asked multi-disciplinary teams to communicate innovative design solutions for a home community where people who have experienced the trauma of homelessness and housing insecurity are given time to settle, recover, and find their bearings. This was presented in partnership with MUTT architects and Neighbourhood. If our planning applications are successful this will potentially increase the number of available rooms at our Balliol Road site from 9 to 16 in the first phase with the potential for significantly more in later phases.

We believe we have developed a reputation with funders for effective project delivery and hope to build on this over time. Continued and ongoing investment in grassroots community work is seen as essential, alongside the development of potential partnerships across a range of themes and priorities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The original trustees were board members of Bootle Maritime City Challenge, the original fund provider. They came a steering group, and when the organisation became a Charity, they became the founding members and trustees. In 1998 Independence Initiative became the successor body.

Gaps in the skills required were identified, and individuals were recruited to fill the vacancies. All trustees submit themselves to re-election every three years. As individuals resigned replacements were recruited through advertising and networks to reflect the changing needs of the organisation.

All trustees are given induction into the work of the organisation and the duties of trustees. Developmental publications, recommended by the Charity Commission, are distributed to all trustees that are specific to the roles of chair and trustee. Trustees benefit from peer learning opportunities as many of them have vast experience elsewhere on other committees and boards in the voluntary sector, and also in statutory and business settings.

The trustees are appointed by the members of the company and one third of the trustees normally retires by rotation each year and are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Organisational structure

The Independence Initiative is governed by its board of trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law. The trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and for establishing policy. The Board aims to meet at least four times a year. The Board delegates the management of the organisation to the Chief Executive, who in turn leads a staff team with specific areas of responsibility.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive information packs about the charity showing the previous year's financial statements, various officer's reports, business plans and organisational structure. Newly appointed trustees gain experience by attending various trustee meetings.

Strategy Sub Group

During the year a sub-group met on a regular basis to analyse financial and strategic issues in detail to clarify them for consideration and final approval by the Board.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Related parties

No transactions occurred during the year with related parties.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have assessed the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems have been established to mitigate our exposure to major risks.

Further to this, the Trustees have in place the appropriate insurance policies, including Trustees Indemnity Insurance. The Charity maintains a contingency to meet most situations including closure costs should this be required.

Regular Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are carried out and reviewed as required. All clients, staff and visitors are required to sign in and out of the building to ensure known numbers are in the building. Internal risk is assessed with all staff members.

A part of the building contains a "Safe Store" which contains all valuable items and is kept locked. All items of equipment and materials are signed out of the store and in again after use.

PAT Testing is carried out by an authorised person on an annual basis.

Mobile phones are provided for all staff and Managers are on-call 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support staff in the Key.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03525955 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1073291

Registered office

64-68 Balliol Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7EJ

Trustees

Nigel Edmund Bellamy
Barry Canning Eaton
Stuart Anton Creak
Simon Morris CHAIR
Fiona Jean Smith (resigned 23.10.23)
Jon Wild
Sharon McGuinness

Independent Examiner

V & R Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Brabners LLP
Horton House
Exchange Flags
Liverpool
L2 3YL

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

.....
Simon Morris - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independence Initiative Limited ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (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 member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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.

G J Rummens FCCA
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

V & R Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Date:

Independence Initiative Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		777	-	777	4,966
Charitable activities					
Support services		154,411	151,018	305,429	370,498
Community pantry		26,095	24,105	50,200	26,041
Investment income	2	833	-	833	407
Total		<u>182,116</u>	<u>175,123</u>	<u>357,239</u>	<u>401,912</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Support services		185,244	177,644	362,888	357,461
Community pantry		7,565	24,105	31,670	17,234
Total		<u>192,809</u>	<u>201,749</u>	<u>394,558</u>	<u>374,695</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(10,693)	(26,626)	(37,319)	27,217
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		303,669	41,489	345,158	317,941
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>292,976</u></u>	<u><u>14,863</u></u>	<u><u>307,839</u></u>	<u><u>345,158</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	296,071	3,605	299,676	297,946
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	7	4,259	-	4,259	1,500
Debtors	8	3,010	-	3,010	81
Cash at bank and in hand		33,963	11,258	45,221	95,712
		<u>41,232</u>	<u>11,258</u>	<u>52,490</u>	<u>97,293</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(14,258)	-	(14,258)	(14,628)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>26,974</u>	<u>11,258</u>	<u>38,232</u>	<u>82,665</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		323,045	14,863	337,908	380,611
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(30,069)	-	(30,069)	(35,453)
NET ASSETS		<u>292,976</u>	<u>14,863</u>	<u>307,839</u>	<u>345,158</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				292,976	303,669
Restricted funds				<u>14,863</u>	<u>41,489</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>307,839</u>	<u>345,158</u>

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

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

The 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 2024

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 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Simon Morris - Trustee

1. 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 trustees and management continue to closely monitor the charity's finance in order to make certain it remains in a position to meet its short term liabilities as they fall due, and to be able to discharge any outstanding liabilities in the event of winding up. Short term working capital requirements are met through the use of an approved overdraft facility. No adjustments have been made in these financial statements to reflect the position if the charity ceased as a going concern.

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.

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.

Governance costs

Expenditure on the governance costs of the charity includes both direct and apportioned staff support costs. The apportioned staff costs are allocated to governance costs on the basis that they represented an element that specifically relate and contribute to the strategic and future development of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance and Straight line over 4 years
Motor vehicles	- 3% on cost
Computer equipment	- 3% on cost

The Freehold Property is not being depreciated as it is the charity's policy to continually review the value and maintain it out of expenditure charged to revenue to a standard which ensures that the estimated residual value exceeds the NBV.

A deed of covenant is in place whereby on sale of the property for any use other than a drug rehabilitation centre, an amount of 50% of the difference between the sale value and open market value with restricted use is payable to the Metropolitan Borough Council of Sefton. As there is no intention to sell the property, no liability (either contingent or actual) is provided in these financial statements. This restriction expires on 24th July 2038.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Deposit account interest	833	407
	<u>833</u>	<u>407</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	3,583	3,092
	<u>3,583</u>	<u>3,092</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

5. STAFF COSTS

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Chief Executive	1	1
Client Support Services	5	4
Management & Admin	3	3
General Charitable Activities	5	4
	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>

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

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2023	295,000	54,692	2,750	4,381	356,823
Additions	-	-	-	5,313	5,313
At 31 March 2024	295,000	54,692	2,750	9,694	362,136
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	-	52,855	2,084	3,938	58,877
Charge for year	-	704	666	2,213	3,583
At 31 March 2024	-	53,559	2,750	6,151	62,460
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	295,000	1,133	-	3,543	299,676
At 31 March 2023	295,000	1,837	666	443	297,946

7. STOCKS

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Stocks	4,259	1,500

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Other debtors	3,010	81

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 11)	5,385	5,252
Trade creditors	396	1,538
Social security and other taxes	2,730	2,610
Pension	832	313
Accrued expenses	4,915	4,915
	14,258	14,628

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 11)	30,069	35,453

11. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	5,385	5,252
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans - 1-2 years	5,521	5,385
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans - 2-5 years	17,415	16,985
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Bank loans more 5 yr by instal	7,133	13,083

The above constitutes a loan received under the Bounce Back Loan Scheme which is repayable by instalments over 5 years, commencing in June 2021, with an interest of 2.5%.

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	282,893	(10,693)	272,200
Cessation fund	20,776	-	20,776
	303,669	(10,693)	292,976
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	88	(25)	63
VOLA	-	3,542	3,542
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	10,148	1,110	11,258
Nationwide Community Foundation	31,253	(31,253)	-
	41,489	(26,626)	14,863
TOTAL FUNDS	345,158	(37,319)	307,839

12. 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	182,116	(192,809)	(10,693)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	-	(25)	(25)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	25,000	(25,000)	-
Sefton CVS	10,000	(10,000)	-
The Asda Foundation	1,000	(1,000)	-
VOLA	23,702	(20,160)	3,542
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	65,405	(64,295)	1,110
Feeding Liverpool	8,960	(8,960)	-
Nationwide Community Foundation	-	(31,253)	(31,253)
J H Rausing	6,620	(6,620)	-
Neighbourly Foundation	5,010	(5,010)	-
Merseyside Community Foundation	5,000	(5,000)	-
Workers Education Association	17,151	(17,151)	-
Sefton Council	2,000	(2,000)	-
Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund	3,000	(3,000)	-
Enterprise Credit Union	775	(775)	-
Feeding Britain	1,500	(1,500)	-
	<u>175,123</u>	<u>(201,749)</u>	<u>(26,626)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>357,239</u></u>	<u><u>(394,558)</u></u>	<u><u>(37,319)</u></u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	282,885	8	282,893
Cessation fund	20,776	-	20,776
	<u>303,661</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>303,669</u>
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	122	(34)	88
Hemby Trust	500	(500)	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	1,140	(1,140)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	12,518	(2,370)	10,148
Nationwide Community Foundation	-	31,253	31,253
	<u>14,280</u>	<u>27,209</u>	<u>41,489</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>317,941</u>	<u>27,217</u>	<u>345,158</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	186,351	(186,343)	8
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	28,718	(28,752)	(34)
Hemby Trust	-	(500)	(500)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	27,250	(28,390)	(1,140)
ESF Community Grants Programme	11,000	(11,000)	-
Sefton CVS	13,212	(13,212)	-
Aldi Community Cupboard	1,000	(1,000)	-
The Asda Foundation	1,500	(1,500)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	76,870	(79,240)	(2,370)
Feeding Liverpool	4,850	(4,850)	-
Kickstart	6,511	(6,511)	-
Nationwide Community Foundation	41,670	(10,417)	31,253
One Stop	1,000	(1,000)	-
Regenerus	980	(980)	-
Warm Welcome Energy	1,000	(1,000)	-
	<u>215,561</u>	<u>(188,352)</u>	<u>27,209</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>401,912</u>	<u>(374,695)</u>	<u>27,217</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

ESF Community Grants - Workers Educational Association

This fund represents a grant that is helping many people in the Liverpool City Region who face additional barriers in the labour market to improve their employability and gain employment.

United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Workers Educational Association

This fund represents new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills called MULTIPLY.

Neighbourly - B&Q Foundation

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with roof repairs.

ASDA

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

Summer & Winter Clothes - Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards providing clothing, bedding, and other items to residents of Sefton during the current cost of living crisis.

Warm Hub - Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards providing a community space during the winter months for community members during the current cost of living crisis.

Feeding Britain - Liverpool City Region

This grant represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry. Feeding Liverpool is the City of Liverpool's food alliance, connecting and equipping people and organisations to work towards good for all. Building on their work since 2015 tackling hunger and food insecurity.

Sefton Councillors

This fund represents a grant towards the cost of energy within the Indy Pantry, and to gardening projects on site.

J H Rausing

This fund represents a grant towards the costs of staff, volunteers, food and distribution costs associated with running a community pantry

Duchy of Lancaster

This fund represents a grant towards the costs of purchasing food stocks for a community pantry

Feeding Liverpool

This fund represents a grant towards the costs of purchasing food stocks for a community pantry

Sefton at 50 Hearts of Gold Fund

This fund represents a grant from Sefton at 50 Hearts of Gold Fund for heritage projects and activities across Sefton.

Community Cashback

This fund represents a grant towards the costs of continuing to provide wraparound support for residents (prison leavers) by offering training, link up services with GPs, benefits access etc.

UKSPF Digital Connectivity

This fund represents a grant towards the costs of providing IT facilities for the community. The Digital Connectivity for Community Facilities grant programme is part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's (LCRCA's) local UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) investment plan

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

Enterprise Credit Union

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

15. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The general (unrestricted) fund may be used at the discretion of the board of trustees in furtherance of the charitable company's objectives.

16. DESIGNATED FUND

The cessation fund was set aside by the charity trustees/directors in the event of the charity winding up its activities. The amount designated is an estimate of the additional costs that would be incurred upon cessation.

INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1073291

Accounts

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
for
Independence Initiative Limited

V & R Accountancy Services
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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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 2023. 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 aims

The Aims and Objects of the Charity are:

- To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from being socially excluded by relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society.
- The relief of poverty, the physical and mental sickness and distress of persons in need by reason of addiction to drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and their families, in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) by the provision services designed to facilitate the long term rehabilitation of such persons and the provision of support to their families.
- The prevention of dependence on drugs, alcohol and other similar substances.
- The education and training of the public regarding the dangers of drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and constructive means of dealing with such dangers.

The charity's definition of 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of the following factors: substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; ill health (physical or mental); relationship and family breakdown; domestic violence; unemployment; financial hardship; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Significant activities

Historically, the unique selling point of the organisation has been the one-to-one nature of support we have provided to people experiencing substance misuse problems. Highly personalised support over a period has included crisis support, access to psychosocial interventions and creative methods of engagement designed to build confidence and self-esteem as a foundation for more effective recovery. This has been broadened to people leaving secure estates that can become residents of our transitional housing project "The Key". People are referred to us from local prisons, other key agencies, probation services, and GP's. Each person is assessed, and an individual action plan is negotiated with them that meets their short, medium and long-term aspirations. However, our activities have evolved, and our one-to-one model of support is now supplemented with small group work with our residents and other community members. We continue to grow and develop our wider role in the community through which we are involving and supporting people facing social exclusion and isolation.

The Key, our transitional housing service based at our Balliol Road site and in our houses in the community, has been continued during this year. We remain a significant provider of transitional housing for people experiencing substance misuse problems combined with other chronic issues. So, we provide stable housing and intensive support for people experiencing difficult combinations of drug and alcohol use, offending histories, mental ill-health, homelessness, and long-term physical health conditions. During this financial year however, the number of beds available was reduced from 25 to 20. We have housed 30 people during 2022/23.

"The Indy Pantry", our community membership scheme that allows people to get great value for money on a weekly shop for food and other essential goods, has grown significantly in terms of membership and weekly visitors. From 300 to 530 members, and an average of 75 visits per week.

Independence Initiative has continued to work much more closely with the local community, delivering on several "Micro Projects" such as gardening, canoeing, football, canal cleanups, and delivering courses in Digital Skills, Numeracy, Employment, Art & Crafts, and others too.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The public benefits we deliver through both the Key and our wider projects are:

- reductions in the risk of homelessness, the risks of crime and the fear of crime
- reducing the costs to society of criminality
- improving the levels of physical and mental health (including substance misuse), reduce emergency attendances at A&E and the number of in-patient nights
- helping reduce the impact of addiction on children, families and the wider community and motivate clients to develop the skills required to improve their options in the labour market.

Significantly during this year we have helped reduce food poverty, and have supported our community with regard to the national cost of living crisis.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Operating Highlights

During 2022/23 we continued with our transitional housing, and we managed to maintain a level of support that assisted our residents throughout the year. Part way through the year we reduced the number of beds we offer from 25 to 20. Moving forward we have identified several new agencies who are keen to work with us in finding effective housing for local people who are often at risk of homelessness and in need of wraparound psychosocial support. We have continued to offer people personal support, facilitated access to local health, advice, and other welfare services, encouraged the re-development of connections with families (where appropriate), facilitated positive group activities such as gardening and maintenance projects and supported access to learning and employability programmes. This continued throughout the year.

To provide examples of the kind of challenges that our beneficiaries face and the ways in which we discharge our public benefit and pursue our charitable aims, we set out (below) two case studies from people we have supported during the year.

Male age 36

I have been struggling for many years with my mental health, since I was a young child. I was labelled as naughty and excluded and put in a unit away from my family and quickly progressed into local authority care drug use and chaos.

I have been on tour of young offenders and prison population since then. My drug use initially eased my mental health and pain of being removed from family into care. Anger is also an issue, I hate authority and institutions and it's all I've known. I kick against it which is part of my problem.

I'm schizophrenic and haven't spent much time outside prison in my adult life. I usually get recalled to prison the longest I've stayed out has been five weeks.

My probation officer suggested meeting with staff and visiting The Key whilst I was in approved premises. I don't like change and hate meeting new people so I was hesitant. Initially I had a couple of phone calls which helped break the ice and made me feel comfortable as I was able to ask questions and feel like I was more in control of the move.

I progressed to a visit and had a tour and met the staff and didn't feel pressured into making decisions which really helped me. It was explained to me the changes I would need to make (I was using heroin and not prescribed methadone).

I really wanted a place at The Key and wanted to change, I knew the place for that to happen was The Key.

This is the first place that has actually "seen me". They seemed to have reached inside to the young boy that I was once. They have encouraged me to look at not just my mental health but physical health which I've neglected and my drug use and offending, everything I've always ran away from and blocked.

I'm 20 stone plus, they were worried about my heart and lungs, and made an appointment with GP for full MOT I didn't pass, but the fact that I went (with their help is huge) they have come with me to the follow up appointments.

This place isn't just about offending and drug use it's about everything and that's what makes it different here. I have enrolled on the in-house eating healthy on a budget and the digital inclusion course. This is massive as I usually shy away from new people and structured activity.

My anger is still an issue but I'm realising the triggers and attempting to put strategies in place for when I'm frustrated. I'm also trying to gain the confidence to attend an anger management course but working one-to-one with my key worker here on it. My relationship with family is improving but there is a long way to go yet. This is the longest I have stayed out of prison in my adult life.

My probation licence expires in May 2022 and I never believed I would be able to do this. The Key has given me a safe space to think about and create changes and also realise the person I am and also what I can be, it's given me not just the hope that change is possible but that it's also realistic and achievable.

Before I moved into The Key I felt like a spider in the bath, I just couldn't get out and kept going down the plug hole; now I feel like there is a way out of the bath and I feel hopefully for the first time in years, all thanks to The Key!

Male age 41

By my age you would like to think I would have home, family , career. I haven't. My substance misuse started early experimental with brother and friends and led to intense weekend bouts but I always managed to keep employment. Four close deaths , my dad, my brother (murdered) my mum and Nan combined to trigger a downwards spiral, my mental health, substance misuse and criminality all got out of control quite quickly.

I have spent the last ten years hopeless and out of control. I have not spent four months out of prison in this time. I felt that I had no reason to rehabilitate, did not have a connection on the outside , no support , no life skills to survive.

I was discharged from prison at the height of the Covid pandemic and was frightened which made my mental health and anxiety worse. I secured a place at independence initiative through my prolific offender manager at the police and probation officer. It was hard meeting new networks of people and moving to a new area so I had high levels of personal anxiety , fear of relapse, the pandemic and isolation which was leading to lots of personal conflict.

The package of support is really intense, we are encouraged to connect with ourselves and others and are allocated an individual support worker to help with goals and any obstacles you may have.

I have no digital skills at all and this created a problem for my with benefits and during pandemic this is essential due to lockdown. I also am on a limited budget , so I can't afford a smartphone. The Indy have provided training for me and a tablet which allows me to connect to the staff and others in the community via the apps.

The property I'm in also has WiFi which has also unlocked other benefits , I don't feel as vulnerable or as socially isolated. I have managed to meet all of my probation appointments remotely through this device which has stopped any prison recalls. I have also managed to connect to mutual aid support groups from home something I've never had the confidence to do physically, this has also helped my recovery.

I take the lead in the community by helping staff deliver the weekly food parcels they provide. I have personally benefited from this. Shopping is a skill; I would not know what to buy and I get overwhelmed in supermarkets. These hampers consist of dry, dairy and frozen goods which have given me a good framework of a shopping basket that I will be able to replicate, helping me to become more independent. It has also helped with my anxiety, as I don't like shopping especially during a pandemic and the restrictions in place. I think if I would have been pushed into that arena, I wouldn't have been able to manage my mood and anxiety and it would have come across as aggression, any violent incidents would lead to prison recall - so I'm grateful of this service provision at the Indy.

I have also benefited greatly from the "walk talks " with my key worker this has helped my depression and anxiety as we have daily planned routes that have helped me get through the recent lockdown. I also feel much more at ease and relaxed during these walks and can talk easier about difficulties I'm experiencing instead of in an office-based situation, which I associate with authority and control. I replicate these walks of a weekend and it has really help reduce my anxiety and I feel more confident as the routes have been walked and navigated safely.

I am now a senior peer at the organisation, and lead on a lot of projects involving the other residents, I would never believe that this would be possible under normal circumstances, never mind a pandemic. I am also now settled in this community, with much reduced anxiety levels, I think this is in part due to the one-to-one support sessions I receive. I feel valued and listened to and most of all respected. I am seen as an individual rather than an offender or person with substance problems and mental health issues. I have started my own journey exploring my own mental health and can see the triggers and ques the links which lead to my offending and accelerated substance misuse. Today with this support I don't have to self-medicate, I've been given the skills and tools to develop alternative coping strategies. I have been out of prison now for 11months a milestone I never thought I'd be able to achieve.

"The Indy Pantry proved to be an amazing resource for our community this year, with over 3,100 visits! A real success story but for the wrong reasons"

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Fundraising activities

At the start of 2022/23 we implemented an updated funding strategy that included grant applications for The Key properties, the Pantry, and grant/trust funding.

During this financial year we continued to receive income from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund (£67.5k), and from Lloyds Bank Foundation (£27.5k)

Other significant grant funding included:

- Our contract with VOLA to deliver Digital Inclusion skills to residents of Sefton as part of the IT-Mersey contract continued. This contract was worth £28.7k during 2022/23
- We continued to receive funding from the Workers Educational Authority (WEA) that was worth £7.8k
- We received funding from WEA for Numeracy worth £11k.
- We received a 2-year grant from Nationwide Community Foundation for £41.7k
- We received funding from the Government to provide a KICKSTART placement for £6.5k
- We received anonymous donations worth £2k

We also managed to receive a large number of other grants that are listed below:

Regenerus	£980	Environmental improvements
Council Tax Rebate	£750	Support with energy costs
Room Hire	£390	Use of our facilities
Sefton Mayoral Fund	£300	Delivery of specialist interventions
Sefton In Mind	£5,298	Delivery of specialist interventions
Awards for All - National Lottery	£9,327	Delivery of specialist interventions
Warm Hub (Sefton CVS)	£3,914	Delivery of specialist interventions
Winter Clothing (Sefton CVS)	£4,000	Delivery of specialist interventions
Stewardship (Warm Hub)	£1,000	Delivery of specialist interventions

We received several grants and donations towards the running costs of our community Pantry "Indy Pantry" totalling £9.8k as follows:

Hugh Baird College	£994
Groundwork (One Stop)	£1,000
ASDA	£1,500
Cup of Tea (Anonymous)	£500
Epic Kidz	£500
Feeding Liverpool	£4,293
Neighbourly	£1,000

Our grant funding strategy looking forward focuses on providing additional and enriching activities for our residents as well as continuing to respond to the needs of the wider community across North Merseyside to engage people facing some of the same complex and multi-faceted challenges as our residents.

The charity Choose Life continues to operate from and provide services at the Balliol Road premises and we continue to offer space for local groups from the wider community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

As an organisation with ever-increasing demand for its services, the Board of Trustees believes that the Charity should be able to maintain free (unrestricted) reserves within a range that equates to between 3 and 6 months of operating costs for the organisation. These reserves should be held in cash or easily realisable form. This position is currently being achieved but is regularly monitored.

LOOKING AHEAD

Ongoing strategic plans have been considered throughout the year, and we continue to focus activities and plans on our transitional housing project, aiming to grow our occupancy levels over the next 12 months. We also continue to work alongside One Vision Housing as they provide fast-track access to suitable social housing for residents leaving our accommodation.

The community pantry (The Indy Pantry) has proved to be very popular with members of the local community and will continue to enhance our premises as a community hub. Over the past year the weekly average number of member visits have risen from 30 to 90 per week, clearly demonstrating the need for such a service.

We believe we have developed a reputation with funders for effective project delivery and hope to build on this over time. Continued and ongoing investment in grassroots community work is seen as essential, alongside the development of potential partnerships across a range of themes and priorities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The original trustees were board members of Bootle Maritime City Challenge, the original fund provider. They came a steering group, and when the organisation became a Charity, they became the founding members and trustees. In 1998 Independence Initiative became the successor body.

Gaps in the skills required were identified, and individuals were recruited to fill the vacancies. All trustees submit themselves to re-election every three years. As individuals resigned replacements were recruited through advertising and networks to reflect the changing needs of the organisation.

All trustees are given induction into the work of the organisation and the duties of trustees. Developmental publications, recommended by the Charity Commission, are distributed to all trustees that are specific to the roles of chair and trustee. Trustees benefit from peer learning opportunities as many of them have vast experience elsewhere on other committees and boards in the voluntary sector, and also in statutory and business settings.

The trustees are appointed by the members of the company and one third of the trustees normally retires by rotation each year and are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Organisational structure

The Independence Initiative is governed by its board of trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law. The trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and for establishing policy. The Board aims to meet four times a year. The Board delegates the management of the organisation to the Chief Executive, who in turn leads a staff team with specific areas of responsibility.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive information packs about the charity showing the previous year's financial statements, various officer's reports, business plans and organisational structure. Newly appointed trustees gain experience by attending various trustee meetings.

Strategy Sub Group

During the year a sub-group met on a regular basis to analyse financial and strategic issues in detail to clarify them for consideration and final approval by the Board.

Related parties

No transactions occurred during the year with related parties.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have assessed the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems have been established to mitigate our exposure to major risks.

Further to this, the Trustees have in place the appropriate insurance policies, including Trustees Indemnity Insurance. The Charity maintains a contingency to meet most situations including closure costs should this be required.

Regular Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are carried out and reviewed as required. All clients, staff and visitors are required to sign in and out of the building to ensure known numbers are in the building. Internal risk is assessed with all staff members.

A part of the building contains a "Safe Store" which contains all valuable items and is kept locked. All items of equipment and materials are signed out of the store and in again after use.

PAT Testing is carried out by an authorised person on an annual basis.

Mobile phones are provided for all staff and Managers are on-call 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support staff in the Key.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03525955 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1073291

Registered office

64-68 Balliol Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7EJ

Trustees

Nigel Edmund Bellamy
William John Bowley (resigned 1.4.22)
Barry Canning Eaton
Stuart Anton Creak
Amanda Lewtas (resigned 10.9.22)
Simon Morris CHAIR
Fiona Jean Smith
Jon Wild
Sharon McGuinness (appointed 10.10.22)

Independent Examiner

V & R Accountancy Services
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Independence Initiative Limited (Registered number: 03525955)

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Brabners LLP
Horton House
Exchange Flags
Liverpool
L2 3YL

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Simon Morris - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independence Initiative Limited ('the Company')

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

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 member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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.

G J Rummens FCCA
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

V & R Accountancy Services
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

23 October 2023

Independence Initiative Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		4,966	-	4,966	352
Charitable activities					
Support services		163,287	207,211	370,498	322,486
Community pantry		17,691	8,350	26,041	11,241
Investment income	2	407	-	407	6
Total		<u>186,351</u>	<u>215,561</u>	<u>401,912</u>	<u>334,085</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Support services		177,459	180,002	357,461	347,576
Community pantry		8,884	8,350	17,234	5,430
Total		<u>186,343</u>	<u>188,352</u>	<u>374,695</u>	<u>353,006</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		8	27,209	27,217	(18,921)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		303,661	14,280	317,941	336,862
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>303,669</u></u>	<u><u>41,489</u></u>	<u><u>345,158</u></u>	<u><u>317,941</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	297,858	88	297,946	299,581
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	7	1,500	-	1,500	-
Debtors	8	81	-	81	7,868
Cash at bank and in hand		54,311	41,401	95,712	67,691
		<u>55,892</u>	<u>41,401</u>	<u>97,293</u>	<u>75,559</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(14,628)	-	(14,628)	(16,379)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>41,264</u>	<u>41,401</u>	<u>82,665</u>	<u>59,180</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		339,122	41,489	380,611	358,761
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(35,453)	-	(35,453)	(40,820)
NET ASSETS		<u>303,669</u>	<u>41,489</u>	<u>345,158</u>	<u>317,941</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				303,669	303,661
Restricted funds				<u>41,489</u>	<u>14,280</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>345,158</u>	<u>317,941</u>

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

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

The 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.

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 23 October 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Simon Morris - Trustee

1. 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 trustees and management continue to closely monitor the charity's finance in order to make certain it remains in a position to meet its short term liabilities as they fall due, and to be able to discharge any outstanding liabilities in the event of winding up. Short term working capital requirements are met through the use of an approved overdraft facility. No adjustments have been made in these financial statements to reflect the position if the charity ceased as a going concern.

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.

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.

Governance costs

Expenditure on the governance costs of the charity includes both direct and apportioned staff support costs. The apportioned staff costs are allocated to governance costs on the basis that they represented an element that specifically relate and contribute to the strategic and future development of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance and Straight line over 4 years
Motor vehicles	- Straight line over 3 years
Computer equipment	- Straight line over 3 years

The Freehold Property is not being depreciated as it is the charity's policy to continually review the value and maintain it out of expenditure charged to revenue to a standard which ensures that the estimated residual value exceeds the NBV.

A deed of covenant is in place whereby on sale of the property for any use other than a drug rehabilitation centre, an amount of 50% of the difference between the sale value and open market value with restricted use is payable to the Metropolitan Borough Council of Sefton. As there is no intention to sell the property, no liability (either contingent or actual) is provided in these financial statements. This restriction expires on 24th July 2038.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Deposit account interest	407	6
	<u>407</u>	<u>6</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	3,092	3,241
	<u>3,092</u>	<u>3,241</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

5. STAFF COSTS

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

	31.3.23	31.3.22
Chief Executive	1	1
Client Support Services	4	4
Management & Admin	3	3
General Charitable Activities	4	4
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>

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

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2022	295,000	53,235	2,750	4,381	355,366
Additions	-	1,457	-	-	1,457
At 31 March 2023	295,000	54,692	2,750	4,381	356,823
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2022	-	52,140	1,167	2,478	55,785
Charge for year	-	715	917	1,460	3,092
At 31 March 2023	-	52,855	2,084	3,938	58,877
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	295,000	1,837	666	443	297,946
At 31 March 2022	295,000	1,095	1,583	1,903	299,581

7. STOCKS

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Stocks	1,500	-

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Trade debtors	-	7,787
Other debtors	81	81
	81	7,868

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 11)	5,252	5,007
Trade creditors	1,538	2,708
Social security and other taxes	2,610	2,566
Pension	313	381
Accrued expenses	4,915	5,717
	14,628	16,379

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 11)	35,453	40,820

11. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	5,252	5,007
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans - 1-2 years	5,385	5,007
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans - 2-5 years	16,985	15,022
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Bank loans more 5 yr by instal	13,083	20,791

The above constitutes a loan received under the Bounce Back Loan Scheme which is repayable by instalments over 5 years, commencing in June 2021, with an interest of 2.5%.

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	282,885	8	282,893
Cessation fund	20,776	-	20,776
	303,661	8	303,669
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	122	(34)	88
Hemby Trust	500	(500)	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	1,140	(1,140)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	12,518	(2,370)	10,148
Nationwide Community Foundation	-	31,253	31,253
	14,280	27,209	41,489
TOTAL FUNDS	317,941	27,217	345,158

12. 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	186,351	(186,343)	8
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	28,718	(28,752)	(34)
Hemby Trust	-	(500)	(500)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	27,250	(28,390)	(1,140)
ESF Community Grants Programme	11,000	(11,000)	-
Sefton CVS	13,212	(13,212)	-
Aldi Community Cupboard	1,000	(1,000)	-
The Asda Foundation	1,500	(1,500)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	76,870	(79,240)	(2,370)
Feeding Liverpool	4,850	(4,850)	-
Kickstart	6,511	(6,511)	-
Nationwide Community Foundation	41,670	(10,417)	31,253
One Stop	1,000	(1,000)	-
Regenerus	980	(980)	-
Warm Welcome Energy	1,000	(1,000)	-
	215,561	(188,352)	27,209
TOTAL FUNDS	401,912	(374,695)	27,217

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	291,094	(8,209)	282,885
Cessation fund	20,776	-	20,776
	311,870	(8,209)	303,661
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	8,653	(8,531)	122
Hemby Trust	1,000	(500)	500
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	-	1,140	1,140
ESF Community Grants Programme	10,856	(10,856)	-
Sefton CVS	3,000	(3,000)	-
Liverpool City Region	1,483	(1,483)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	-	12,518	12,518
	24,992	(10,712)	14,280
TOTAL FUNDS			
	336,862	(18,921)	317,941

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	187,872	(196,081)	(8,209)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	17,644	(26,175)	(8,531)
Hemby Trust	-	(500)	(500)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	22,150	(21,010)	1,140
ESF Community Grants Programme	24,173	(35,029)	(10,856)
Sefton CVS	4,727	(7,727)	(3,000)
Liverpool City Region	-	(1,483)	(1,483)
Plus Dane	1,000	(1,000)	-
Help The Homeless	2,500	(2,500)	-
NHS Liverpool	6,000	(6,000)	-
P H Holt Foundation	3,000	(3,000)	-
Aldi Community Cupboard	400	(400)	-
The Asda Foundation	200	(200)	-
The Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	(1,000)	-
Tesco Community Grants	500	(500)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	62,919	(50,401)	12,518
	<u>146,213</u>	<u>(156,925)</u>	<u>(10,712)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>334,085</u></u>	<u><u>(353,006)</u></u>	<u><u>(18,921)</u></u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Lloyds TSB

The fund represents a grant towards the salaries of staff employed in the delivery of The Key - our transitional housing support.

ESF Community Grants - Workers Educational Association

This fund represents a grant that is helping many people in the Liverpool City Region who face additional barriers in the labour market to improve their employability and gain employment.

United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Workers Educational Association

This fund represents new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills called MULTIPLY.

Neighbour

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

ASDA

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

One Stop Community - Groundwork

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

Warm Welcome Energy Fund - Stewardship

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

Kickstart - VOLA

This fund is part of the Government's "Plan for Jobs" scheme. A fund to create hundreds of thousands of high quality, 6 month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment.

Sefton In Mind - Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards working with and empowering males of working age to address ongoing mental health challenges.

Warm Clothes - Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards providing winter clothing, bedding, and other items to residents of Sefton during the current cost of living crisis.

Warm Hub - Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards providing a community space during the winter months for community members during the current cost of living crisis.

Feeding Liverpool - Liverpool City Council

This grant represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry. Feeding Liverpool is the City of Liverpool's food alliance, connecting and equipping people and organisations to work towards good for all. Building on their work since 2015 tackling hunger and food insecurity.

Nationwide Building Society - Community Fund

Britain's biggest building society has run its Community Grants programme since 2017 - offering grants of up to £50,000 to local charities and projects, particularly those focussed on housing. This year, it's awarded a total of £4.3 million to 96 housing related projects across the UK.

Reaching Out - National Lottery Community Fund

This fund represents a grant towards the cost of running community led initiatives.

15. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The general (unrestricted) fund may be used at the discretion of the board of trustees in furtherance of the charitable company's objectives.

16. DESIGNATED FUND

The cessation fund was set aside by the charity trustees/directors in the event of the charity winding up its activities. The amount designated is an estimate of the additional costs that would be incurred upon cessation.

INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1073291

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03525955 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1073291

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
for
Independence Initiative Limited

V & R Accountancy Services
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Independence Initiative Limited

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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Independence Initiative Limited

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 aims

The Aims and Objects of the Charity are:

The relief of poverty, the physical and mental sickness and distress of persons in need by reason of addiction to drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and their families, in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) by the provision of services designed to facilitate the long term rehabilitation of such persons and the provision of support to their families.

The prevention of dependence on drugs, alcohol and other similar substances.

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from being socially excluded by relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society.

The education and training of the public regarding the dangers of drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and constructive means of dealing with such dangers.

The charity's definition of 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of the following factors:

- Substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs
- Ill health (physical or mental)
- Relationship and family breakdown
- Domestic violence
- Unemployment
- Financial hardship
- Poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards)
- Crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Historically, the unique selling point of the organisation has been the one-to-one nature of support we have provided to people experiencing substance misuse problems. Highly personalised support over a period of time has included crisis support, access to psychosocial interventions and creative methods of engagement designed to build confidence and self-esteem as a foundation for more effective recovery. People are referred to us from local GPs, via prisons, other key agencies, but most prominently from probation services. Each person is assessed, and an individual action plan is negotiated with them that meets their short, medium and long-term aspirations. However, our activities have evolved, and our one-to-one model of support is now supplemented with small group work with our residents and other community members. We continue to grow and develop our wider role in the community through which we are involving and supporting people facing social exclusion and isolation.

The Key, our transitional housing service based at our Balliol Road site and in our houses in the community, has been continued during this year. We are now a significant provider of transitional housing for people experiencing substance misuse problems combined with other chronic issues. So, we provide stable housing and intensive support for people experiencing difficult combinations of drug and alcohol use, offending histories, mental ill-health, homelessness and long-term physical health conditions. During this financial year the number of beds available has remained stable at 25.

In September 2021 the Independence Initiative launched "The Indy Pantry". This is a community membership scheme that allows people to get great value for money on a weekly shop for food and other essential goods. With a £1 membership fee, members can access 10 items for £3.50 or 15 items for £5.00 once each week. This includes food, toiletries, cleaning products plus much more. We already have more than 300 members, and an average of 50 visits per week.

Independence Initiative has revisited its Social Inclusion objectives and is working much more closely with the local community.

Public benefit

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The public benefits we deliver are reductions in the risks of homelessness, the risks of crime and the fear of crime. We reduce the costs to society of criminality, lower the levels of physical and mental ill health (including substance misuse), reduce emergency attendances at A&E and the number of in-patient nights, help reduce the impact of addiction on children, families and the wider community and motivate clients to develop the skills required to improve their options in the labour market

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During 2021/22 we continued with our transitional housing, and we managed to maintain a level of support that assisted our residents throughout the year. We maintained the number of beds we offer at 25 and have also identified several new agencies who are keen to work with us in finding effective housing for local people who are often at risk of homelessness and in need of wraparound psychosocial support. We have continued to offer people personal support, facilitated access to local health, advice, and other welfare services, encouraged the re-development of connections with families (where appropriate), facilitated positive group activities such as gardening and maintenance projects and supported access to learning and employability programmes. This continued, throughout the year.

To provide examples of the kind of challenges that our beneficiaries face and the ways in which we discharge our public benefit and pursue our charitable aims, we set out (below) two case studies from people we have supported during the year.

Case Study 1

Male age 44

My drug use started at age 12, I progressed quickly from cannabis to class A.

I have a very supportive family, who have stood by me through thick and thin. Crack Cocaine has taken me to places I never thought I would go. I am classed as a high risk offender and have done more time in prison than I have outside. My partner and brother have both died of drug overdoses whilst I have been serving sentences and this has not stopped my drug use or offending behaviour, in fact it's contributed to it becoming worse and more risky behaviour.

I have an adult daughter. I am ashamed to say I have only a photograph and prison relationship with her. I am uneasy around her. I have always been frightened to show my feelings as a father as the main ones are shame and guilt as both of her parents have been taken away by drugs. I am lucky as my parents have been the primary carers for her and she is at university and I'm proud, but feel I have no right to be.

I was thrilled to be accepted as a resident at The Key as had heard really positive things from the prison resettlement team and my probation officer. The main thing for me was I knew people were not returning to prison (or at least not on my wing) once discharged to the key. If I'm recalled on this sentence from the community, I will serve the last three years of my sentence in prison; so I know the key and the intense support on offer for me, is the chance I needed to change. I have realised since my discharge from prison (June 2021) mental health is extremely fragile. I have experienced crisis in a place I thought would be safe, with my family. The family has changed so much with generations below me who don't know me and I felt like a stranger. Life has changed so much and I find simple things like a family meal around the table difficult.

I have benefited so much from The Key as I've been able to access key worker support in business hours, but also weekend and evenings as I find this is a massive trigger and the isolation and intrusive thoughts come. I've found it of benefit to be able to talk to other residents who are also experiencing this, the walk and talks are great as I'm relaxed in the great outdoors and feel like it's unlocking things that I didn't realise were bothering me. I find it hard to talk but this is making it easier. Staff who organise the group will also offer one-to-one and signposting sessions.

I have completed a computer course that the key offers and this has really helped build my relationship with my daughter as I gained an Amazon tablet on completion and now have the skills to FaceTime and text her regularly which is removing barriers that I have placed.

I have managed to attend all of my weekly probation appointments with support from the key staff, this has never happened and I'm usually recalled by now!

When I arrived at The Key in June 2021 my long term goal was to be in the family Christmas photo. I have been sent a copy of this for the last ten years in prison, all in matching pj's. This may sound silly and insignificant but I achieved this goal, and I'm grateful to the key for getting alongside me and helping me, listening to me and supporting me at every turn. This Christmas photo that I'm now in for December 2021 is spurring me on for further personal achievement. I'm looking at volunteering, once my physical health allows as again thanks to the key staff I've been attending regular appointments for a problem that I'd ignored for many years regarding my stomach.

Independence Initiative Limited

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

I'm now on the road to recovery and glad I faced my fear, as I'd convinced myself it was cancer and I was dying anyway, so continued with drugs and offending as though there wasn't any hope so no point in changing - how wrong I was! Here is to more massive changes in 2022!

Case Study 2 Male Male age 36

I have been struggling for many years with my mental health, since I was a young child. I was labelled as naughty and excluded and put in a unit away from my family and quickly progressed into local authority care, then drug use and chaos. I have been on a tour of young offenders and prison population since then. My drug use initially eased my mental health and pain of being removed from family into care. Anger is also an issue, I hate authority and institutions and it's all I've known. I kick against it which is part of my problem. I'm schizophrenic and haven't spent much time outside prison in my adult life. I usually get recalled to prison, and the longest I've stayed out has been five weeks. (Now 8 months and counting at the Key!)

My probation officer suggested meeting with staff and visiting The Key whilst I was in approved premises. I don't like change and hate meeting new people so I was hesitant. Initially I had a couple of phone calls which helped break the ice and made me feel comfortable as I was able to ask questions and feel like I was more in control of the move. I progressed to a visit and had a tour and met the staff and didn't feel pressured into making decisions which really helped me. It was explained to me the changes I would need to make (I was using heroin and not prescribed methadone).

I really wanted a place at The Key and wanted to change, I knew the place for that to happen was The Key. This is the first place that has actually "seen me". They seemed to have reached inside to the young boy that I was once. They have encouraged me to look at not just my mental health but physical health which I've neglected and my drug use and offending, everything I've always ran away from and blocked. I'm 20 stone plus, so they were worried about my heart and lungs, and made an appointment with GP for full MOT I didn't pass, but the fact that I went (with their help) is huge. They have come with me to the follow up appointments.

This place isn't just about offending and drug use it's about everything and that's what makes it different here. I have enrolled on the in-house eating healthy on a budget and the digital inclusion course. This is massive as I usually shy away from new people and structured activity. My anger is still an issue but I'm realising the triggers and attempting to put strategies in place for when I'm frustrated. I'm also trying to gain the confidence to attend an anger management course but working one-to-one with my key worker here on it.

My relationship with family is improving but there is a long way to go yet. This is the longest I have stayed out of prison in my life.

My probation licence expires in May 2022 and I never believed I would be able to do this. The Key has given me a safe space to think about and create changes and also realise the person I am and also what I can be, it's given me not just the hope that change is possible but that it's also realistic and achievable. Before I moved into The Key I felt like a spider in the bath, I just couldn't get out and kept going down the plug hole; now I feel like there is a way out of the bath and I feel hopeful for the first time in years, all thanks to The Key!

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Fundraising activities

At the start of 2021/22 we implemented an updated funding strategy that included grant applications for The Key properties, the Pantry, and grant/trust funding.

During this financial year we continued to receive income from the Lloyds Bank Foundation who awarded us £22k towards staffing and running costs of aspects of support and other group activity.

Other funding included:

- Our contract with VOLA to deliver Digital Inclusion skills to residents of Sefton as part of the IT-Mersey contract continued. This contract was worth £26.1k during 2021/22
- We were successful with a bid to The National Lottery (Reaching Communities) for £257.6k over 4 years
- We continued to receive funding from the Workers Educational Authority (WEA) that was worth £13.1k
- We received further funding from WEA worth £11.7k in the year

Help the Homeless	£2,500	Refurbishment of kitchen in residential section
Diabetes Partnership Fund	£6,000	Delivery of specialist interventions
LCR Community Fund	£1,483	Delivery of specialist interventions
Sefton in Mind (Winter Access)	£4,727	Delivery of specialist interventions
PH Holt	£3,000	For costs associated with the Indy Pantry
Neighbourly	£400	For costs associated with the Indy Pantry
ASDA	£200	For costs associated with the Indy Pantry
Arnold Clark	£1,000	For costs associated with the Indy Pantry
TESCO	£500	For costs associated with the Indy Pantry

During the period there were many conversations with other community projects, and it was clear that the need for community working and partnership activity has become even more important. So, our grant funding strategy looking forward focuses on providing additional and enriching activities for our residents as well as continuing to respond to the needs of the wider community across North Merseyside to engage people facing some of the same complex and multi-faceted challenges as our residents.

The charity Choose Life continues to operate from and provide services at the Balliol Road premises and we continued to offer space for local Fellowship meetings in support of the wider community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

As an organisation with ever-increasing demand for its services, the board of trustees believes that the Charity should be able to maintain free (unrestricted) reserves within a range that equates to between 3 and 6 months of annual operating costs for the organisation. These reserves should be held in cash or easily realisable form. This position is regularly monitored.

FUTURE PLANS

Ongoing strategic plans have been considered throughout the year, and we continue to focus activities and plans on our transitional housing project, aiming to maintain it's size at this stage. We also continue to work alongside One Vision Housing as they provide fast-track access to suitable social housing for residents leaving our accommodation.

The opening of our community pantry (The Indy Pantry) has proved to be very popular with members of the local community, and will continue to enhance our premises as a community hub.

Identifying new income streams to replace ever dwindling voluntary contract funding has become increasingly important for the charity, and this will continue over the next 5 years. We believe we have begun to develop a reputation with funders for effective project delivery and hope to build on this over time. Continued and ongoing investment in grassroots community work is seen as essential, alongside the development of partnerships across a range of themes and priorities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The original trustees were board members of Bootle Maritime City Challenge, the original fund provider. They came a steering group, and when the organisation became a Charity, they became the founding members and trustees. In 1998 Independence Initiative became the successor body.

Gaps in the skills required were identified, and individuals were recruited to fill the vacancies. All trustees submit themselves to re-election every three years. As individuals resigned replacements were recruited through advertising and networks to reflect the changing needs of the organisation.

All trustees are given induction into the work of the organisation and the duties of trustees. Developmental publications, recommended by the Charity Commission, are distributed to all trustees that are specific to the roles of chair and trustee. Trustees benefit from peer learning opportunities as many of them have vast experience elsewhere on other committees and boards in the voluntary sector, and also in statutory and business settings.

The trustees are appointed by the members of the company and one third of the trustees normally retires by rotation each year and are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Organisational structure

The Independence Initiative is governed by its board of trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law. The trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and for establishing policy. The Board aims to meet four times a year. The Board delegates the management of the organisation to the Chief Executive, who in turn leads a staff team with specific areas of responsibility.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive information packs about the charity showing the previous year's financial statements, various officer's reports, business plans and organisational structure. Newly appointed trustees gain experience by attending various trustee meetings.

Strategy Sub Group

During the year a sub-group met on a regular basis to analyse financial and strategic issues in detail to clarify them for consideration and final approval by the Board.

Related parties

No transactions occurred during the year with related parties.

Independence Initiative Limited

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have assessed the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems have been established to mitigate our exposure to major risks.

Further to this, the trustees have in place the appropriate insurance policies, including Trustees Indemnity Insurance. The Charity maintains a contingency to meet most situations including closure costs should this be required.

Regular Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are carried out and reviewed as required. All clients, staff and visitors are required to sign in and out of the building to ensure known numbers are in the building. Internal risk is assessed with all staff members.

A part of the building contains a "Safe Store," this area contains all valuable items and is kept locked. All items of equipment and materials are signed out of the store and in again after use.

PAT Testing is carried out by an authorized person on an annual basis.

Mobile phones are provided for all staff and Managers are on-call 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support staff in the Key.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03525955 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1073291

Registered office
64-68 Balliol Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7EJ

Trustees

Nigel Edmund Bellamy
William John Bowley (resigned 1.4.22)
Barry Canning Eaton
Stuart Anton Creak (Treasurer)
Amanda Lewtas (resigned 10.9.22)
Simon Morris (appointed to chair 1.12.21)
Fiona Jean Smith
Jon Wild (retired from chair 1.12.21)

Independent Examiner

V & R Accountancy Services
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

Independence Initiative Limited

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Brabners LLP
Horton House
Exchange Flags
Liverpool
L2 3YL

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Morris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Morris - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Independence Initiative Limited

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independence Initiative Limited ('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 FCCA 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.

G J Rummen
FCCA
V & R Accountancy Services
Chartered Certified Accountants
Cropton House
Three Tuns Lane
Formby
Merseyside
L37 4AQ

10 October 2022

Independence Initiative Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		352	-	352	239
Charitable activities					
Support services		182,373	140,113	322,486	403,333
Community pantry		5,141	6,100	11,241	-
Investment income	2	6	-	6	2
Total		187,872	146,213	334,085	403,574
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Support services		193,362	154,214	347,576	306,774
Community pantry		2,719	2,711	5,430	-
Total		196,081	156,925	353,006	306,774
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(8,209)	(10,712)	(18,921)	96,800
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		311,870	24,992	336,862	240,062
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		303,661	14,280	317,941	336,862

The notes form part of these financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

Balance Sheet

31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	298,959	622	299,581	298,261
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	7,868	-	7,868	26,619
Cash at bank and in hand		54,033	13,658	67,691	72,187
		<u>61,901</u>	<u>13,658</u>	<u>75,559</u>	<u>98,806</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(16,379)	-	(16,379)	(14,372)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>45,522</u>	<u>13,658</u>	<u>59,180</u>	<u>84,434</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		344,481	14,280	358,761	382,695
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	9	(40,820)	-	(40,820)	(45,833)
NET ASSETS		<u>303,661</u>	<u>14,280</u>	<u>317,941</u>	<u>336,862</u>
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				303,661	311,870
Restricted funds				<u>14,280</u>	<u>24,992</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>317,941</u>	<u>336,862</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.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

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 10 October 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Morris'.

Simon Morris - Trustee

1. 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 trustees and management continue to closely monitor the charity's finance in order to make certain it remains in a position to meet its short term liabilities as they fall due, and to be able to discharge any outstanding liabilities in the event of winding up. Short term working capital requirements are met through the use of an approved overdraft facility. No adjustments have been made in these financial statements to reflect the position if the charity ceased as a going concern.

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.

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.

Governance costs

Expenditure on the governance costs of the charity includes both direct and apportioned staff support costs. The apportioned staff costs are allocated to governance costs on the basis that they represented an element that specifically relate and contribute to the strategic and future development of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Freehold property	- not provided
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance and Straight line over 4 years
Motor vehicles	- Straight line over 3 years
Computer equipment	- Straight line over 3 years

The Freehold Property is not being depreciated as it is the charity's policy to continually review the value and maintain it out of expenditure charged to revenue to a standard which ensures that the estimated residual value exceeds the NBV.

A deed of covenant is in place whereby on sale of the property for any use other than a drug rehabilitation centre, an amount of 50% of the difference between the sale value and open market value with restricted use is payable to the Metropolitan Borough Council of Sefton. As there is no intention to sell the property, no liability (either contingent or actual) is provided in these financial statements. This restriction expires on 24th July 2038.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

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.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Deposit account interest	6	2

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	3,241	842

4. 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.

5. STAFF COSTS

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

	31.3.22	31.3.21
Chief Executive	1	1
Client Support Services	4	8
Management & Admin	3	1
General Charitable Activities	4	3
	12	13

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

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2021	295,000	52,000	750	3,055	350,805
Additions	-	1,235	2,000	1,326	4,561
At 31 March 2022	295,000	53,235	2,750	4,381	355,366
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2021	(500)	51,776	250	1,018	52,544
Charge for year	500	364	917	1,460	3,241
At 31 March 2022	-	52,140	1,167	2,478	55,785
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2022	295,000	1,095	1,583	1,903	299,581
At 31 March 2021	295,500	224	500	2,037	298,261

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Trade debtors	7,787	26,538
Other debtors	81	81
	7,868	26,619

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 10)	5,007	4,167
Trade creditors	2,708	173
Social security and other taxes	2,566	2,068
Pension	381	(364)
Accrued expenses	5,717	8,328
	16,379	14,372

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 10)	40,820	45,833

10. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	5,007	4,167
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans - 1-2 years	5,007	8,333
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans - 2-5 years	15,022	12,500
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Bank loans more 5 yr by instal	20,791	25,000

The above constitutes a loan received under the Bounce Back Loan Scheme which is repayable by instalments over 5 years, commencing in June 2021, with an interest of 2.5%.

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	291,094	(8,209)	282,885
Cessation fund	20,776	-	20,776
	311,870	(8,209)	303,661
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	8,653	(8,531)	122
Hemby Trust	1,000	(500)	500
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	-	1,140	1,140
ESF Community Grants Programme	10,856	(10,856)	-
Sefton CVS	3,000	(3,000)	-
Liverpool City Region	1,483	(1,483)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	-	12,518	12,518
	24,992	(10,712)	14,280
TOTAL FUNDS	336,862	(18,921)	317,941

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

11. 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	187,872	(196,081)	(8,209)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	17,644	(26,175)	(8,531)
Hemby Trust	-	(500)	(500)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	22,150	(21,010)	1,140
ESF Community Grants Programme	24,173	(35,029)	(10,856)
Sefton CVS	4,727	(7,727)	(3,000)
Liverpool City Region	-	(1,483)	(1,483)
Plus Dane	1,000	(1,000)	-
Help The Homeless	2,500	(2,500)	-
NHS Liverpool	6,000	(6,000)	-
P H Holt Foundation	3,000	(3,000)	-
Aldi Community Cupboard	400	(400)	-
The Asda Foundation	200	(200)	-
The Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	(1,000)	-
Tesco Community Grants	500	(500)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities	62,919	(50,401)	12,518
	<u>146,213</u>	<u>(156,925)</u>	<u>(10,712)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>334,085</u>	<u>(353,006)</u>	<u>(18,921)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	168,481	22,834	99,779	291,094
Cessation fund	20,776	-	-	20,776
	189,257	22,834	99,779	311,870
Restricted funds				
Sefton DAAT - Capital	26,168	-	(26,168)	-
South Sefton Development Trust	5,396	-	(5,396)	-
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	241	(74)	8,486	8,653
Hemby Trust	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000
The Clothworkers	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
Sovini Restricted Donation	7,000	-	(7,000)	-
Help the Homeless	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
ESF Community Grants Programme	-	2,428	8,428	10,856
Sefton CVS	-	3,000	-	3,000
The National Lottery - Covid 19	-	31,338	(31,338)	-
Sefton MBC - Covid 19	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Homeless Link - Covid 19	-	11,002	(11,002)	-
Crisis UK - Covid 19	-	4,200	(4,200)	-
Charitable Aid Foundation - Covid 19	-	7,914	(7,914)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation - Covid 19	-	-	-	-
Emergency Fund	-	(2,600)	2,600	-
Liverpool City Region	-	5,758	(4,275)	1,483
	50,805	73,966	(99,779)	24,992
TOTAL FUNDS	240,062	96,800	-	336,862

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	249,403	(226,569)	22,834
Restricted funds			
South Sefton Development Trust	227	(227)	-
The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)	8,486	(8,560)	(74)
Hemby Trust	1,500	(500)	1,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	21,558	(21,558)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	10,500	(10,500)	-
Liverpool CVS	2,000	(2,000)	-
MIND	18,060	(18,060)	-
ESF Community Grants Programme	8,428	(6,000)	2,428
Eleanor Rathbone	5,000	(5,000)	-
Sefton CVS	3,000	-	3,000
The National Lottery - Covid 19	31,338	-	31,338
Sefton MBC - Covid 19	10,000	-	10,000
Homeless Link - Covid 19	11,002	-	11,002
Crisis UK - Covid 19	4,200	-	4,200
Charitable Aid Foundation - Covid 19	7,914	-	7,914
Steve Morgan Foundation - Covid 19			
Emergency Fund	5,200	(7,800)	(2,600)
Liverpool City Region	5,758	-	5,758
	154,171	(80,205)	73,966
TOTAL FUNDS	403,574	(306,774)	96,800

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

13. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Sefton DAAT - Capital Fund

This fund represents a grant awarded towards the cost of general capital expenditure. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased from this funding.

South Sefton Development Trust

This fund represents a capital grant from ESF. The grant was awarded to contribute towards the cost of the capital expenditure at the 1-2-1 Detox unit. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased.

The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)

This fund relates to a project, jointly funded by the European Social Fund and the Big Lottery Fund as part of its 2014-2021 Building Better Opportunities Programme. It offers IT skills training and employment support for local, unemployed, people.

Lloyds TSB

The fund represents a grant towards the salaries of staff employed in the delivery of The Key - our transitional housing support.

13. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

ESF Community Grants - Workers Educational Association

This fund represents a grant that is helping many people in the Liverpool City Region who face additional barriers in the labour market to improve their employability and gain employment.

Liverpool City Region

A grant awarded towards the cost of setting up a community garden on Balliol Road, Bootle. The project will allow for the planting of a fruit hedge, the design of raised flower beds and tree seats, planting of a vegetable garden and set up of a water capture system.

Plus Dane

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry, and specifically fridges.

Help the Homeless

This fund represents a grant towards the refurbishment of a kitchen within our residential section.

Diabetes Inequalities Fund

This fund represents a grant towards a regional exercise to consider early interventions with diabetes, and ongoing support.

PH Holt

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

Neighbourly

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

ASDA

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

Arnold Clark

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry.

TESCO

This fund represents a grant towards the costs associated with running a community pantry

Sefton In Mind - Winter Access Fund

This fund represents a grant to enable greater access from community members for mental health support during the winter months.

14. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The general (unrestricted) fund may be used at the discretion of the board of trustees in furtherance of the charitable company's objectives.

15. DESIGNATED FUND

The cessation fund was set aside by the charity trustees/directors in the event of the charity winding up its activities. The amount designated is an estimate of the additional costs that would be incurred upon cessation.

Independence Initiative Limited

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	352	239
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	6	2
Charitable activities		
Pantry income	5,141	-
Other income	12,733	16,081
Residents housing benefit	168,821	155,077
Grants	147,032	169,171
CJRS grants	-	63,004
	333,727	403,333
Total incoming resources	334,085	403,574
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	193,257	167,888
Social security	11,049	9,024
Pensions	3,013	1,633
Rent	33,383	36,989
Insurance	5,752	4,590
Telephone	8,675	5,781
Postage and stationery	2,821	4,220
Sundries	13	13
General expenses	6,828	6,294
Travel	1,979	567
Cleaning and security	5,598	3,913
Building repairs & maintenance	15,432	13,152
Professional costs	4,865	3,196
Subscription	46	96
Water rates	3,961	3,280
General rates	6,985	9,649
Heat & light	17,216	14,322
Subcontractors	19,775	15,698
Unrecovered top up rent	-	1,780
Pantry costs	5,430	-
Freehold property	500	(500)
Fixtures and fittings	364	74
Motor vehicles	917	250
Computer equipment	1,460	1,018
	349,319	302,927
Support costs		

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	254	882
Bank loan interest	1,003	-
	1,257	882
Governance costs		
Independent examination	2,430	2,965
	353,006	306,774
Total resources expended		
	353,006	306,774
Net (expenditure)/income	(18,921)	96,800

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1073291

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 3525955 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1073291

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021
for
Independence Initiative Limited**

SB&P
Chartered Accountants
Oriel House
2/8 Oriel Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7EP

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Statement of Financial Activities	8
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Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 19
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	20 to 21

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 aims

The Aims and Objects of the Charity are:

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from being socially excluded by relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society.

The relief of poverty, the physical and mental sickness and distress of persons in need by reason of addiction to drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and their families, in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) by the provision of services designed to facilitate the long term rehabilitation of such persons and the provision of support to their families.

The prevention of dependence on drugs, alcohol and other similar substances.

The education and training of the public regarding the dangers of drugs, alcohol and other similar substances and constructive means of dealing with such dangers.

The charity's definition of 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors:

- Substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs
- Ill health (physical or mental)
- Relationship and family breakdown
- Domestic violence
- Unemployment
- Financial hardship
- Poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards)
- Crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society)

Significant activities

Historically, the unique selling point of the organisation has been the one-to-one nature of support we have provided to people experiencing substance misuse problems. Highly personalised support over a period of time has included crisis support, access to psychosocial interventions and creative methods of engagement designed to build confidence and self-esteem as a foundation for more effective recovery. People are referred to us from local GPs, via prisons, probation services or other key agencies. Each person is assessed, and an individual action plan is negotiated with them that meets their short, medium and long-term aspirations. However, our activities have evolved, and our one-to-one model of support is now supplemented with small group work with our residents and other community members. We continue to grow and develop our wider role in the community through which we are involving and supporting people facing social exclusion and isolation.

The Key, our transitional housing service based at our Balliol Road site and in our houses in the community, has been consolidated during this year. We are now a significant provider of transitional housing for people experiencing substance misuse problems combined with other chronic issues. So, we provide stable housing and intensive support for people experiencing difficult combinations of drug and alcohol use, offending histories, mental ill-health, homelessness and long-term physical health conditions. During this financial year the number of beds available has remained stable at 25.

Public benefit

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The public benefits we deliver are reductions in the risks of homelessness, the risks of crime and the fear of crime. We reduce the costs to society of criminality, lower the levels of physical and mental ill health (including substance misuse), reduce emergency attendances at A&E and the number of in-patient nights, help reduce the impact of addiction on children, families and the wider community and motivate clients to develop the skills required to improve their options in the labour market.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During 2020/21 Independence Initiative was impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Our primary aim during this period was to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our beneficiaries. In addition, we had to consider the going concern position, to check viability and liquidity and income generation potential. A Covid 19 emergency plan was introduced that involved a combination of factors. The main office premises were closed as part of the national lockdown, some staff were furloughed and priority was given to the wellbeing of residents in our residential properties. Measures for social distancing were introduced, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was purchased or donated to us. Careful management saw the introduction of flexi furlough, and phased return of staff with full staffing reinstated before the end of the financial year. Residents of the Key were monitored during this time and a system for addressing emergency food and essentials shortages was put in place. We also introduced methods of remote working with our residents to ensure any support needs were maintained. We were able to secure some emergency funding that helped us to address additional needs for existing beneficiaries as well as enabling us to respond to shortfalls in residential income arising from the 'freezing' of referrals from secure estate partners. We also took advantage of the Bounce Back Loan scheme during this period.

Whilst this had an obvious and clear impact on the range of opportunities that we could offer we managed to maintain a level of support that assisted our residents throughout the year. We maintained the number of beds we offer at 25 and have also identified several new agencies who are keen to work with us in finding effective housing for local people who are often at risk of homelessness and in need of wraparound psychosocial support. We have continued to offer people personal support, facilitated access to local health, advice, and other welfare services, encouraged the re-development of connections with families (where appropriate), facilitated positive group activities such as gardening and maintenance projects and supported access to learning and employability programmes. This continued, albeit on a reduced basis, throughout the year.

To provide examples of the kind of challenges that our beneficiaries face and the ways in which we discharge our public benefit and pursue our charitable aims, we set out (below) two case studies from people we have supported during the year.

Case Study 1 Male

Arrived at the Indy aged 46

Drug Use: Alcohol / Crack / Cannabis

By my age you would like to think I would have home, family, career. I have not.

My substance misuse started early, experimenting with my brother and friends and this led to intense weekend bouts but I always managed to keep employment.

The deaths of four people close to me, my Dad, my brother (murdered), my Mum and my Nan combined to trigger a downwards spiral, my mental health, substance misuse and criminality all got out of control quite quickly.

I have spent the last ten years hopeless and out of control. I have not spent more than four months out of prison in this time. I felt that I had no reason to rehabilitate, did not have a connection on the outside, no support, no life skills to survive.

I was discharged from prison at the height of the Covid pandemic and was frightened which made my mental health and anxiety worse. I secured a place at Independence Initiative (Indy) through my prolific offender manager at the Police and through my Probation Officer. It was hard meeting new networks of people and moving to a new area, so I had high levels of personal anxiety, fear of relapse, the pandemic and isolation which was leading to lots of personal conflict. The package of support is intensive, we are encouraged to connect with ourselves and others and are allocated an individual support worker to help with goals and any obstacles you may have.

I have no digital skills at all, and this created a problem for me with benefits (online access) during the pandemic. I am also on a limited budget, so I can't afford a smartphone. The Indy have provided training for me and a tablet which allows me to connect to the staff and others in the community via the apps.

The property I'm in also has WiFi which has also unlocked other benefits, I don't feel as vulnerable or as socially isolated. I have managed to meet all my probation appointments remotely through this device which has stopped any prison recalls. I have also managed to connect to mutual aid support groups from home, something I've never had the confidence to do physically, this has also helped my recovery.

I take the lead in the community by helping staff deliver the weekly food parcels they provide. I have personally benefited from this. Shopping is a skill, I would not know what to buy and I get overwhelmed in supermarkets. These hampers consist of dry, dairy and frozen goods which have given me a good framework of a shopping basket that I will be able to replicate, helping me to become more independent. It has also helped with my anxiety, as I don't like shopping especially during a pandemic and the restrictions in place. I think if I would have been pushed into that arena, I wouldn't have been able to manage my mood and anxiety and it would have come across as aggression, any violent incidents would lead to prison recall - so I'm grateful of this service provision at the Indy.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

I have also benefited greatly from the "walk talks" with my key worker. This has helped ease my depression and anxiety as we have daily planned routes that have helped me get through the recent lockdown.

I also feel much more at ease and relaxed during these walks and can talk easier about difficulties I'm experiencing instead of in an office-based situation, which I associate with authority and control. I replicate these walks of a weekend and it has really helped reduce my anxiety and I feel more confident as the routes have been walked and navigated safely.

A great achievement for me is that I am now a senior peer at the organisation, and lead on a lot of projects involving the other residents, I would never believe that this would be possible under normal circumstances, never mind a pandemic.

I am also now settled in this community, with much reduced anxiety levels, I think this is in part due to the one-to-one support sessions I receive. I feel valued and listened to and most of all respected. I am seen as an individual rather than an offender or person with substance problems and mental health issues. I have started my own journey exploring my own mental health and can see the triggers and ques the links which lead to my offending and accelerated substance misuse. Today with this support I don't have to self-medicate, I've been given the skills and tools to develop alternative coping strategies. I have been out of prison now for 11 months a milestone I never thought I'd be able to achieve.

Case Study 2 Male

Arrived at the Indy aged 42 Drug Use: Heroin / Crack

I started my journey into drug use at an early age. I was excluded from school and hung around with older kids, crime lifted the boredom and drug use heightened my excitement. I gained a reputation of being a thrill seeker and if someone was taking three ecstasy tablets I'd take six. It wasn't long before I entered the criminal justice system and started my tour of duty of the young offenders' institutions graduating to the main prison estates, building my criminal network.

My appetite for violence, crime and drug use were hard wired into me, each time I was released, I had no intention of breaking the cycle of crime and drug use.

A turning point for me was finding my father dead. He died of cancer. This fuelled a massive crime spree and drug binge. Not long after this, and whilst on this sentence, my brother also passed away unexpectedly, leaving my elderly mother on her own in the community. This sparked a motivation for change in me. I asked for support and help and was referred to The Indy on release. At first, I found it really hard to sit with my feelings, mostly guilt. I was staying drug free from heroin and crack but noticed crippling emotions, so bad that I couldn't eat or sleep and found it difficult to get out of bed for days on end. My GP was supportive and my support worker and the team devised an intense wrap around support package, initially this started with walks to stabilise my mental health, positive affirmations daily, lead to buddy gym sessions with my support worker. Slowly I was starting to feel better.

I found the confidence to enrol on the cooking healthy on a budget course that was being provided by the Indy. My support worker and I had been doing some work around "mood food" and we recognised that my physical and mental health would improve from exercising and the right diet. I built positive peer relationships in this course too which helped conquer a fear of computers as a couple of peers started a digital inclusion course in-house and I didn't want to be left behind so I enrolled too, so couldn't believe how easy and fun I found it. This has unlocked a lot of barriers for me now.

I also wanted to build positive memories with my mum, as we were just linked by horrendous experiences. The Indy managed to secure free VIP tickets from Everton in the Community, which allowed myself and my mum to experience a match together, something positive, and create a good memory. After this event we booked a weekend in Whitby and our relationship has grown from this. I am now able to be a son to her.

I have found a passion for horticulture and find it incredibly therapeutic. I have helped on many garden projects at The Indy and I'm now passing on these skills to new members of the community. It is clear that I would not be where I am today, if I didn't have the support, patience and empathy from the team. There are still days that I struggle and I'm not the finished article but I have learnt to reach out on these days for support and know that the feelings will eventually pass and not to use old coping mechanisms.

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Fundraising activities

At the start of 2020/21 we implemented an updated funding strategy that included grant applications for Covid support, continued income from The Key properties and grant/trust funding.

During this financial year we continued to receive income from two major grants that were received in 2017/18.

- The Steve Morgan Foundation agreed to a sum of £63,000 over 3 years (£21k per annum) towards our core staffing costs and provided additional emergency support in early 2020.
- Lloyds Bank Foundation awarded us the final year of their 3-year grant investment (£22k per annum) towards staffing and running costs of aspects of female support and other group activity.

Other funding included:

- Our contract with VOLA to deliver Digital Inclusion skills to residents of Sefton as part of the IT-Mersey contract was placed on hold. Both the Big Lottery Fund and ESF agreed to restart delivery once the pandemic allowed for a return to our premises. This contract is worth £18,600 to the Independence Initiative
- AB Charitable Trust awarded us £15,000 towards the induction and retention of new community members.
- Eleanor Rathbone Trust £5,000 Delivery of specialist interventions
- Liverpool CVS £2,000 Delivery of specialist interventions
- Sefton In Mind (Sefton CVS) £3,000 Delivery of specialist interventions
- Hemby Trust £1,500 Building works at our main site
- South Sefton Development Trust £227 Enhancing the garden/premises
- Several funders provided emergency support during Covid lockdown including the National Lottery, Homeless Link, MIND, LCR Mayor's Fund, Charities Aid Foundation and Crisis.

During the pandemic there were many conversations with other community projects, and it was clear that the need for community working and partnership activity has become even more important. So, our grant funding strategy looking forward focuses on providing additional and enriching activities for our residents as well as continuing to respond to the needs of the wider community across North Merseyside to engage people facing some of the same complex and multi-faceted challenges as our residents.

The charity Choose Life continues to operate from and provide services at the Balliol Road premises and we continued to offer space for local Fellowship meetings in support of the wider community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

As an organisation with ever-increasing demand for its services, the board of trustees believes that the Charity should be able to maintain free (unrestricted) reserves within a range that equates to between 3 and 6 months of annual operating costs for the organisation. These reserves should be held in cash or easily realisable form. This position is not currently maintained, and the trustees continue to regularly monitor the level of reserves and are implementing strategies designed to achieve this position.

FUTURE PLANS

Ongoing strategic plans have been held in abeyance as a result of the Corona Virus, but we continue to focus activities and plans on our transitional housing project. We also continue to work alongside One Vision Housing as they provide fast-track access to suitable social housing for residents leaving our accommodation.

Identifying new income streams to replace ever dwindling voluntary contract funding has become increasingly important for the charity, and this will continue over the next 5 years. We believe we have begun to develop a reputation with funders for effective project delivery and hope to build on this over time. Continued and ongoing investment in grassroots community work is seen as essential, alongside the development of partnerships across a range of themes and priorities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing documents, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

The Independence Initiative is governed by its board of trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law. The trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and for establishing policy. The Board aims to meet eight times a year. The Board delegates the management of the organization to the Chief Executive, who in turn leads a staff team with specific areas of responsibility.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The original trustees were board members of Bootle Maritime City Challenge, the original fund provider. They became a steering group, and when the organisation became a Charity, they became the founding members and trustees. In 1998 Independence Initiative became the successor body.

Gaps in the skills required were identified, and individuals were recruited to fill the vacancies. All trustees submit themselves to re-election every three years. As individuals resigned replacements were recruited through advertising and networks to reflect the changing needs of the organisation.

All trustees are given induction into the work of the organisation and the duties of trustees. Developmental publications, recommended by the Charity Commission, are distributed to all trustees that are specific to the roles of chair, treasurer, secretary and trustee. Trustees benefit from peer learning opportunities as many of them have vast experience elsewhere on other committees and boards in the voluntary sector, and also in statutory and business settings.

The trustees are appointed by the members of the company and one third of the trustees normally retires by rotation each year and are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

1 trustee resigned/retired during the year, namely Celia Blackburn. Celia had provided a valuable contribution to the Board since 1998. Celia has subsequently sadly passed away. Her contribution will not be forgotten.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive information packs about the charity showing the previous year's financial statements, various officer's reports, business plans and organisational structure. Newly appointed trustees gain experience by attending various trustee meetings.

Strategy Sub Group

During the year a sub-group was established to analyse financial and strategic issues in detail to clarify them for consideration and final approval by the Board.

Related parties

No transactions occurred during the year with related parties.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have assessed the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems have been established to mitigate our exposure to major risks.

Further to this, the trustees have in place the appropriate insurance policies, including Trustees Indemnity Insurance. The Charity maintains a contingency to meet most situations including closure costs should this be required.

Regular Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are carried out and reviewed as required. All clients, staff and visitors are required to sign in and out of the building to ensure known numbers are in the building.

Internal risk is assessed with all staff members.

A part of the building contains a "Safe Store," this area contains all hazardous materials and valuable items and is kept locked. All items of equipment and materials are signed out of the store and in again after use.

PAT Testing is not required because the equipment we own constitutes a low risk so we can check everything ourselves.

Mobile phones are provided for all staff required to work off-site in the community and Managers are on-call 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support staff in the Key.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

3525955 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1073291

Independence Initiative Limited

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

Registered office

64-68 Balliol Road
Bootle
Liverpool
Merseyside
L20 7EJ

Trustees

Celia Blackburn (resigned 14.12.20)
Nigel Edmund Bellamy
Stuart Anton Creak Treasurer
William John Bowley
Jon Wild Chair
Barry Canning Eaton
Amanda Lewtas
Simon Morris
Fiona Smith

Independent Examiner

Suzanne Draper
FCCA ACA
SB&P
Chartered Accountants
Oriel House
2/8 Oriel Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7EP

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc
197 Stanley Road
Bootle
Liverpool
Merseyside
L20 3DX

Solicitors

Brabners LLP
Horton House
Exchange Flags
Liverpool
L2 3YL

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 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Jon Wild - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Independence Initiative Limited ('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

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 FCCA ACA 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.

Suzanne Draper
FCCA ACA
SB&P
Chartered Accountants
Oriel House
2/8 Oriel Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7EP

Date:

Independence Initiative Limited

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		78,243	154,171	232,414	90,610
Charitable activities					
Addiction support services		171,158	-	171,158	140,786
Investment income	2	2	-	2	-
Total		249,403	154,171	403,574	231,396
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		2,882	-	2,882	-
Charitable activities					
Addiction support services		223,686	80,205	303,891	257,198
Total		226,568	80,205	306,773	257,198
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		22,835	73,966	96,801	(25,802)
Transfers between funds	13	99,778	(99,778)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	153,917
Net movement in funds		122,613	(25,812)	96,801	128,115
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		189,257	50,805	240,062	111,947
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		311,870	24,993	336,863	240,062

The notes form part of these financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

Balance Sheet
31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	297,094	1,167	298,261	295,298
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	8,222	18,398	26,620	12,321
Cash at bank and in hand		66,759	5,428	72,187	1,299
		<u>74,981</u>	<u>23,826</u>	<u>98,807</u>	<u>13,620</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(14,372)	-	(14,372)	(68,856)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>60,609</u>	<u>23,826</u>	<u>84,435</u>	<u>(55,236)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		357,703	24,993	382,696	240,062
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(45,833)	-	(45,833)	-
NET ASSETS		<u>311,870</u>	<u>24,993</u>	<u>336,863</u>	<u>240,062</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				311,870	189,257
Restricted funds				24,993	50,805
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>336,863</u>	<u>240,062</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.

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 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Jon Wild - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. 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, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The charity generated a surplus of £96,801 (2020: deficit £25,802). This has resulted in a net current assets of £84,435 (2020: liability position of £55,236).

The trustees and management continue to closely monitor the charity's finances in order to make certain it remains in a position to meet its short term liabilities as they fall due, and to be able to discharge any outstanding liabilities in the event of winding up. Short term working capital requirements are met through the use of an approved overdraft facility. No adjustments have been made in these financial statements to reflect the position if the charity ceased to be a going concern.

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.

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.

Governance costs

Expenditure on the governance costs of the charity includes both direct costs and apportioned staff support costs. The apportioned staff costs are allocated to governance costs on the basis that they represent an element that specifically relate and contribute to the strategic and future development of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets capable of lasting more than one accounting period are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated residual life.

Freehold Property - Art room	- No depreciation - see note above
Fixtures & Fittings	- 25% straight line basis
Computer Equipment	- 3 years straight line basis
Motor Vehicles	- 3 years straight line basis

The Freehold Property is not being depreciated as it is the charity's policy to continually review the value and maintain it out of expenditure charged to revenue to a standard which ensures that the estimated residual value exceeds the NBV.

A deed of covenant is in place whereby on sale of the property for any use other than a drug rehabilitation centre, an amount of 50% of the difference between sale value and open market value with restricted use is payable to the Metropolitan Borough Council of Sefton. As there is no intention to sell the property, no liability (either contingent or actual) is provided in these financial statements. This restriction expires on 24th July 2038.

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. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

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.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>842</u>	<u>599</u>

4. 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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Trustees' expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>

5. STAFF COSTS

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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
Chief Executive	1	1
Client Support Services	8	7
Management & Admin	1	1
General Charitable Activities	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>

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

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	41,269	49,341	90,610
Charitable activities			
Addiction support services	140,786	-	140,786
Total	<u>182,055</u>	<u>49,341</u>	<u>231,396</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Addiction support services	210,377	46,821	257,198
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>(28,322)</u>	<u>2,520</u>	<u>(25,802)</u>
Transfers between funds	<u>2,600</u>	<u>(2,600)</u>	<u>-</u>
Other recognised gains/(losses)			
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	153,917	-	153,917
Net movement in funds	<u>128,195</u>	<u>(80)</u>	<u>128,115</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>61,062</u>	<u>50,885</u>	<u>111,947</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>189,257</u></u>	<u><u>50,805</u></u>	<u><u>240,062</u></u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2020	295,000	52,000	-	-	347,000
Additions	-	-	750	3,055	3,805
At 31 March 2021	<u>295,000</u>	<u>52,000</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>3,055</u>	<u>350,805</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2020	-	51,702	-	-	51,702
Charge for year	(500)	74	250	1,018	842
At 31 March 2021	<u>(500)</u>	<u>51,776</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>1,018</u>	<u>52,544</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2021	<u>295,500</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>2,037</u>	<u>298,261</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>295,000</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>295,298</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Trade debtors	26,539	12,321
Other debtors	81	-
	<u>26,620</u>	<u>12,321</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 11)	-	16,116
Other loans (see note 11)	4,167	36,586
Trade creditors	173	-
Social security and other taxes	2,068	6,721
Pensions	(364)	1,110
Net wages	-	92
Accrued expenses	8,328	3,532
Grants in advance	-	4,699
	<u>14,372</u>	<u>68,856</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Other loans (see note 11)	<u>45,833</u>	<u>-</u>

11. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	-	16,116
Other loans	4,167	36,586
	<u>4,167</u>	<u>52,702</u>
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Other loans - 1-2 years	<u>8,333</u>	<u>-</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Other loans - 2-5 years	<u>12,500</u>	<u>-</u>
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Other loans more 5yrs instal	25,000	-

12. LEASING AGREEMENTS

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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Within one year	34,040	-
Between one and five years	8,760	-
	<u>42,800</u>	<u>-</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20	Net	Transfers	At
	£	movement	between	31.3.21
		in funds	funds	£
		£	£	
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	168,481	22,835	99,778	291,094
Cessation fund	20,776	-	-	20,776
	<u>189,257</u>	<u>22,835</u>	<u>99,778</u>	<u>311,870</u>
Restricted funds				
Sefton DAAT - Capital	26,168	-	(26,168)	-
South Sefton Development Trust	5,396	-	(5,396)	-
The National Lottery (BBO-Digital Inclusion)	241	(74)	8,486	8,653
Hemby Trust	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000
The Clothworkers	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
Sovini Restricted Donation	7,000	-	(7,000)	-
Help the Homeless	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
ESF Community Grants Programme	-	2,428	8,429	10,857
Sefton CVS	-	3,000	-	3,000
The National Lottery - Covid 19	-	31,338	(31,338)	-
Sefton MBC - Covid 19	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Homeless Link - Covid 19	-	11,002	(11,002)	-
Crisis UK - Covid 19	-	4,200	(4,200)	-
Charitable Aid Foundation - Covid 19	-	7,914	(7,914)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation - Covid 19	-	-	-	-
Emergency Fund	-	(2,600)	2,600	-
Liverpool City Region	-	5,758	(4,275)	1,483
	<u>50,805</u>	<u>73,966</u>	<u>(99,778)</u>	<u>24,993</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>240,062</u>	<u>96,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>336,863</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

13. 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	249,403	(226,568)	22,835
Restricted funds			
South Sefton Development Trust	227	(227)	-
The National Lottery (BBO-Digital Inclusion)	8,486	(8,560)	(74)
Hemby Trust	1,500	(500)	1,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	21,558	(21,558)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	10,500	(10,500)	-
Liverpool CVS	2,000	(2,000)	-
MIND	18,060	(18,060)	-
ESF Community Grants Programme	8,428	(6,000)	2,428
Eleanor Rathbone	5,000	(5,000)	-
Sefton CVS	3,000	-	3,000
The National Lottery - Covid 19	31,338	-	31,338
Sefton MBC - Covid 19	10,000	-	10,000
Homeless Link - Covid 19	11,002	-	11,002
Crisis UK - Covid 19	4,200	-	4,200
Charitable Aid Foundation - Covid 19	7,914	-	7,914
Steve Morgan Foundation - Covid 19			
Emergency Fund	5,200	(7,800)	(2,600)
Liverpool City Region	5,758	-	5,758
	<u>154,171</u>	<u>(80,205)</u>	<u>73,966</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>403,574</u>	<u>(306,773)</u>	<u>96,801</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	40,286	125,595	2,600	168,481
Cessation fund	20,776	-	-	20,776
	<u>61,062</u>	<u>125,595</u>	<u>2,600</u>	<u>189,257</u>
Restricted funds				
Sefton DAAT - Capital	26,168	-	-	26,168
South Sefton Development Trust	5,396	-	-	5,396
The National Lottery (BBO-Digital Inclusion)	321	(80)	-	241
Hemby Trust	1,000	-	-	1,000
The Clothworkers	10,000	-	-	10,000
Sovini Restricted Donation	7,000	-	-	7,000
Help the Homeless	1,000	-	-	1,000
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	2,600	(2,600)	-
	<u>50,885</u>	<u>2,520</u>	<u>(2,600)</u>	<u>50,805</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>111,947</u>	<u>128,115</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240,062</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	182,055	(210,377)	153,917	125,595
Restricted funds				
South Sefton Development Trust	4,378	(4,378)	-	-
The National Lottery (BBO-Digital Inclusion)	-	(80)	-	(80)
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	21,363	(21,363)	-	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	23,600	(21,000)	-	2,600
	<u>49,341</u>	<u>(46,821)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,520</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>231,396</u>	<u>(257,198)</u>	<u>153,917</u>	<u>128,115</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	40,286	148,430	102,378	291,094
Cessation fund	<u>20,776</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,776</u>
	61,062	148,430	102,378	311,870
Restricted funds				
Sefton DAAT - Capital	26,168	-	(26,168)	-
South Sefton Development Trust	5,396	-	(5,396)	-
The National Lottery (BBO-Digital Inclusion)	321	(154)	8,486	8,653
Hemby Trust	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000
The Clothworkers	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
Sovini Restricted Donation	7,000	-	(7,000)	-
Help the Homeless	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	2,600	(2,600)	-
ESF Community Grants Programme	-	2,428	8,429	10,857
Sefton CVS	-	3,000	-	3,000
The National Lottery - Covid 19	-	31,338	(31,338)	-
Sefton MBC - Covid 19	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Homeless Link - Covid 19	-	11,002	(11,002)	-
Crisis UK - Covid 19	-	4,200	(4,200)	-
Charitable Aid Foundation - Covid 19	-	7,914	(7,914)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation - Covid 19	-	-	-	-
Emergency Fund	-	(2,600)	2,600	-
Liverpool City Region	<u>-</u>	<u>5,758</u>	<u>(4,275)</u>	<u>1,483</u>
	50,885	76,486	(102,378)	24,993
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>111,947</u>	<u>224,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>336,863</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

13. 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 £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	431,458	(436,945)	153,917	148,430
Restricted funds				
South Sefton Development Trust	4,605	(4,605)	-	-
The National Lottery (BBO-Digital Inclusion)	8,486	(8,640)	-	(154)
Hemby Trust	1,500	(500)	-	1,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation E&W	42,921	(42,921)	-	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	34,100	(31,500)	-	2,600
Liverpool CVS	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
MIND	18,060	(18,060)	-	-
ESF Community Grants Programme	8,428	(6,000)	-	2,428
Eleanor Rathbone	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Sefton CVS	3,000	-	-	3,000
The National Lottery - Covid 19	31,338	-	-	31,338
Sefton MBC - Covid 19	10,000	-	-	10,000
Homeless Link - Covid 19	11,002	-	-	11,002
Crisis UK - Covid 19	4,200	-	-	4,200
Charitable Aid Foundation - Covid 19	7,914	-	-	7,914
Steve Morgan Foundation - Covid 19				
Emergency Fund	5,200	(7,800)	-	(2,600)
Liverpool City Region	5,758	-	-	5,758
	<u>203,512</u>	<u>(127,026)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,486</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>634,970</u>	<u>(563,971)</u>	<u>153,917</u>	<u>224,916</u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year a loan provided to the charity by key personnel was settled in full.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS**Sefton DAAT - Capital Fund**

This fund represents a grant awarded towards the cost of general capital expenditure. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased from this funding.

South Sefton Development Trust

This fund represents a capital grant from ESF. The grant was awarded to contribute towards the cost of the capital expenditure at the 1-2-1 Detox unit. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased.

The National Lottery (BBO - Digital Inclusion)

This fund relates to a project, jointly funded by the European Social Fund and the Big Lottery Fund as part of its 2014-2020 Building Better Opportunities Programme. It offers IT skills training and employment support for local, unemployed, people.

Steve Morgan Foundation

This fund represents a grant awarded to bring back a five working day week for staff and extend the service to Liverpool clients.

Lloyds TSB

The fund represents a grant towards the salaries of staff employed in the delivery of The Key - our transitional housing support.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

Hemby Trust

This fund represents a capital grant. The grant was awarded to contribute towards the cost of the capital expenditure at the 1-2-1 Detox unit. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased.

The Clothworkers

This fund represents a capital grant. The grant was awarded to contribute towards the cost of the capital expenditure at the 1-2-1 Detox unit. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased.

Sovini Restricted Donation

This fund represents a restricted donation. The donation was awarded to contribute towards the cost of the capital expenditure at the 1-2-1 Detox unit. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased.

Help the Homeless

This fund represents a capital grant. The grant was awarded to contribute towards the cost of the capital expenditure at the 1-2-1 Detox unit. An amount is charged to the fund each year to reflect the movement in the net book value of the assets purchased.

MIND Corona Virus Mental Health Response C19

This fund represents a grant towards the cost of supporting our beneficiaries with their mental health needs during the Coronavirus pandemic.

ESF Community Grants - Workers Educational Association

This fund represents a grant that is helping many people in the Liverpool City Region who face additional barriers in the labour market to improve their employability and gain employment.

Eleanor Rathbone Trust

This fund represents a grant towards the costs of mentoring and support for our beneficiaries.

Sefton CVS

This fund represents a grant towards the cost of supporting our beneficiaries with their mental health needs during the Coronavirus pandemic, and as we look to come out of that period.

The National Lottery - Covid 19

This fund represents a grant to help support the costs of supporting our beneficiaries with all of their needs during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sefton MBC - Covid 19

This fund represents a discretionary grant to help small businesses during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Homeless Link - Covid 19

This fund represents a grant to help alleviate the financial impact of COVID-19 on the organisation. This may be because of a reduction in actual or expected income this year, and/or as a result of higher costs that have been incurred or expected to incur as a result of providing services to beneficiaries as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis, and to provide new or adapted services to homeless people affected by COVID-19.

Crisis UK - Covid 19

This fund represents a grant funding local organisations; enabling them to adapt their services and provide emergency solutions to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Charitable Aid Foundation - Covid 19

This fund represents a grant to help charities during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Steve Morgan Foundation - Covid 19

This fund represents a grant that allows us to focus on the vital work of supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities during the Coronavirus pandemic.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

Liverpool City Region

A grant awarded towards the cost of setting up a community garden on Balliol Road, Bootle. The project will allow for the planting of a fruit hedge, the design of raised flower beds and tree seats, planting of a vegetable garden and set up of a water capture system.

AB Charitable

This fund represents a grant towards a pilot scheme of working with people released from prison that improves the likelihood of them remaining in stable accommodation beyond the first month.

Hemby Trust

This fund represents a capital grant. The grant was awarded to contribute to the cost of Capital expenditure at The Key at Balliol Road.

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The general (unrestricted) fund may be used at the discretion of the board of trustees in furtherance of the charitable company's objects.

TRANSFERS

There was a transfer between the General fund and the Steve Morgan Foundation. This represented expenditure incurred by the General fund which relates to the Steve Morgan Foundation.

There have been transfers from restricted funds to the unrestricted general fund which represents fully expended capital grants received in earlier years. The property was revalued in the year to 31 March 2020, and is held as an asset in the general fund.

Amounts transferred from the general fund to individual restricted funds, represents expenditure incurred by the general fund that had been approved to be spent against restricted grants.

Amounts transferred from general fund to restricted funds to cover amounts expended within the year.

17. DESIGNATED FUND

The cessation fund was set aside by the charity trustees/directors in the event of the charity winding up its activities. The amount designated is an estimate of the additional costs that would be incurred upon cessation.

Independence Initiative Limited

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	240	1,340
Grants	169,170	89,270
CJRS Grant	63,004	-
	232,414	90,610
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	2	-
Charitable activities		
Other income	16,081	5,001
Residents housing benefit	155,077	135,785
	171,158	140,786
Total incoming resources	403,574	231,396
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	167,888	160,625
Social security	9,024	8,777
Pensions	1,633	1,518
Rent	36,989	30,162
Insurance	4,590	4,243
Telephone	5,781	3,171
Postage and stationery	4,220	2,164
Sundries	13	-
General expenses	6,293	4,198
Travel	567	607
Cleaning and security	3,913	6,333
Building repairs & maintenance	13,152	4,803
Professional costs	3,196	1,500
Subscriptions	96	142
Water Rates	3,280	4,348
General Rates	9,649	6,643
Heat & Light	14,322	8,804
Subcontractors	15,698	6,102
Unrecovered top up rent	1,780	-
Depreciation of freehold property	(500)	500
Depreciation of fixtures & fittings	74	99
Depreciation of motor vehicles	250	-
Depreciation of computer equipment	1,018	-
	302,926	254,739
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	882	1,703

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Independence Initiative Limited

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Finance		
Governance costs		
Trustees' expenses	-	31
Independent examination	<u>2,965</u>	<u>725</u>
	<u>2,965</u>	<u>756</u>
Total resources expended	<u>306,773</u>	<u>257,198</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u><u>96,801</u></u>	<u><u>(25,802)</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements