

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30 JUNE 2023**

**BENCH  
OUTREACH**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1077933  
COMPANY REGISTRATION No: 3751509**

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
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**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

<b>CHARITY NUMBER</b>	1077933
<b>COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER</b>	3751509
<b>DATE OF INCORPORATION</b>	13 April 1999
<b>START OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	1 July 2022
<b>END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	30 June 2023
<b>DIRECTORS</b>	Paul Chapman (Chair) Errol Chambers Sabrina Pathan (appointed 15/03/23) Philippe Granger (appointed 18/03/24) Jodie Wilkinson (resigned 15/03/23) Stephen Mathers (resigned (15/03/23) Janet Mathers (resigned 15/03/23) Shaun Simon (resigned (15/03/23)
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	Belinda Wallace
<b>COMPANY SECRETARY</b>	Philippe Granger
<b>GOVERNING DOCUMENTS</b>	Memorandum & Articles of Association, incorporated 13 April 1999 Articles of Association updated 16 November 2015
<b>OBJECTS</b>	<p>A) Advance the Christian faith in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world as the Directors of the charity (herein called the Trustees) may from time to time think fit,</p> <p>B) To relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are aged or sick or who are homeless and to relieve the distress caused thereby in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world as the Trustees may from time-to-time think fit,</p> <p>C) To advance education in accordance with Christian principles by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate including by means of establishing and operating any educational establishment or establishments in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit,</p> <p>D) To promote the rehabilitation of persons affected by drugs, alcohol and other substance addiction and abuse in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit,</p> <p>E) To relieve persons who are experiencing mental or emotional suffering in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit,</p> <p>F) To advance the provision of training and the development of skills for employment for those in financial and economic need in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world as the Trustees may from time-to-time think fit,</p> <p>G) To promote and fulfil such other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.</p>

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

Bench Outreach's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects and the Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

<b>REGISTERED ADDRESS</b>	14 New King Street Deptford London SE8 3HS	<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</b>	Dominique Wells FCA 10 Lakeswood Road Petts Wood Kent BR5 1BJ
<b>BANKERS</b>	HSBC Bank Plc 85 Lewisham High Street London SE13 6BE		

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of Company Law, present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in pages 11 and 12 and with applicable UK accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, 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 2015) and the Charity's governing document.

The legal and administrative information set out on page 3 forms part of this report.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

**Bench Outreach** is a registered charity (No. 1077933) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 3751509). Our operations are governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 13 April 1999 and amended by a special resolution of the members on 16 November 2015.

The Board meets between 4 and 6 times a year and is responsible for the good governance of the organisation and its strategic direction including approving the annual budget. The CEO attends all meetings. New trustees are appointed by the trustees and are recruited taking regard of the Board's need for a range of skills, experience, and diversity. Prospective trustees will attend a Board meeting before being put forward for appointment and are provided with copies of the Articles of Association, latest accounts, and the minutes of recent trustee meetings.

**Vision and Mission**

Bench Outreach's vision is a society where homelessness, hunger, inequality, and exclusion are the exception rather than the rule, and where people have the resources to lead lives of meaning and purpose. To achieve this, we:

- Help our clients into housing and provide them with support to sustain their tenancies,
- Offer them advice and advocacy to obtain their full benefit entitlements,
- Refer them to specialist treatment services where appropriate,
- Help them establish support networks in their communities,
- Build relationships with local authorities, other charities, businesses, and the community, challenging stereotypes and increasing understanding and empathy towards our clients,
- Seek to empower our clients to have their voices heard and to influence policy.

Our service delivery is informed by an understanding of trauma and the intricate and pressing challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty. From mental health struggles to housing instability, our holistic approach at Bench Outreach aims to tackle the underlying causes of social exclusion and to provide comprehensive support to those in need. We subscribe to the person-centered approach, believing empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regard will create the necessary conditions for the actualisation of the individual.

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**Needs in the local community**

Situated in the heart of Deptford in North Lewisham, Bench Outreach is surrounded by seven 'Lower Layer Super Output Areas' (LSOA) in the 2nd decile of deprivation as measured by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities. LSOAs are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales and report on seven domains:

- Income
- Employment
- Education, skills and training
- Health and disability
- Crime
- Living environment
- Barriers to housing and services

Levels of deprivation currently experienced in Lewisham and surrounding areas contribute to multiple and interlocking exclusion. Inequality is the over-arching cause of need. Etched into the fabric of the community is the impact of a decade of austerity preceded by many years of underinvestment and neglect.

For people in work, salaries are below the UK average. A paucity of employment opportunities, and a reliance on poorly paid "gig economy" jobs, negatively impacts income levels. This is evident across the spectrum, from the ubiquitous fast food delivery rider to the development of a "precariat" – short-term contract workers – among teaching staff in our local university. Reductions in Universal Credit have plunged people who cannot find work and are reliant on benefits into poverty – this before the cost-of-living crisis. We have the highest proportion of working-age residents in London on out-of-work benefits at 14.9%, child poverty rates at 33% and reliance on food banks increasing by 60% annually for unemployed and employed alike.

According to the Department for Communities and Local Government's 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), the borough is ranked as the 63rd most deprived local authority out of 326. This means Lewisham is within the 20% most deprived Local Authorities in England and 7th most deprived borough in London.

The link between poverty and ill-health, particularly mental ill-health, is well established and Lewisham residents are more likely to have a long-term mental health problem than the London or England average. Mental health issues contribute to increased substance abuse and the area has higher than average heroin use, with crack cocaine use double the national average. Premature mortality is higher than the national average, with physical health impacted by low income, poor diet, and lack of engagement with health services.

Increased substance abuse is correlated with higher levels of street crime and violence. The borough of Lewisham has the fourth-highest rate of domestic violence in London.

While the area scores better in education, skills and training, the local further education college has experienced swinging cuts in recent years and has been forced to reduce the number and quality of courses available. Educational achievement is lower in Lewisham than the national average, with 40.9% of 19-year-olds without a level 3 qualification. Almost half the population, 48.5% is black or minority ethnic with large numbers of first-generation migrants. There are over 170 mother tongue languages spoken by pupils in Lewisham schools, and education provision does not reflect the opportunities this diversity presents with a reduction in ESOL provision across the borough.

Nowhere is exclusion better observed than in the housing market. Mean property rental costs in Lewisham are £1,611 compared with the national average of £1,238. Properties in Lewisham costs on average £435,000, or nearly 18 times the average income. The area has

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the 12th highest homelessness rate in England.

The local authority, which has seen its budget reduced by around 60% since 2010 can no longer invest as much in local organisations engaged in community development, with the burden to provide a vibrant cultural life falling on the charitable and faith sectors.

### **Highlights of the year - impactful Services and activities**

Throughout the year, Bench Outreach has been a beacon of hope for over 1,000 individuals, delivering vital services such as Access to Housing and Benefits, specialising in working with those who are insecurely housed or need support to navigate the welfare and benefits system. Bench Outreach adopts an integrated approach to tackling the inequality affecting our clients, offering signposting, advice, advocacy, housing, tenancy sustainment support, and help to combat food and fuel poverty.

Our core service - **Access to Housing and Benefits service** – helps people obtain their housing and benefit entitlements. Austerity has created a hostile environment for people relying on the welfare system as a safety net. Through our advisers, people who are homeless or vulnerably housed, living in poverty, and struggling to deal with the demands of housing providers or the social welfare system, receive a range of support from signposting right through to advocacy at tribunal or court level. This service now operates at four locations in Lewisham and Greenwich. Access to Housing and Benefits service assisted over 1,000 clients and this was made possible with the expansion of our satellite services in the most deprived areas in the borough thus extending our reach and delivery in securing permanent accommodation and attending PIP (Personal Independent Payment) tribunals with an incredible success rate, helping clients maximise their income in defense to the ongoing financial cost of living crisis.

**Bench Housing First** - a project over the last 10 years, has established itself as one of the organisation's pioneering client-led homelessness solutions in partnership with the local authority. Bench Housing First helps people with histories of rough sleeping, living in hostels, or with multiple experiences of imprisonment to live independently. Started in 2014, this project has established the Housing First approach as an effective housing solution for homeless people in the London Borough of Lewisham. It is based on the principle that housing is a basic human right. Placing people in their own independent accommodation and providing them with the support they need to keep it, breaks the cycle of homelessness and exclusion. This service has been recommissioned by Lewisham Council until March 2025.

Including our ongoing work with ex-offenders, our practical support work enables the most vulnerable to sustain their accommodation and empowers those most marginalized to live more fulfilling lives. Supporting over 30 clients into permanent tenancies over the course of the year, the Bench Housing First project saw a 15% increase in successful placements, providing stable housing for individuals with complex needs.

These initiatives have not only offered immediate assistance but have also empowered individuals to reclaim their independence and dignity.

**The Evening Service** - our oldest service and a partnership with the Bear Church in Deptford, addresses food poverty and serves as an entry point for people to engage with our other services or those of our partner organisations. Operating thirty-six nights a year and mainly delivered by volunteers, it offers people from different circumstances and backgrounds the opportunity to meet and get to know each other, breaking down barriers and stimulating community cohesion.

**Clyde School** - With our existing partnerships in one of our satellites based in The Clyde school in Deptford we were also able to support 10 of the most underprivileged young children and their families obtain school uniforms. This type of support is at the core of what we do as we work relentlessly to bridge

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poverty gaps and support those most in need.

**Community Impact** - the impact of our work extends beyond numbers and statistics. It is measured in the lives transformed, as our "I see you" approach reinforces clients' positive regard for self, thus strengthening our communities. Through our collaborative efforts, we have seen individuals overcome adversity, rebuild their lives, and become agents of change in their communities.

### **Partnerships and collaborations**

Our strategic collaborations with local authorities, third-sector organisations, and community partners have been instrumental in amplifying our impact and reach. Together, we have harnessed collective resources and expertise to advocate for systemic change, expand service provisions, and ensure equitable access to support services for our community members.

Alongside our statutory partner, the London Borough of Lewisham, we enjoy the support of many third-sector colleagues, locally and nationally. Through our participation in Lewisham and Greenwich Homelessness Forums and our input into Lewisham's Vulnerable Adult's Pathway Planning Group and the Rough Sleepers' Task and Targeting Group, we maintain relationships with several housing providers and local and national charities including Lewisham Homes, Dinardo, L&Q, Phoenix Community Housing, LRMN, 2000 CAC, Deptford Reach, the Jericho Road Project, SHP, St Mungo's, Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, and Reach.

The charity is also grateful to all the local faith communities who help our clients, especially the Bear Church in Deptford and Kings Church in Catford.

**Expansion of Partnership with the 999 Club** - we are excited to announce the expansion of our partnership with the 999 Club to provide holistic support to individuals experiencing housing insecurity. Our collaborative efforts will involve seamless integration of services, with the 999 Club providing initial support and referrals to our advocacy and support services. Together, we will create a supportive ecosystem that addresses the multifaceted needs of our community members, promoting long-term stability and well-being.

**Single Homeless Accommodation Program (SHAP)** - new projects in the pipeline will see Bench work alongside our long-term partners in the borough of Lewisham to provide the support and property management to 10 vulnerable high complex need clients. This initiative Single Homeless Accommodation Program (SHAP) will deliver support to address gaps in homelessness pathway provision and will be the first of its kind in the London Borough of Lewisham.

### **Recent Staff Changes and Adaptations**

In response to recent staff changes, Bench Outreach has undergone a period of adaptation and revaluation. While transitions can be challenging, they have also provided an opportunity for growth and renewal within our organisation. This has allowed us to become more agile and responsive to emerging needs. We have taken proactive steps to ensure a strong continuity of service delivery, including redefining roles, identifying key roles within the organisation, and ensuring the ongoing development of our succession plan. This proactive approach helps mitigate the impact of unexpected departures.

Employee wellbeing has been a key focus. We recognize the potential impact of staff changes on morale and wellbeing and we have offered support such as reflective practice, counselling, and enhanced training programs, thus fostering a supportive work environment for our dedicated team.

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## **Risk Assessment**

The trustees conduct an annual review of its controls and review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis. As with many small charities in the current climate, we believe that the major risk is if insufficient funds are raised to meet our planned expenditure. This year, unlike previous years, the organisation has not been successful in fully funding the Housing First project, raising 66% and 48% of the ACCESS project, and would thus need to double down on fundraising to meet the level of previous years. The trustees have looked at new/other funding sources to meet the projects' needs amidst the challenges and thus sustain a continuous funding process of the projects.

The charity's biggest assets are its strong reputation, agility, and responsiveness, with the ability to be innovative and collaborate with others - this positions the charity well to adapt its strategy to attract new funding that will resonate with funders who are fully aware of the kind of emerging needs that this charity has the reputation to address with great success.

## **Financial Review**

The cost-of-living crisis, government cuts and the looming economic recession made raising funds difficult for charities and we were not an exception in this regard. With rising bills, falling real income value, and uncertainties due to fluctuating government policies, donors and funders were constrained to review their prior giving levels. This brought significant financial challenges, particularly with cash flow as guaranteed grants and donations began to fall through. Despite these challenges, it was another year of growth for Bench Outreach with a total staff count of 20 (19 in 2022). Expenditure increased by 5.7% to £707,311 (2022 £668,870), though income dropped by 16.6% to £524,898 (2022 £626,259). There was also a decrease in unrestricted donations by 39% to £103,881 (2022 £169,595). However, unrestricted reserves at the end of the year stood at £174,783 (2022 £171,798).

Bench Housing First has continued to enjoy being a commissioned service (which began in April 2020) within the London Borough of Lewisham and the contract was renewed in 2021. This project also received a four-year grant, awarded in October 2020 by Henry Smith Charity, which includes the salary of a specialist women's worker.

In 2022, the Henry Smith Charity also awarded the ACCESS project a three-year grant.

We have retained the continuous support of most of our major funders.

## **Reserves Policy**

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain appropriate to the charity's needs, based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitment. We consider this to be unrestricted funds equivalent to a minimum of three months' total expenditure and a maximum of twelve months' total expenditure. This should enable the trustees to ensure that the charity will be able to continue to fulfill its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or additional unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

## **Future and commitments**

As we look to the future, Bench Outreach remains committed to innovation, co-production, and delivering services with excellence. We are optimistic for the next phase of our journey as we continue to contribute towards the lives of the people we serve.



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Bench Outreach remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing service delivery and adapting to evolving community needs. We are dedicated to scaling up our supported housing capacity, expanding our Housing First initiatives, and innovating new solutions to address emerging challenges. Our goal is to foster an inclusive and supportive environment where every individual can thrive.

The numbers now approaching us for help indicate the need for our services to continue and to expand. Our plans include an increase to the capacity of Bench Supported Housing in partnership with Lewisham Council, and with J49 this will further establish Bench's commitment to supporting the most complex clients in the Lewisham Borough, the expansion of our Housing First service to work with an additional new cohort with lower support needs, and the addition of another satellite service to our Access to Housing and benefits Team in one of the boroughs most deprived wards in Downham.

Like all small charities, the charity is experiencing increasing difficulty in procuring funding. As local authorities reduce funding, the pressure on grant-making trusts funding the third sector increases. To mitigate the impact of this tightening of the purse strings, we continue exploring and developing ways to promote client independence to create eco systems of support through coproduction and continued work to influence system change to enable a community that seeks to empower itself rather than the reliance of a revolving door of apathy and hand to mouth support. This will consolidate our funding base to allow us to continue to develop these novel approaches to help our clients overcome the disadvantages they face. For the first time since our foundation, we have employed a Sourcing and Grants Coordinator to work with our senior leadership team to create sustainable funding pipelines for our services and develop our core funding. We also plan to increase our income from individual donations and fundraising events.

### **Acknowledgements and Gratitude**

The charity's vision remains a world of equality, where people feel empowered, involved, and treasured. We are grateful for the continued support of our donors and partners, whose generosity has made our work possible. We continue to rely on the generosity of funders and are fortunate to have the support of several renowned grant-making trusts including the Henry Smith Charity, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Leathersellers' Charity, the Drapers' Charitable Fund, the Tudor Trust, the Deptford Challenge Trust, the Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe, and the Big Lottery Fund. The Benefactor Trust, The Sackler Trust and Lewisham Local have all provided invaluable support to the work of Bench Outreach.

We are especially thankful to the Jessica Mathers Trust. This local charity has supported us for many years and makes much of what we do possible.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our funders, volunteers, staff, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and dedication. Their collective contributions have been instrumental in driving our success, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing partnership and commitment to our shared mission.

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**Trustees Responsibilities**

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and taking reasonable steps to prevent or detect fraud and breaches of law and regulation.

So far as each of the trustees is aware, there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the charity's examiner and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the examiner has been made aware of this information.

This report was approved by the Trustees, signed on behalf by:



P Chapman, Chair

Date: 26 March 2024

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022 £</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and Legacies	2	70,875	221,017	<b>291,892</b>	296,768
Income from Charitable Activities	3	30,797	200,000	<b>230,797</b>	331,885
Income from Investments		2,209	-	<b>2,209</b>	606
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>103,881</b>	<b>421,017</b>	<b>524,898</b>	<b>629,259</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Expenditure on Raising Funds		604	-	604	257
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	4	100,292	606,415	<b>706,707</b>	668,613
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>100,896</b>	<b>606,415</b>	<b>707,311</b>	<b>668,870</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>2,985</b>	<b>(185,398)</b>	<b>(182,413)</b>	<b>(39,611)</b>
Total Funds Brought Forward		171,798	217,413	<b>389,211</b>	428,822
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>174,783</b>	<b>32,015</b>	<b>206,798</b>	<b>389,211</b>

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 11 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

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**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022 £</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	5	-	97	<b>97</b>	734
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash at Bank and in Hand	7	165,336	4,927	<b>170,263</b>	332,620
Debtors	8	10,341	73,612	<b>83,953</b>	101,842
		<u>175,677</u>	<u>78,539</u>	<u><b>254,216</b></u>	<u>434,462</u>
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	9	(894)	(28,621)	<b>(29,515)</b>	(27,985)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u><b>174,783</b></u>	<u><b>49,918</b></u>	<u><b>224,701</b></u>	<u><b>406,477</b></u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>174,783</b>	<b>50,015</b>	<b>224,798</b>	<b>407,211</b>
Provisions for Liabilities	10	-	(18,000)	<b>(18,000)</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>174,783</b></u>	<u><b>32,015</b></u>	<u><b>206,798</b></u>	<u><b>389,211</b></u>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>					
General Funds		174,783	-	<b>174,783</b>	171,798
Restricted Funds	6b	-	32,015	<b>32,015</b>	217,413
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u><b>174,783</b></u>	<u><b>32,015</b></u>	<u><b>206,798</b></u>	<u><b>389,211.00</b></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') relating to small companies, and with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102).

For the year ended 30 June 2023, the company was entitled to the exemption from audit under Section 477(2) of the Act. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for this financial period in accordance with Section 476 of the Act.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for:

- 1 ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386; and
- 2 preparing accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its net incoming resources for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of Section 393, and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, insofar as they are applicable to the company.

The financial statements on pages 9 to 18 were approved by the Trustees on 26 March 2023

and signed on their behalf by Trustee



P Chapman

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of Preparation**

The charity is a public benefit entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102). The charity has taken advantage of the exemption to prepare a statement of Cash Flows as per Update Bulletin 1 of the Charity SORP (FRS 102) February 2016.

**Income**

***Recognition of Income***

This is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- ♦ the charity becomes entitled to the income;
- ♦ the income is expected to be received; and
- ♦ the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

***Income with Related Expenditure***

Where income has related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

***Grants and Donations***

Grants and donations are included in the SOFA when the charity has entitlement to the income. Where a grant is awarded for use against expenditure over a specified period, only that proportion of the grant relating to the financial period is recognised in the SOFA.

***Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts***

Income from tax reclaims is included in the SOFA in the same financial period as the gift to which it relates.

***Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants***

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

***Gifts in Kind***

Gifts in kind are accounted for at the lower of a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity and the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale are included as gifts on receipt at fair value. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as income when receivable.

***Donated Services and Facilities***

These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

***Volunteer Help***

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' Annual Report.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

***Investment Income***

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

**Expenditure and Liabilities**

***Liability Recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

***Grants with Performance Conditions***

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

***Grants Payable without Performance Conditions***

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in the control of the charity.

***Support Costs***

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

***Provisions for Liabilities***

Provisions are recognised when the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event; it is probable that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position and the amount of the provision as an expense.

Provisions are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and subsequently reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount that would be required to settle the obligation. Any adjustments to the amounts previously recognised are recognised in profit or loss unless the provision was originally recognised as part of the cost of an asset.

**Fixed Assets**

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

***Depreciation***

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives. The rates applied per annum is as follows:

- Fixtures and Fittings 25%
- Office Equipment 25%

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

<b>2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES</b>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022 £</b>
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>				
Donations	70,875	221,017	<b>291,892</b>	296,768
	<b>70,875</b>	<b>221,017</b>	<b>291,892</b>	<b>296,768</b>

See Note 6a regarding Donations for Unrestricted Funds of £70,875  
See Note 6b regarding Donations for Restricted Funds of £221,017

<b>3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022 £</b>
Contracts	-	200,000	<b>200,000</b>	232,694
RB Greenwich	-	-	<b>-</b>	64,344
Nyon Grove	30,797	-	<b>30,797</b>	34,847
	<b>30,797</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>230,797</b>	<b>331,885</b>

See Note 6b regarding Contracts for Restricted Funds of £200,000

<b>4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:</b>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022 £</b>
<b>Notes</b>				
Catering	111	481	592	2,481
Client Welfare	5,196	27,747	32,943	36,233
Depreciation	-	637	637	832
Office Devices, Softwares & Accessories	158	637	795	4,729
Licences & Subscriptions	455	5,759	6,214	4,665
Postage, Printing & Stationery	555	1,457	2,012	1,305
Office Costs	-	40,500	40,500	40,500
Nyon Grove - Client Accommodation	35,703	-	35,703	34,401
Professional Fees	45	41,640	41,685	36,895
Staff	11 51,693	458,685	510,378	478,427
Sundry Expenses	703	2,965	3,668	1,268
Telephone & Internet	2,123	12,583	14,706	13,883
Training	1,644	5,338	6,982	4,641
Travel & Subsistence	99	2,439	2,538	2,561
Volunteer Expenses	758	429	1,187	578
Bank Charges	-	91	91	123
Insurance	10 649	3,427	4,076	3,591
Independent Examiner's Fees	400	1,600	2,000	1,500
	<b>100,292</b>	<b>606,415</b>	<b>706,707</b>	<b>668,613</b>

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures & Fittings £	Office Equipment £	TOTAL £
Cost as at 1 July 2022	-	3,329	3,329
Additions	-	-	-
<b>Cost as at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>3,329</b>
Depreciation as at 1 July 2022	-	2,595	2,595
Charge	-	637	637
<b>Depreciation as at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,232</b>	<b>3,232</b>
Net Book Value as at 30 June 2022	-	734	734
<b>Net Book Value as at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>

The annual commitments under irrevocable operating leases and capital commitments are £Nil (2022 £Nil).

**6a UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Income 2023 £	Income 2022 £
Bear Church	1,800	1,875
Deptford Challenge Trust	15,396	20,000
Jessica Mathers Trust	24,000	24,000
Jubilee Resource Ltd	1,500	1,500
Leathersellers	10,000	10,000
Prendergast School	-	875
Rushey Green Time	-	1,000
Regular Individual Donations	9,579	9,543
Other Individual Donations	1,600	1,005
Albert Hunt Trust	7,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,875</b>	<b>69,798</b>

Individual Donations include £3,000 donated by trustees (2022 £3,000).



**BENCH OUTREACH**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**6b RESTRICTED FUNDS**

<b>Grant</b>	<b>B/f 1 July 2022 £</b>	<b>Deferred Income 2022 £</b>	<b>Grants Receivable £</b>	<b>Deferred Income 2023 (Note 9) £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>C/f 30 June 2023 £</b>
Big Lottery	76,963	-	20,417	-	20,417	(97,380)	-
The Lee Charity of WH	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Henry Smith	157,500	-	90,000	-	90,000	(201,235)	<b>46,265</b>
Henry Smith	-	-	50,000	<b>(10,000)</b>	40,000	(40,000)	-
Garfield Weston	-	13,333	20,000	<b>(13,333)</b>	20,000	(20,000)	-
The Mrs Smith & Mount Charit	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	(1,250)	<b>3,750</b>
Tudor Trust	950	-	-	-	-	(950)	-
Jessica Mathers Trust	-	-	40,500	-	40,500	(40,500)	-
Various small grants	-	-	100	-	100	(100)	-
<b>Total Restricted Grants</b>	<b>235,413</b>	<b>13,333</b>	<b>231,017</b>	<b>(23,333)</b>	<b>221,017</b>	<b>(406,415)</b>	<b>50,015</b>
<b>Contracts</b>							
LB Lewisham	-	-	200,000	-	200,000	(200,000)	-
Lewisham Refugee & Migrant Network			-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Contracts</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>(200,000)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>235,413</b>	<b>13,333</b>	<b>431,017</b>	<b>(23,333)</b>	<b>421,017</b>	<b>(606,415)</b>	<b>50,015</b>

**Grants for specific purposes during the year were:-**

- i) A grant of £35,000 from the Big Lottery Fund towards the Housing First project.
- ii) A grant of £5,000 from The Mrs Smith & Mount Charity towards Outreach Access services.
- iii) A grant of £90,000 towards the Housing First project, to include the salary of a specialist Housing First women's worker, and a second grant of £10,000 (part of a £120,000 grant over three years) from the Henry Smith Charity towards the Access to Housing and Benefits service project.

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**6b RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)**

- iv) A grant of £5,000 from The Lee Charity of W H towards the ACCESS service.
- v) The Jessica Mathers Trust has donated the use of office space and related services at Jessica's Heart, 14 New King St, Deptford, London SE8 3HS. This has been included at its estimated value.

**Contracts entered into during the year**

- 1) The contract with LB Lewisham to provide a Housing First Service was renewed. The aim is to support homeless clients with high needs to move into housing. Then to support these clients to successfully maintain their tenancies through a personalised support package.

**7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	TOTAL 2022 £
Cash at Bank	163,432	4,927	<b>168,359</b>	329,390
Cash in Hand	1,904	-	<b>1,904</b>	3,230
	<b>165,336</b>	<b>4,927</b>	<b>170,263</b>	<b>332,620</b>

**8 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	TOTAL 2022 £
Income Receivable	7,991	72,500	<b>80,491</b>	98,074
Tax Refund on Gift Aid	1,572	-	<b>1,572</b>	1,572
Prepayments	778	1,112	<b>1,890</b>	2,196
	<b>10,341</b>	<b>73,612</b>	<b>83,953</b>	<b>101,842</b>

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**9 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022 £</b>
Deferred Income	-	23,333	<b>23,333</b>	13,333
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	894	5,288	<b>6,182</b>	14,652
	<b>894</b>	<b>28,621</b>	<b>29,515</b>	<b>27,985</b>

See Note 6b regarding Deferred Income for Restricted Funds of £23,333.

**10 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES**

	Restricted Funds £
As at June 2022	18,000
Charge to Insurance Expenditure	-
As at 30 June 2023	<b>18,000</b>

The provision is for the estimated cost of additional professional indemnity insurance required by LB Lewisham for the twelve years following the expiry of their contract.

**11 STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Gross Wages and Salaries	<b>459,745</b>	433,495
Employer's National Insurance Costs	<b>36,670</b>	32,220
Pension Costs	<b>13,963</b>	12,712
	<b>510,378</b>	<b>478,427</b>

Employees who were engaged in furtherance of the charity's objectives:

<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>

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

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**12 TAXATION**

The charitable company is a registered charity and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

**13 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES**

No payments were made to Trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period.  
No other material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them.

**BENCH OUTREACH**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS**

**Report to the Trustees of Bench Outreach on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023 set out on pages 9 to 18.**

This report is made solely to the Trustees in accordance with Section 154 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees for my examination work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

The charity's Trustees (who are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's total income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having been satisfied that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to show that:
  - accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011), and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102)
- or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dominique Wells FCA  
Chartered Accountant  
10 Lakeswood Road  
Petts Wood  
Kent BR5 1BJ



Date: 26 March 2023