

Registered Charity No. 1085104 (England & Wales)

Registered Company No. 4113588 (England & Wales)



RASASC
rape and sexual abuse
support centre
RAPE CRISIS
SOUTH LONDON

RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2023

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre

P.O. Box 383, Croydon, CR9 2AW

Telephone: 0208 683 3311



Legal and administrative information for the year to 31 March 2023

Status:

Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. It is also a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

Administrative information:

Charity Name:	Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC)	
Charity Registration Number:	1085104	
Company Registration Number:	4113588	
Registered Office:	P.O. Box 383, Croydon, CR9 2AW	
Telephone:	0208 683 3311	
Freephone Helpline:	0808 802 9999	
Email:	info@rasasc.org.uk	Website: www.rasasc.org.uk

Financial information:

Independent Auditors:	Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited Salatin House, 19 Cedar Road, Sutton, SM2 5DA
Bank:	CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Board of Directors:

Chair:	Sheetal Dalal	(appointed 22/09/22)	
Vice Chair:	Patricia O'Sullivan		(resigned 05/07/22)
Treasurer:	Sheetal Dalal		
Secretary:	Vacant		
Trustees:	Alana Ratnadevi Carrasco	(appointed 05/08/22)	
	Sophie Kate Howes	(appointed 05/07/22)	
	Zoe Kate Tisdall	(appointed 05/07/22)	
	Anujavahinie Suntharamoorthy		(resigned 05/07/22)
	Nichole McGill-Higgins		(resigned 05/07/22)

Senior Management Team:

Chief Executive Officer:	Sharon Erdman	
Director of services:	Rosa Knight	
Director of Finance & Resources	Magni Sylvie Bissileu	(appointed 05/12/22)

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the annual report and financial statements for the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre, for year ending 31st March 2023.

This year has seen a huge amount of growth and change at RASASC.

In June 2022 the 24/7 Rape and Sexual Assault Support line was launched, with RASASC as the lead delivery partner. This incredibly positive development for survivors of rape and sexual violence in England and Wales came about after considerable lobbying and hard work by RASASC and others in the sector.

In 2021 the Government commissioned the Rape Review, following a continuing decline in rape prosecutions in England and Wales to the lowest on record. Many of the recommendations that came out of that review have not improved support or justice for survivors but the funding of the 24/7 Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line has. RASASC has a long history of providing the only national women's helpline for survivors of rape and sexual violence, having run a 365 days a year service on behalf of Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW) for the last 10 years. This helpline historically opened for 5 hours a day and ran on very limited staffing and funding, powered by phenomenal women volunteering their time. Many of these women continue to further the cause in the women's sector.

At the end of 2021 the Government invited bids for a newly funded helpline for all survivors in England and Wales, with significant funding to enable 24/7 telephone and live-chat support. I am proud to say that RASASC, in partnership with RCEW, were successful in securing this work through a competitive process. As a result hundreds of survivors a week are able to access high quality specialist support. This opportunity came at a challenging time for RASASC, already going through a lot of change and looking for stability, but we recognised it was a once in lifetime opportunity. We want to recognise all of the hard work and commitment that the team have put into transforming a 5-hour-a-day service into a 24-hour, 365 days of the year service. This happened in a short space of time from the award of the grant in April 2022, to the service going live on 6 June 2022. Since that time the new helpline continues to develop and grow with further funding, and we continue to hold the key delivery role with other partners.

In April 2022 we were also successful in securing significant new funding from NHS England to offer a range of new holistic services to young women and girls in south London who have experienced rape and sexual violence. Again, an opportunity presented itself which, ethically, we felt that we had to pursue, knowing that we had the skills and experience to build these vital services for girls and young women in South London. With funding secured until at least 2025, we have been able to build a team of excellent practitioners supporting both girls and young women from the age of five-plus; and also, the parents, carers and professionals trying to support them. Again, I express my gratitude and admiration for the staff both implementing and delivering these essential services.

Thankfully Sharon Erdman had joined as permanent CEO and she has now been in her role for over 2 years. We also had a new Director of Services, Rosa Knight in role for the whole of this financial year, and they were joined by Sylvie Bissileu as Director of Finance and Resources in December 2022 to complete RASASC's new Senior Leadership Team (SLT). I look forward to continuing our work with the SLT to ensure stability and sustainability at RASASC, during these periods of growth and change. Focus should also be retained on embedding systems and processes which ensure consistency, good practice and fairness.

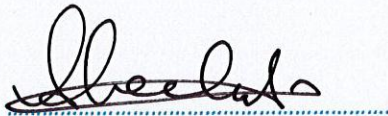
At board level, we have also had significant changes. In July 2022 three trustees resigned, Nichole McGill- Higgins, Tricia O'Sullivan and Anujavahinie Suntharamoorthy. I would like to thank all three for their contributions to the organisation. In the past year we have welcomed to the board Sophie Howes, Zoe Tisdall and Alana Carrasco.

It has been another difficult year, with the cost of living crisis impacting our staff and our clients, and we worked with others in the sector to highlight the impacts of this. We have improved our staffing benefits package and will continue to prioritise investing in and retaining the excellent staff team we have here at RASASC.

Again, we worked against the backdrop of high-profile cases of violence against women and girls, and accounts of misogyny and abuse in the very institutions that exist to protect us, such as the Metropolitan Police. While demand for our services continue to rise, as the Board of Trustees we want to acknowledge the invaluable work that all of our staff

and volunteers do to support survivors, and to continue to commit to providing the organisational resources and support to enable them to do this work.

I would like to pay tribute to all our staff and volunteers and the work that they do to support survivors every day. I would like to acknowledge those staff who have been with RASASC for a significant period of time. Thank you to those of you who have given our clients many years of service, and your contribution to the stability through times of change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheetal Dalal', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Sheetal Dalal

Date: 1 December 2023

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

The charitable company's Board of Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre for the purposes of company law) are pleased to present their report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a trustees' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

1. Our values, mission, and aims

We are a feminist organisation, and see gender inequality as a cause and consequence of violence against women and girls. We recognise that women's experiences of sexual violence and seeking support will be different depending on their relationship to intersecting axes of oppression. We strive to embody anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice and actively challenge unequal power dynamics in our work and the wider world. We live in a world which doesn't treat survivors of sexual violence with the care they deserve. Care underpins everything that we do and the 'Empowerment Model' that guides our work. This year we reviewed our values, and have agreed that at the heart of what we do are Empowerment, Solidarity and Hope.

Empowerment

We thread empowerment through our work with survivors to give them back control of their lives that the perpetrators of sexual violence have taken away.

We do this by recognising strengths, valuing differences, holding clear professional boundaries, and respecting service users' choices and aims for the future.

This begins with empowering our team, through:

Investing in our people with training, and our ongoing commitment to professional development, so we are always at the cutting edge of best practice in supporting survivors.

Supporting flexible and hybrid working to assist our people while valuing our staff through all life stages.

Trusting our team to behave and work with patience, understanding and in good faith with our service users.

Providing the space to enable meaningful engagement with clients and colleagues alike.

Communicating in an assertive, kind and respectful way with clients and colleagues.

Managing expectations and defining remit and boundaries (of service and role) clearly for clients and colleagues.

Valuing survivors' voices and listening to feedback - creating spaces for survivor involvement in recruitment, service development and provision.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

Solidarity

The Rape Crisis movement grew from feminist consciousness-raising and recognition of shared experiences.

We stand with survivors, sister organisations, and each other. A shared goal is what brings us together, regardless of differences in opinions and approaches.

We recognise that the only difference between our service users and our staff is timing.

Survivors of sexual violence deserve the very best care from skilled support teams. Our training and recruitment processes will always incorporate survivors' voices and centre their needs.

Collaborating with sister services to provide advice and assistance, we work in solidarity to amplify the voices of the women's movement and specifically the violence against women and girls' sector.

We support colleagues, volunteers and managers with patience, understanding and trust.

Hope

We believe in a world without sexual violence.

Motivated by hope, our team works with resilience and resourcefulness to advocate for positive outcomes for all survivors. Starting at the very core of this systemic issue, we are actively calling for change from policymakers.

We recognise that hope is what enables survivors to access our services. We draw hope from their resilience and strength, and in turn hold the hope for them when things seem bleak.

Utilising our Empowerment Model, we encourage open and exploratory discussions in all settings. This includes taking the time to speak openly and honestly with children and young people about gender stereotypes, sexual violence myths and consent. Our team provides training to all sectors, to ensure survivors are supported in all environments, including the workplace, schools and medical facilities.

Together, we can challenge the attitudes, beliefs and processes that support sexual violence.

We believe that violence against women and girls is preventable and together we can eradicate it.

Our mission, as stated in our charitable objectives (Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 22 September 2022) is to relieve the sickness and distress of people who have suffered rape and sexual assault, however long ago. We pursue this mission by:

- Providing free, confidential and specialist counselling to women and girls from the age of 5 years old. This includes a range of specialist therapeutic offers, from play therapy, schools' wellbeing counsellors, one-to-one long-term counselling, group therapy, and body therapy.
- Providing one-to-one and group work support for those supporting children and young people who have experienced rape and sexual violence.
- Providing a specialist resource, through both our children and young people's counselling service and our training and prevention team,

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

- For those professionals supporting women and girls who have experienced rape and sexual violence. Providing specialist long-term support for women going through the Criminal Justice System.
- Providing holistic casework support to women, in key areas such as access to safe housing and welfare benefits.
- Providing prevention workshops for children in schools, and working collaboratively with those schools.

All of the above work is provided and delivered in the 12 south London boroughs

- Providing (as part of a consortium led by Rape Crisis England and Wales) a 24-hour, 7 days a week specialist helpline service to all survivors of rape and sexual violence aged 16+ in England and Wales.

2. Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees retain overall responsibility for the good strategic and financial governance of the organisation. The Board of Trustees meet a minimum of 6 times a year in the execution of these duties. The day-to-day running of the organisation is delegated to the CEO, Sharon Erdman, who leads a small Senior Leadership Team (SLT) instituted this year, comprising the CEO, Rosa Knight, the Director of Services, and Sylvie Bissileu, the Director of Finance and Resource. This new SLT recognises the changing needs of the charity as it continues to grow, and is responsible for the day-to-day planning and running of all services including overall responsibility for ensuring the organisation maintains its professional standards and reaches key targets. Adult Counselling Services, Children and Young People's Counselling Services, Training and Prevention, Advocacy and the 24/7 Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line all have dedicated service managers who are responsible for the running of their departments.

3. Our Services and standards

Clinical Supervisors are employed to ensure that all frontline workers are debriefed and working ethically in line with the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) guidelines. All salaried staff have access to a pension scheme, to a Healthcare scheme (provided by Healthshield), to an Employee Assistance Programme and a Cycle to Work scheme.

To ensure the standards of delivery and practice, RASASC has been accredited as a Therapy Centre by the BACP, is a member of the Helplines Association, and adheres to the National Occupational Standards set by Rape Crisis (England and Wales).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

Departmental Report: Adult Counselling Service

Based on our Empowerment Model we continued to provide long-term (up to one year) therapy to survivors of sexual violence from Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, with one of our specialist qualified therapists. The department also offered six sessions of specialist body therapy to all clients, short-term grounding sessions to survivors going through the Criminal Justice System or who would benefit from additional stabilisation support whilst on the waiting list and group therapy. We continued to offer a mix of in-person, online and telephone counselling. All therapists receive Clinical Supervision in line with the BACP requirements and regular CPD training throughout the year.

Both the Clinical Lead and Adult Counselling Service Manager left their roles near the start of the financial year and following a restructuring of the management team, we successfully recruited for a Clinical Lead, Operations Coordinator and Clinical Practitioner for the department. Despite this challenging start to the year, we were able to provide **8,838** sessions of counselling to adult survivors of sexual violence.

Client feedback included:

"The only thing was the waiting period between the initial consultation and the first session was very long. I do understand that it's a charity though and you provide long-term counselling so I appreciate there's a challenge there."

"Thank you for supporting me to start to regain ownership of my life and my body."

"I am extremely grateful for the support I received, especially because I was offered the great opportunity of more sessions. I know RASASC already offers an invaluable help!"

"My hope is that, in the future, you will be able to offer a longer support for those who need it. I'm saying this because I know, from personal experience, that it might not be easy for a survivor to find a therapist and an organisation able to help and support in the right way. Apart from this I can only say thank you so much for being there and for doing a wonderful job!"

"Incredible service and approach. I'm incredibly grateful to have been given a chance to safely explore these experiences with someone."

"I had such a great experience with you. I've been waiting almost 40 years and I could finally find support, answers, explanation to things that I was carrying in my life without being aware of the impact they were having... I hope you will keep doing what you are already doing helping more and more people. Thank youuuuu!!!!"

Departmental Report: RASASC'S Helpline Service

In this last financial year, the helpline has expanded significantly. We extended our opening hours from 5 hours a day to 24 hours, offer webchat as well as telephone support and now support anyone who had been affected by sexual violence at any point in their lives. This followed a successful grant tendering process which we submitted in partnership with Rape Crisis England and Wales, following our provision of a helpline for female survivors of sexual violence since 1985. The service is now funded largely by the Ministry of Justice along with pre-existing London Councils funding.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

In April 2022, we started planning the new 24/7 Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line. This was a significant period of change for the team as it involved exploring options around new shift times, team structures and contracts. As with any significant change, the helpline did sadly say goodbye to some of the team who chose not to continue with the new service. We were sad to say goodbye to these women and thank them for all their hard work and support to the helpline. Over the next few months, RASASC invested time in recruitment and training to ensure that the new 24/7 was fully staffed and opened successfully to a soft launch on June 6th 2022. Initially, RASASC worked in partnership with Welsh Women's Aid who supported with overnight delivery and this partnership was then extended to include two other Rape Crisis Centres – Lincolnshire Rape Crisis and ARCH Teeside. The service was then fully and formally launched in November 2022 and staffing levels have continued to expand, RASASC now has approximately 35 managers and frontline staffing working on the helpline, alongside our team of volunteers.

At the start of the financial year, we had 7 volunteers which soon increased to 17 after our Winter 2022 training. Our Spring 2023 intake saw our volunteering levels increase again, and, by April 2023, we were able to be on shift 50 more hours per month than we had done in January 2023. We have had feedback from our volunteers saying that the training and subsequent volunteering has not only helped them professionally, but also on a personal level also and that "the training and support we have is something very special. More than anything, volunteering has given me hope and agency in the face of sexual violence."

Between the soft launch in July 2022 to 31 March 2023 the Support Line took approx. 9150 calls and 5010 webchats.

Client feedback included:

"thank you - this is really validating for me... This conversation has been really validating for me to come to terms with what happened... the work you do is amazing, keep it up"

"I haven't spoken to anyone who understands before. You really reassured me. I'm now going to think about counselling and look at the resources you provided"

Departmental Report: Advocacy Service

Our Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) provide free and specialist practical, factual, and emotional support and information to survivors aged 13 and over who are going through the criminal justice system, or who are considering reporting to the police. We give clear and honest information about the whole criminal justice process, from reporting to the police to attending court, so survivors can make informed decisions that are right for them. We can give clear explanations of legal terms, police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) protocols, and survivors' rights within the system. Our ISVAs accompany survivors to police stations, CPS meetings, video statements, trial, and can liaise with police to ensure timely and accurate updates. We support survivors to challenge poor and discriminatory practice, making complaints, and submitting a Victims' Right to Review (VRRs) where a decision to take No Further Action has been made. They provide links into specialist counselling and grounding sessions, and advocate with and for our clients throughout their journey within the system.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

All of our ISVAs have completed an accredited ISVA training course, either at the University of Worcester, or run by Purple Leaf / Rape Crisis England and Wales.

Our Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate IDSVAs based at the Family Justice Centre (FJC), a drop-in service for survivors of domestic abuse in Croydon, also attends Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference MARAC meetings, child protection conferences and provides a client-centred service for women and their children. Our caseworkers provide emotional and practical support to survivors of sexual violence who have housing or welfare needs.

The Advocacy Department went through a period of transition this year, changing its name from the ISVA department to the Advocacy department as two caseworkers were assimilated into the team. Francesca Jarvis, the longstanding manager of the ISVA department left the organisation near the start of the financial year, and we successfully recruited Raeesa Shaikh as the new Service Lead.

We saw some frontline staff turnover, and this combined with a long internal waiting list led to the service having to prioritise internal referrals for the year. Despite these challenges, the department supported 218 survivors who were engaging or thinking about engaging with the Criminal Justice System and 49 women who required casework support such as with housing or finances.

Due to the staff turnover, recruitment was a key priority for most of the year. The recruitment process was revised to include a framework for shortlisting and a two-staged interview process. We successfully recruited a full-time ISVA to join the team in April 2023, and a Caseworker to provide maternity cover.

Whilst conviction rates continue to be disproportionately low, key successes for the year include two Victims' Right to Reviews which led to the original No Further Action decisions being overturned and both cases progressed to Crown Prosecution Service involvement. In addition to these cases, there were two charging decisions made for cases that had progressed to trial, one of which resulted in a 32-year custodial sentence.

A monitoring and evaluation framework was also created for the expenditure of the London Survivor Gateway client fund to purchase voucher resources. This increased the financial aid available to survivors accessing support from the Advocacy service.

Client Feedback:

"Having my ISVA means that I have someone on my side and I feel less alone."

"My ISVA was very empathetic and calm, which made me feel more at ease."

"I feel so comfortable with my caseworker, she's so kind and helpful."

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

Children and Young Peoples (CYP) Counselling services

The Children and Young Persons' Service provides age appropriate specialist therapeutic support to girls and women from 5 to 24 years old. The services aim to provide support and healing for individuals who have experienced sexual violence with trauma-focussed therapeutic support incorporating evidence-based interventions and coping strategies underpinned by RASASC's Empowerment Model.

The therapeutic team expanded massively this year with funding from NHS England, moving from a small team of mainly sessional staff to a large multi-disciplinary team of 15 staff. Practitioners in the team now include a clinical lead, play therapists, creative therapists, school emotional wellbeing counsellors, a high intensity safeguard lead, family prevention worker and a massage therapist. The services are available in-person, online and via telephone, catering to the diverse community within the 12 south London boroughs that are served. We work in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary of professionals, such as Child and adolescent mental health services CAMHS, social workers, GPs, school safeguarding leads, and universities, which ensures a holistic approach to support.

Therapeutic counselling is provided within schools, colleges, and universities across 12 south London boroughs. This approach aims to make support more accessible and integrated into the educational environment. Rape Crisis South London has also made considerable steps to make the process of accessing therapy more peaceful with the use of hubs in Croydon, Bromley, Greenwich, Kingston, Southwark and Sutton.

We are committed to providing trauma-focussed therapeutic support to minority groups, including asylum seekers and refugees. Our therapists come from diverse cultural backgrounds, ensuring a culturally sensitive approach to support.

More detail on our specialist offer to girls and young women:

Play Therapy: Play therapy is utilised to engage young children in a therapeutic process through play, allowing them to express and process their experiences in a safe and non-directive manner.

Creative Therapy: Creative therapy involves the use of various creative mediums, such as art, music, or drama, to facilitate self-expression and exploration of emotions.

Talking Therapy: Talking therapy provides a space for individuals to receive trauma-focussed therapeutic support using our 'Empowerment Model' to discuss their experiences and emotions, fostering understanding and healing through dialogue.

Massage Therapy: Massage therapy is offered as a therapeutic approach to promote relaxation, reduce stress, as well as safe, positive touch and support overall well-being.

Counselling Sessions: 30 sessions of trauma informed therapeutic counselling are provided to children and young people. These sessions aim to provide a safe space for individuals to explore their experiences and emotions.

This year also saw a significant expansion in our group work offer, and we were able to offer much needed support to those caring for young survivors.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

Family Support Sessions: 8 sessions of family support groupwork. These sessions offer a supportive environment for parents, carers, and other supportive individuals to support one another and gain an understanding of sexual trauma and how they can best support their child or young person with symptoms of complex post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, low mood or anger.

Individual family support: 6 sessions of one-to-one support, either online or in-person, are also offered to parents, carers, and supportive others who do not wish to join a group. These sessions focus on addressing the specific needs of them and their child and providing personalised support.

Support Groups: Support groups are available for girls aged 13 to 18 and young women aged 18 to 24 years old. These groups provide a supportive community where individuals can share friendship, experiences, gain insights into helpful roadmaps to recovery, and receive guidance from peers and professionals.

In this financial year we saw 320 new referrals to the services, with 288 young people accessing one-to-one support.

Departmental Report: Training and Prevention

Based on our frontline experience, the Training and Prevention team offer awareness-raising talks, training and workshops to statutory and non-statutory organisations about sexual violence, the myths and impacts, and how best to support survivors. We provide workshops in schools, colleges, universities and pupil referral units to educate young people about sexual violence, to dispel the myths and to understand consent.

In 2022, we saw some change in staff, with a Training and Prevention Support Worker stepping into the role of manager, and two new Training and Prevention Support Workers joined the team, growing the team from 2 women in 2021-2022, to 3, though we ended the financial year looking to recruit a Manager and a Training and Prevention Support Worker.

We continued to deliver in-person work in schools and colleges, after a hiatus brought on by the Covid pandemic. Although our prevention work has not yet reached full capacity due to a smaller team, we delivered one-off sessions in 'Drop Down Days' on topics including consent, sexual harassment and image-based sexual abuse, and an 8-week 'Consent Champions' programme with college students which reached a total of **873 children and young people**.

In addition, we continued to deliver a popular programme of online training for adult professionals. Overall, we reached **941 multi-agency and education practitioners**.

We were able to maintain existing partners and develop new ones across the statutory and charity sectors in south London. In 2022-2023, we worked with **28 partners** to deliver professional training, including to established partners in Higher Education, and new partners in a local drug and alcohol service, and Improving Access to Psychological Therapies IAPT service, a mental health charity and a new university. We were funded particularly to deliver training and prevention in the Richmond borough, building relationships with several new schools. We also partnered with Brook, the national sexual health charity, as part of a project supporting secondary schools in Lambeth and Lewisham to build their knowledge, skills and capacity around delivering inclusive relationship and sex education.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

4. Financial Review

Our income in 2022/23 has increased by 85% compared to 2021/22 with incoming resources being £2.8m (2022: £1.5m). A large proportion of the income is Restricted (where the funder determines what we spend the money on) Income which amount to £2.7m (2022: £1.4m). A small proportion of the income of £121k (2022: £70k) is unrestricted fund (this is a fund with no spending restriction imposed).

Expenditure incurred during the year was £2.4m (2022: £1.4m) leaving a net result for the year of £426k (2022: £155k) with a split of £327k restricted surplus (2022: £133k), and £99k unrestricted surplus (2022: 21k).

Our restricted fund has increased due to this year's net movement in funds to £818k (2022: £491k)

The unrestricted fund has increased due to this year's net movement in funds to £875k (2022: £798k) which are fixed assets £93.8k (2022: £75k) and general fund £781k (2022: £700k).

5. Public Benefit Statement

The Board of Trustees have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. RASASC's work is grounded in a feminist understanding of sexual violence as both cause and consequence of gender inequality. As such the activities we undertake to support survivors of sexual violence and to prevent sexual violence are also directed at alleviating the impacts of gender inequality on everyone in society. The extent to which sexual violence harms society is immeasurable. Recent data from the Office of National Statistics suggest 11.5% of women in the adult population in England and Wales have experienced child sexual abuse, and every year over 75,000 women are raped.

This year we supported more than 5,000 women and girls who have suffered from some form of sexual violence, through our frontline services. Our services are free at the point of delivery and are offered to female survivors of sexual violence both nationally, through the helpline, and locally to women and girls in all twelve of the south London boroughs. The activities undertaken through our services further our Charity's purposes for the public benefit, as detailed further below.

6. Governance and management

RASASC was set up in 1985 and became a company limited by guarantee in 2000. The articles and memorandum were updated in September 2022. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. The Directors of the Company are also Trustees of the Charity. This year saw some turnover of Trustees due to other work commitments and pressures, The names of the Directors who served during the year and up to the date of approval of these financial statements are:

Nicole McGill-Higgins (resigned 05/07/2022)
Patricia O' Sullivan (resigned 05/07/2022)
Anujavahinie Suntharamoorthy (resigned 05/07/2022)
Sheetal Dalal (appointed 07/07/2021)
Zoe Tisdall (appointed 05/07/2022)
Alana Carrasco (appointed 05/08/2022)
Sophie Howes (appointed 05/07/2022)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

In an effort to have a skills-based board, Trustees are recruited based on the expertise and the time they can offer to RASASC, as well as in order to be representative of the communities we serve. All Board members give their time voluntarily and do not receive any benefits from RASASC. They are required to declare any conflicts of interest. All new Board members are also required to attend a package of training which focusses on the role of a charity trustee, including financial governance.

The Trustees hold Board meetings every 2 months with the CEO and members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and receive regular reporting from the CEO and Director of Finance and Resources, with service managers attending and reporting on their services on a yearly rota. Organisational strategy meetings with senior management are held annually and budgets agreed thereafter for the following year. All policies and procedures of the organisation must be ratified by the Board of Trustees and any Child Protection or Data Protection issues are immediately referred to the Board.

The Trustees hold Board meetings every 6-8 weeks with the CEO, having received reports from relevant senior managers. All relevant outcomes from the Board meetings are communicated Senior Management at their monthly progress meeting.

All policies and procedure of the organisation must be signed off by the Board of Trustees and any Child Protection issues are immediately referred to the Board.

7. Risk Management

The Board of Trustees have examined the major strategic, business, fraud, money laundering and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to ensure regular reports, policies and procedures are produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks. The Organisational Risk Assessment Management Plan delegated to SLT, is reviewed quarterly by them, and presented to the board for examination and discussion quarterly. Risks arising and identified by the Board of Trustees are included. It contains assessments of Finances, Data Protection, Client Confidentiality, Maternity Safety, Fraud, Health and Safety of Clients and Staff, IT, Board of Trustees Liability, Insurances. Adherence to the BACP Code of Ethics and Practice and the National Occupational Standards set by Rape Crisis (England and Wales) are paramount to the ethos and practice of RASASC and ensures a quality and standard of delivery of all our services.

8. Reserves and investment

The Charity relies on grants to fund its work which are liable to fluctuations from year to year. The Charity relies for most of its funding from local and central government and from generous donations from the public. In order to minimise any impact of sudden closure on our service users and staff, the trustees have agreed a reserves policy which seeks to maintain sufficient reserves to cover the running costs of the organisation for six months. Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investments which the Board of Trustees see fit. The Board of Trustees will review the investment strategy in 2023/24

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

9. Going Concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. As in previous years, the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on its success in raising funds from the government, other public authorities and donations, none of which can be guaranteed. The Trustees remain in regular contact with sponsoring public authorities and government departments to secure ongoing financial support for the charitable company's operations going forward. Accordingly, the Trustees have determined there are no material uncertainties as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future and therefore believe it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

10. Events after the reporting period

Following significant changes to the UK government and its policies there has been a dramatic downturn of the UK economy, in particular, the continuing rise of inflation. The extent of the impact of inflation on the financial performance of RASASC will depend on future developments, restrictions, and outlook of the UK economy, all of which are highly uncertain and unpredictable. Therefore, an estimate of the financial effect is not possible at the date of issue of these financial statements. The Trustees consider the current economic crisis to be a non-adjusting post balance sheet event and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

11. Small company provisions

The Board of Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies' exemptions provided by sections 414B and 415A of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare a strategic report and in preparing the Board of Trustees' report on the grounds that the charitable company is entitled to prepare its accounts for the year in accordance with the small companies' regime.

12. RASASC Crawley

Our sister organisation in Crawley (Rape Crisis Surrey and Sussex) went into liquidation in August 2020. We purchased several of Crawley's fixed assets during the liquidation process. The liability of the premises remains Croydon's and we are seeking the possibility to sublet the premises to other charities who share our values.

13. Serious Incidents

Charity commission guidance recommends that the organisation documents any serious incidents in the period. A serious incident is one that results or risks significant:

- harm to the charity's beneficiaries, staff, volunteers or others who come into contact with the charity through its work.
- loss of the charity's money or assets.
- damage to the charity's property.
- harm to the charity's work or reputation.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (continued....)

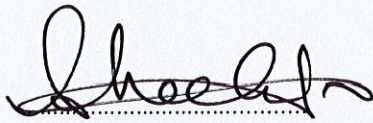
There were no serious incidents to report during the financial year.

14. Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Board of Trustees of the charity who held office at the date of the approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant information, as defined by Charities Act 2011, being information needed by the auditor in connection with their reports, of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as Board of Trustees to make ourselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on **1 December 2023** and signed on their behalf by:



Sheetal Dalal, Chair
Board of Trustees

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

The charitable company's Trustees (who are also the Board of Directors of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates 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 charity will continue in business.

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

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

Independent Auditors Report to the Board of Trustees of Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre

OPINION

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

Independent Auditors Report to the Board of Trustees of Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (continued...)

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 9), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Independent Auditors Report to the Board of Trustees of Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (continued...)

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- we identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We considered the nature of the charitable company's sector and its control environment, and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with the Trustees and other management, and from our cumulative audit, knowledge and experience of the charitable company.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Charitable company operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

Independent Auditors Report to the Board of Trustees of Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (continued...)

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included the Charitable company's regulatory requirements, employment and taxation legislations.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls and policies in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of the Trustee concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of Trustee meetings, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing correspondence with the Charities Commission.

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

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Independent Auditors Report to the Board of Trustees of Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (continued...)

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Records) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Shaw Gibbs

Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Date: 1 December 2023

Salatin House
19 Cedar Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM2 5DA

Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of Financial Activities
 (including income and expenditure account)
 for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	22,956	-	22,956	24,037
Charitable activities:					
Grants receivable	4	-	2,674,172	2,674,172	1,436,950
Other income	5	91,114	-	91,114	44,490
Investment income		6,778	-	6,778	1,758
Total Income		120,848	2,674,172	2,795,020	1,507,235
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	-	2,346,800	2,346,800	1,303,304
Governance	7	21,632	-	21,632	48,934
Total Expenditure		21,632	2,346,800	2,368,432	1,352,238
Net surplus (deficit) for the year		99,216	327,372	426,588	154,997
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		776,024	491,121	1,267,145	1,112,148
Total Funds carried forward		875,240	818,493	1,693,733	1,267,145

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure relates to continuing activities.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023
 (Company no. 04113588)

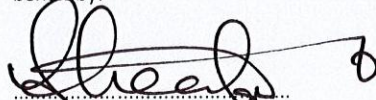
	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	13	93,800	75,082
Current Assets			
Debtors	14	830,759	293,976
Cash at bank and in hand		956,284	933,642
		<u>1,787,043</u>	<u>1,227,618</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(187,110)</u>	<u>(35,555)</u>
Net Current Assets		1,599,933	1,192,063
Total Assets less Liabilities		<u><u>1,693,733</u></u>	<u><u>1,267,145</u></u>
The Funds of the Charity			
Restricted Funds	18	818,493	491,121
Designated Unrestricted Funds	19	93,800	75,082
General Unrestricted Funds	19	781,440	700,942
Total Funds carried forward		<u><u>1,693,733</u></u>	<u><u>1,267,145</u></u>

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. However, an audit was required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees, who are regarded directors for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 1 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Sheetal Dalal, Chair
 Board of Trustees

The notes on pages 28 to 39 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows
 For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in (provided by) operating activities	21	81,117	(76,490)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(58,475)	(14,425)
Disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(58,475)	(14,425)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		22,642	(90,915)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		933,642	1,024,557
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		956,284	933,642

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31st March 2023

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation or uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Going concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. As in previous years, the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on its success in raising funds from the government, other public authorities and donations, none of which can be guaranteed. The Trustees remain in regular contact with sponsoring public authorities and government departments to secure ongoing financial support for the charitable company's operations going forward. Accordingly, the Trustees have determined there are no material uncertainties as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future and therefore believe it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

b) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland – (Charities SORP(FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The functional currency of the charity is considered to be pounds sterling (£) because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling (£).

c) Incoming resources

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

Incoming resources from donations and legacies are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions, such as service agreements, attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

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

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Funding provided through contractual agreements is recognised as services are supplied and when a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

e) Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds – these are funds which 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.

f) VAT

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated in the balance sheet at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. The cost of tangible fixed assets includes directly attributable incremental costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

Depreciation has been charged so as to write off each asset over its anticipated economic useful life. The following rates have been used:

Computers, office equipment	33% straight line
Improvements to leasehold property	over 15 years straight line

h) Leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

i) Debtors

Debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of debtors is established when there is

objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the debt.

j) **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

k) **Financial Instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

l) **Creditors**

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

2. Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted		
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Gifts and donations	22,956	-	22,956	24,037
	22,956	-	22,956	24,037

Income from donations and legacies during 2022 was all unrestricted.

4. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Grants				
London Borough of Croydon	-	38,237	38,237	37,617
London Councils	-	69,704	69,704	60,058
Mayor's Office Policing & Crime	-	1,171,624	1,171,624	986,142
Solace Women's Aid	-	-	-	19,183
MoJ Rape Support Fund	-	-	-	26,400
Women & Girls Network	-	314,372	314,372	234,201
Rape Crisis England & Wales	-	724,119	724,119	100
NHS England	-	355,016	355,016	71,000
London Borough of Merton	-	1,100	1,100	2,249
	-	2,674,172	2,674,172	1,436,950

Income from charitable activities in 2022 was made up of £1,436,950 in restricted funds.

5. Other Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Training income	90,237	29,490
Miscellaneous income	877	15,000
Total	91,114	44,490

Other income received during the year and for 2022 were entirely unrestricted.

6. Analysis of expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
			Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Counselling				
Counsellors' fees and staff costs	-	359,228	359,228	390,518
Specialist counsellors	-	336,057	336,057	44,694
Group counsellors	-	11,335	11,335	5,378
Other costs	-	26,080	26,080	6,554
Support costs	-	211,855	211,855	148,471
	-	944,555	944,555	595,615
Helpline				
Operators	-	573,760	573,760	78,641
Telephone	-	48,082	48,082	12,610
Other costs	-	23,781	23,781	2,387
Support costs	-	189,595	189,595	66,289
	-	835,218	835,218	159,927
Advocacy				
Staff costs	-	353,637	353,637	260,788
Other costs	-	6,605	6,605	5,382
Support costs	-	48,122	48,122	39,774
	-	408,364	408,364	305,944
Training and Operations				
Trainer's fees	-	49,522	49,522	50,094
Other costs	-	480	480	1,597
Support costs	-	48,122	48,122	39,774
	-	98,124	98,124	91,465
Outreach				
Staff costs	-	37,906	37,906	149,813
Other costs	-	673	673	540
	-	38,579	38,579	150,353
Other Support Costs	-	21,960	21,960	-
Total Spend on Charitable Activities	-	2,346,800	2,346,800	1,303,304

Expenditure on charitable activities in 2022 was made up of £1,303,304 from restricted funds.

7. Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank charges	233	216
Auditor's remuneration – audit fees	3,000	2,500
Auditor's remuneration – other services	3,490	2,100
Legal and professional fees	8,427	22,908
Ongoing RCSAS costs	2,421	15,605
Other Governance costs	4,061	5,605
	21,632	48,934

Governance costs during the year and in 2022 were from unrestricted funds.

8. Support costs

	Staff costs	Premises	Other costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Counselling	57,323	37,032	117,500	211,855	148,471
Helpline	50,158	32,019	107,418	189,595	66,289
Training & Operations	14,331	9,258	24,533	48,122	39,774
Advocacy	14,331	9,258	24,533	48,122	39,774
Other Support Costs	7,165	4,629	10,166	21,960	13,257
	143,308	92,196	284,150	519,654	307,565

Support costs have been allocated using the following estimates:

	Chief Executive's / Admin costs	Other costs
Counselling	40%/40%	40%
Helpline	35%/25%	35%
Advocacy	10%/15%	10%
Training & Operations	10%/15%	10%
Other Support Costs	5%/5%	5%

Estimates for allocating support costs are reviewed annually.

9. Employee Information

Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,367,847	706,286
Social and security costs	123,363	59,996
Pension costs, defined contribution scheme	23,813	17,535
Wages and salaries	1,515,023	783,818

The average number of full – time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Counselling	11	6
Helpline	22	3
Advocacy	8	9
Outreach	1	4
Support	4	3
Training and Operations	2	4
	48	29

Fees/expenses are charged by Counsellors, Helpline workers, Volunteers and Supervisors.

There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

None of the trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year.

10. Net income resources

This is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	39,757	20,264
Auditors' remuneration – audit fees	3000	2,500
Auditors' remuneration – non-audit services	3490	2,100

11. Related party transactions

During the year, the charitable company received a grant from their umbrella charitable company, Rape Crisis (England & Wales) amounting to £724,119 (2022: £100). The charitable company also enjoys a close working relationship with entities which provide funding to enable the charity to carry out its charitable company. During the year the charity provided counselling sessions/services to Solace and Women & Girls Network and received an amount totalling £314,372 (2022: £234,201) in the form of grants.

There were no other related party transactions during the year or amounts outstanding as at the year end.

12. Corporation Taxation

As a charitable company, Rape and Sexual Support Centre is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment	Office Equipment	Improvements To Leasehold Property	Website	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	67,683	35,998	95,615	490	199,786
Additions	51,957	6,518	-	-	58,475
At 31 March 2023	119,640	42,516	95,615	490	258,261
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	57,995	35,030	31,353	326	124,704
Depreciation charge	30,510	2,657	6,426	164	39,757
At 31 March 2023	88,505	37,687	37,779	490	164,461
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2023	31,135	4,829	57,836	-	93,800
At 31 March 2022	9,688	968	64,262	164	75,082

14. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants receivable	801,849	277,912
Other debtors	5,039	3,210
Prepayments & accrued income	23,871	12,854
	830,759	293,976

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	81,269	14,135
Other tax and social security	105,841	21,420
	187,110	35,555

16. Transfers between funds

Designated funds show the current use or expected future use of unrestricted funds in the financial statements as decided by the trustees. Transfers are made between unrestricted general funds and designated funds to reflect changes in these funds.

Transfer of funds from unrestricted funds to restricted funds reflects own and external funding contributions required to meet specific project funding requirements.

17. Pension Scheme

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charitable company to the scheme and amounted to £23,813 (2022: £17,535). There were £6,250 (2022: £3,348) contributions payable to the scheme at the end of the year.

18. Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer to Unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Advocacy	8,108	443,440	(408,363)	-	43,185
Helpline	40,574	839,952	(835,218)	-	45,307
Counselling	237,763	1,132,103	(944,555)	-	425,311
Training	160,740	195,227	(120,085)	-	235,883
Outreach	43,307	63,450	(38,579)	-	68,178
Crawley	629	-	-	-	629
	491,121	2,674,172	(2,346,800)	-	818,493

Previous year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer to Unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Advocacy	50,783	263,269	305,944	-	8,108
Helpline	67,914	132,587	159,927	-	40,574
Counselling	151,590	681,788	595,615	-	237,763
Training	56,878	195,327	91,465	-	160,740
Outreach	29,681	163,979	150,353	-	43,307
Crawley	629	-	-	-	629
	357,475	1,436,950	1,303,304	-	491,121

Restricted funds are to be used only for the following specific purposes:

Advocacy – provision of unbiased information concerning the criminal justice system to female survivors of sexual violence by Independent Sexual Violence Advocates.

Helpline – offers emotional support, practical information and referral guidance to women and girls from 13 years old who have suffered any form of sexual violence either recently or in the past, their families and friends.

Counselling – these funds are used to provide therapeutic services to clients by specialist qualified therapists.

Training – offers awareness raising talks, training and workshops to statutory and non-statutory organizations about sexual violence, the myths and effects, and how best to support survivors.

Outreach – provision of initial emotional and information based sessions with marginalised survivors.

19. Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

Current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds - property	75,082	6,778	11,940	93,800
General funds	700,942	114,070	(33,572)	781,440
Total Unrestricted funds	776,024	120,848	(21,632)	875,240

Previous year

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds - property	80,921	1,758	(7,597)	75,082
General funds	673,752	68,527	(41,337)	700,942
Total Unrestricted funds	754,673	70,285	(48,934)	776,024

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purpose of fund
General funds	The 'free reserves' after allowing for designated funds
Designated funds:	The designated property fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets as these funds are tied up and are unavailable for general use by the charity.
Property	

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	93,800	-	93,800
Current assets	968,550	818,493	2,158,781
Current liabilities	(187,110)	-	(558,848)
	875,240	818,493	1,693,733
Previous year			
Fixed assets	75,082	-	75,082
Current assets	736,497	491,121	1,227,618
Current liabilities	(35,555)	-	(35,555)
	776,024	491,121	1,267,145

21. Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(deficit) for the reporting period	426,590	154,997
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	39,757	20,264
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(908,523)	160,264
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	523,293	(412,015)
Net cash used in (provided by) operating activities	<u>81,117</u>	<u>(76,490)</u>

22. Lease Commitments

The charity's total of future minimum lease payments under non – cancellable operating leases at 31 March 2023 were as follows:

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	£	£
Payable:		
Within one year	46,000	51,000
Later than one year and not later than five years	235,000	239,000
More than five years	65,250	111,250
	<u>346,250</u>	<u>402,250</u>

The amount of non – cancellable operating lease payments recognised as an expense during the year was £48,068 (2022: £56,219)

23. Events after the reporting Period

There have been no other significant events between the year end and the date of approval of these financial statements which would require a change to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.

**The following pages do not form part of the
statutory financial statements**

Detailed Profit and Loss Account

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income	2,795,020	1,507,235
Deduct Expenses:		
Establishment expenses	92,195	60,919
Staff Costs and fees for services provided	2,024,765	1,170,911
Communication and publication	102,813	44,762
Subsistence, travel and motor expenses	10,061	6,448
Sundry expenses	79,630	21,210
Legal, professional and audit	18,978	27,508
Financial	233	216
Depreciation	39,757	20,264
	2,368,432	1,352,238
Net surplus/(deficit) before taxation	426,588	154,997
Overheads – direct		
Helpline	571,356	86,875
Counselling	359,728	374,431
Advocacy	353,637	257,663
Training and Operations	49,522	49,257
Outreach	37,906	148,839
FGM	-	16,915
Supervision	54,691	27,304
Subcontractors	344,526	-
Telephone	66,263	20,233
Legal and professional fees – allowable	69,537	22,908
Auditor’s remuneration – audit fees	3,000	2,500
Auditor’s remuneration – non-audit services	3,490	2,100
	1,913,656	1,009,025

Detailed Profit and Loss Account

	2023	2022
	£	£
Overheads – Indirect		
Rent	48,068	43,705
General and water rates	2,056	203
Electricity & gas	5,523	3,127
Insurance	3,763	1,943
Cleaning	4,650	3,490
Repairs and maintenance	10,349	3,104
Wages and salaries	143,308	182,416
Staff training	58,475	14,531
Recruitment costs	51,616	12,680
Telephone	3,058	-
Stationery	7,267	5,668
Computers & Software	23,732	17,703
Advertising	72	1,158
Travelling expenses – staff	10,061	6,448
Room Hire	13,080	967
Sundry expenses – allowable	4,124	3,030
Subscriptions – allowable	5,375	1,608
Crawley Sundry Expenses	20,209	20,952
	414,786	322,733
Financial		
Bank and credit card charges	233	216
Depreciation		
Computer equipment	30,510	13,191
Office equipment	2,657	484
Improvements to leasehold property	6,426	6,426
Website	164	163
	39,757	20,264