

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

England & Wales · Charity number 1088844

Details

Other names	STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04283131
Registered	2001-10-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	6-7 St Cross Street London EC1N 8UB
Phone	02087485717
Email	admin@standingtogether.org.uk
Website	www.standingtogether.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO PROMOTE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE PROVISION OF SERVICES (I) DIRECTED TOWARDS THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND (II) TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES. 2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF VOLUNTARY AND STATUTORY AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC IN ALL ASPECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMIT, ITS CAUSES AND PREVENTION AND THE RELIEF OF ITS CONSEQUENCES.

Activities: Standing Together works in partnership with organisations directly involved in delivering services, to coordinate their response to domestic violence. Standing Together facilitates those partnerships and shares the best practice developed with other projects and agencies in London, the UK and beyond.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNITED KINGDOM
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£4,433,612	£4,231,529	£1,892,456	66
2024-03-31	£5,027,901	£4,792,585	£1,690,373	59
2023-03-31	£2,679,432	£2,779,849	£1,455,057	49
2022-03-31	£2,900,395	£2,146,123	£1,555,474	40
2021-03-31	£2,133,244	£1,722,492	£801,202	35

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Tabitha Morton	Chair	2023-11-20
Carlene Clifford		2024-08-12
Fraser Holmes-Mackay		2024-08-12

Accounts

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Company Limited by Guarantee No. 04283131

Registered Charity No. 1088844

**STANDING
TOGETHER**
against domestic abuse



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Legal and Administrative Information

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity Trustees and Advisers

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Board of Trustees	T Morton	Chair
	P Price	Treasurer
	C Clifford (appointed 12/08/2024)	
	F Holmes-Mackay (appointed 12/08/2024)	
	A Whiteside (appointed 12/08/2024)	
	C Griffin (resigned 12/08/2024)	
	T Miller (resigned 12/08/2024)	
Company Registration No:	04283131	
Charity Registration No:	1088844	
Registered Office:	6 - 7 St Cross Street London EC1N 8UB	From 30/10/2025
	The Polish Centre Room 44D, 4th Floor 238 – 246 King Street London W6 0RF	Until 30/10/2025
Auditors:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD	
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	

Foreword

We are proud to present this year's Annual Report for Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA). For over two decades, STADA has led the way in embedding a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic abuse across the UK. We remain inspired by the vision of our founders, who more than twenty years ago, wanted to create systemic change and ensure a collaborative, person-centred approach; this continues to guide our work and makes us unique as a second tier organisation and charity.

Awareness around Domestic abuse has grown, and its impact acknowledged by government and society. Whilst significant progress has been made to challenge its root causes, the complexities surrounding domestic abuse require ongoing attention. We are proud of the breadth and depth of our work - spanning multiple specialist areas, to drive systemic change and ensure a collaborative, victim-centred response for all those affected.

Like many charities, we have faced the challenges of rising inflation and the cost-of-living crisis. However, through strong strategic, operational, and financial management, we have navigated these pressures and continued to deliver our comprehensive services and expertise across the domestic abuse and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) sectors.

Our work enables strategic partnerships with local authorities and statutory services to develop community-based interventions, improve criminal justice practices, influence statutory health and housing responses, foster collaboration across the charity sector, and shape policy at both local and national levels. This is underpinned by our leadership in promoting CCR through national areas of work such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, Health, Homelessness,

Multiple Disadvantages, Harmful Practices, MARACs, and our Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) offers. We are especially proud to work alongside ambitious and talented charities, including 'by and for' organisations, to ensure an intersectional approach that delivers meaningful outcomes for all victims and survivors while raising awareness of the complex challenges they face.

Our dedicated and highly skilled teams continue to sustain this vital work, enabling STADA to maintain its expertise and exceptional standards to remain a sector leader as a second-tier organisation.

We are pleased that our annual audit reflects the sound management of STADA. We extend our sincere thanks to our Trustees, staff, partners, and supporters for their invaluable contributions. Together, we continue to drive systemic change and work towards a future free from domestic abuse.

Sincerely,



Tabitha Morton
Chair of Board of Trustees



Jo Choi
Interim Chief Operating Officer

1

Structure, Governance and Management



The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, and trustees for charity law purposes, present its report and audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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).

The Company has taken advantage of the exemptions available to smaller entities.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6th September 2001 and registered as a charity in October 2001. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up Trustees are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Board Composition

The charity is governed by a Board of Directors (Trustees for the purposes of charity law) under the company's articles and are known as members of the management committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. The Trustees meet quarterly to discuss the affairs of the Charity and to make decisions, and to ratify decisions made by the Board.

Tabitha Morton has remained as Chair, since being appointed on 22 February 2024. Pat Price remains Treasurer. Cynthia Griffin and Tracey Miller resigned on 12 August 2024; with Carlene Clifford, Fraser Holmes-Mackay and Amanda Whiteside being appointed also on 12 August 2024.

The Chair along with selected members of the Board and CEO are responsible for recruiting members of the Board of Trustees. Membership of the Board is reviewed annually to ensure that the broadest interests served by STADA are represented. The Board benefits from Trustees who have a broad range of skills, who have valuable experience and influence in their field to promote the success of the Charity. They bring great abilities to bear on their role and in the various offices they hold on the Board. Their roles as Trustees include human resources; diversity, equality and inclusion expertise; financial management, education and equalities, criminal justice and legal expertise, a strategic overview of fundraising and strategic planning.

At the time of signing this report the Board of Trustees there are five Trustee Directors including the Chair, the Treasurer and three new Trustees. The principle remains that the size and composition of the Board is considered to include appropriate expertise to populate the Board and the Committees to ensure that the Charity is run in accordance with its obligations. STADA recognise the benefits of diversity on the Board and throughout the organisation and has continued to support efforts to increase diversity.

There was a recruitment process during the year to appoint the three additional Trustees to the Board. On appointment, all Trustees received a thorough induction programme which includes meeting with key members of the Executive Leadership Team, and other Senior Managers. In addition, Trustees all receive information on training on duties and other key legislation/regulation as required. Post year end; another round of recruitment is being implemented to increase the number and diversity of Trustees. This will strengthen resilience and flexibility across the Board.

Each year a planning and review day is held with trustees. It was recommended that to exercise best practice and in line with Charity Governance Code Commission guidelines, STADA has adopted that Trustees with nine years or more service will be replaced. The new and incumbent Trustees Tabitha Morton, Carlene Clifford, Amanda Whiteside, Fraser Holmes-Mackay, and Pat Price, in accordance with the Articles of Association were re-appointed to remain as Trustees at the AGM meeting on 21 January 2025. New Trustees were introduced at previous Board meeting 28 August 2024.

On an annual basis, each Trustee is required to declare any potential conflicts of interests, and at each Board meeting Trustees are prompted to raise any conflicts of interests they have in any matters that are to be discussed. If conflicts of interest are raised, appropriate safeguards are put in place to take the necessary actions to manage the conflict.

Trustees do not receive remuneration or derive any other personal benefit from the activities of the charity.

Structure, Governance and Management (cont'd)

Finance Committee

The Board are supported by the Finance and Risk Committee (FAR), to provide assurance and dedicated oversight to financial matters and governance of the Charity.

The FAR consists of Trustees Pat Price and Tabitha Morton; Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Cherryl Henry-Leach, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Jo Choi, Executive Director of Services Jackie Hyland and Head of Finance Joel Lane-Smith; please note Caron Bailey (Finance & Governance Manager) attended prior to leaving the Organisation in May 2024. The Committee formally met four times during the year.

Post year end, FAR membership was reconfigured to include Trustees Pat Price, Fraser Holmes-Mackay; alongside Cherryl Henry-Leach (CEO), Jo Choi (COO) and Joel Lane-Smith (Head of Finance).

The committee is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness and independence of the external auditors and advises the Board on the appointment of the external auditors and their remuneration for audit work. Various other usual governance matters have been considered during the period, including a review of the Scheme of Delegation and items that have been assigned to it from the Trustee's Risk Register

Management of the Charity

STADA is managed by a highly committed Board of Trustees which meets four times during the year with ad hoc meetings held as and when necessary, to ensure matters are considered and progressed in a timely matter. The Chair has the responsibility of leading the Trustee Board towards its objective of placing the Charity on a secure footing for the future. Each trustee has a clear understanding of their accountability and responsibilities. The Board meetings are chaired by the Chair of the Board and provide an open and constructive forum for trustees to be kept up to date on developments across all areas of the charity, provide oversight of operational matters and make informed decisions.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Executive Leadership Team, headed by the CEO, include the COO, Executive Director of Housing, Executive Director of Services; and Director of People and Culture has overall responsibility for the running of the organisation and delivery of STADA's strategy, its development and achievements reporting directly to the Board. Post year end, the CEO stepped down on 24 December 2025 and the COO was appointed to the position of Interim CEO on 05 January 2026.

During this period, a new organisation 5-year strategy is being developed; with intended release in 2025. Post year end, the organisational strategy was launched on 01 July 2025.

The Executive Leadership Team is supported in financial matters by the Head of Finance.

The remuneration for key management is determined by the Trustees taking into account the skills, experience, and management responsibilities, the overall budget constraints and a view of what is suitable as compared to similar roles in the sector in which we work. STADA's policy is to provide appropriate and fair level of remuneration and incentives at a level which attracts appropriate and retain good quality directors, management and staff.

During this year, an appraisal process was undertaken, with award of an incremental pay increase, in line with policy.

Structure, Governance and Management (cont'd)

Financial Management

The Board has fulfilled its role this year in being responsible for the strategic direction and the sound financial health of the company and for ensuring that the activities of the company meet its charitable objectives.

The Board is supported by the Finance and Risk (FAR) Committee who exercises stewardship and fiscal responsibilities over the finances of the Charity. The Committee commissions detailed work on financial matters in connection with the budget, financial performance and funding of the Charity; communicating its findings at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Board receives accurate, comprehensive and timely information on the company's business and financial performance to enable appropriate monitoring and effective oversight of key matters.

STADA has policies and procedures in place to carry out robust financial management, clear audit trails and integrity of financial information provided to the Board to ensure that there are sufficient funds to maintain core services in the short, medium and long term. Other policies and procedures include Finance Regulations; quarterly Finance Reports to Trustees; regular review of systems for supporting financial procedures; designated staff with clear roles and responsibilities. The organisation is externally audited by Knox Cropper LLP.

Knox Cropper LLP continues to focus on ways and measures to increase, maintain and if required invest the general reserves and monitor the organisation's performance against contingency plans. As the charity continues to expand their reach and impact within the sector, trustees will establish and agree on the level of sufficient general reserve needed to maintain and sustain the Charity.

The emphasis is on how the Charity is funded, the development of the overarching organisational strategy, fundraising strategy and business plan to meet challenges, demands and opportunities, and a strong management structure to support our ambitions.

Risk Management

The Board is committed to the long-term sustainable growth of the company and to seeking opportunities whilst ensuring effective oversight and mitigation of risk. Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity. Risks are considered in light of their likelihood and potential impact and the necessary steps to mitigate them.

The key operational and strategic risks are outlined in a risk register. It sets out the process that we use to identify and manage risks in all our activities. Risks are managed at both a strategic and operational level along with STADA's scheme of delegation policy.

The trustees complete an overall review of the risk register whereby the Board consider:

- the high and significant risks to which STADA is exposed,
- the potential impact and probability associated with each risk,
- existing internal controls and accountability for them, and
- mitigating actions to reduce each risk to a level that is acceptable.

Processes are in place to ensure that inherent and emerging risks are identified in a timely manner and are then appropriately managed. This year has seen unprecedented uncertainty in relation to charity sector funding, and Stranding Together has not been immune to this. Securing future funding is the biggest risk for the charity and this challenge has been addressed in the Business Continuity Plan. These are monitored by the Executive Leadership Team, Head of Finance along with the FAR Committee, and assessed annually by the full Board. STADA continues to work towards diversification its sources of funding, and works hard in its process of forward planning. The management of cash flow has enabled the organisation to manage risk, maintain and develop its activities to advance its charitable objectives.

STADA is satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to possible major risks.

Structure, Governance and Management (cont'd)

Health and Safety

STADA continues its responsibility for the safety of its members of staff. The charity maintains a health and Safety policy committed to reducing the risks of hazards in the organisation's workplaces, making sure that premises, resources and working practices meet recognised standards for quality, security and safety. The trained First Aid Officers and designated Fire Marshal ensure compliance is upheld in alignment with the company's policy and the landlord's responsibilities towards the organisation, regarding fire, safety and security precautions.

To maintain staff well-being we continue to offer, in addition to monthly supervisions, regular reflective practice sessions, which are delivered in a confidential manner to protect individuals' privacy. We have qualified independent reflective practice facilitators who acts as a point of contact for both staff who require trauma informed support on matters of concern both in the workplace and any impact on their private life.

Reflective practice sessions are offered to all individuals in a 1:1 format; and in separate groups for Heads; Managers; and Seniors with Line management responsibilities.

Data

All data protection processes and IT security systems are reviewed regularly for compliance with STADA's clear policies on privacy, confidentiality, protocols and procedures. We ensure that our agents, representatives, subcontractors and employees comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), (The Data Protection Act 2018) on processing and protecting personal data.

STADA uses an IT cloud-based cloud database system. The security of the system is regularly managed by our expert IT provider through the implementation of encryption, password management and daily backups on the system and all devices. Regular reviews on systems security are carried out to protect against data theft, leakage, corruption and deletion.

All new employees receive General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) online training as part of their onboarding with STADA. Existing employees complete GDPR refresher training every two years.

STADA continue to register for Cyber Essentials and make any necessary improvements to ensure compliance.

For the remainder of 2024/25, a specialist IT Consultant has been brought in to review our systems, and appropriateness for the growth of the organisation; where an ongoing development plan along with any immediate remedies will be identified and actioned. Post year end, all IT processes and systems, including Cyber Essentials compliance, have been reviewed by our expert IT provider and this remains a priority.

Related Parties

None of the trustees of the charity receive any remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

2

Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes



Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes

Our governing document sets out our key purpose underpinning STADA as an organisation. STADA was established for the provision of services directed towards the prevention of domestic abuse and to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence and their families. This is coupled with advancing the education of voluntary, statutory agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic abuse, including without limit, its causes and prevention and the relief of its consequences.

A key element of this overarching mission is the centrality of the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) in our work to engender systemic change across all agencies and their approach to supporting victims of domestic abuse. Applying Theory of Change modelling, this includes identifying the most appropriate data capture and evidence base to demonstrate the effectiveness of the model in practical settings and enable income generation to support this approach.

Coordinated Community Response Defined

The Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse is a local, whole system approach to the issue.

STADA's Core Principles underpinning the CCR approach

- The only way to effectively respond to the issue of domestic abuse is to work collaboratively through the CCR.
- Individual experiences of domestic abuse are influenced by gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, race, religion, marital status, immigration, socio-economic position and many other factors: Responses must understand the differing needs and potential barriers of the local population and be flexible enough to account for this.
- The CCR enables a whole system response to a whole person, recognising the wellbeing and safety needs of victims and survivors, with communities and organisations working alongside them.
- Responsibility for safety should not rest solely with individual victims but also with the community and services.
- Perpetrators must be held to account for the harm they inflict and offered routes to change their abusive behaviours.
- A CCR supports organisational responses, it does not replace them: organisations remain responsible and accountable (to their own agencies and to the partnership) for their own responses to domestic abuse, within a context of multi-agency working - informed by the voice of victims.
- A CCR requires leadership, a shared understanding of domestic abuse and risk, and coordination.

Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes (cont'd)

STADA's CCR Approach

- We put the safety and needs of survivors (adults and children) at the heart of every CCR.
- We ensure that the voices of survivors and their advocates are integral to every CCR.
- We require CCRs cover the spectrum from primary prevention to early intervention, to crisis responses, and the long-term recovery of survivors and behaviour change of perpetrators.
- Our CCR acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic abuse.
- Our CCR addresses the diverse and intersecting backgrounds, identities and experiences and situations of survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR addresses adults, children and young people, survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR encompasses all organisations operating in an area (statutory, voluntary, community) plus individuals who live / work in the area, and informal groups / networks located there.
- We require that all local organisations have an equal place and voice in the CCR.
- Our CCR requires coordination, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and leadership.
- Our CCR is flexible and will evolve.
- We ensure that local organisations recognise that they are best placed to identify, and develop, improvements to practice in developing a CCR - and we provide help to them to do this.
- We are committed to providing a consultative, learning and empowering approach to areas developing CCRs.

STADA's CCR Core Components

The following standards represent what every CCR will have, regardless of area or local structures; all components adhere to the principles listed above. This includes our developments being informed by survivors' experiences.

- All organisations have developed and agreed a common purpose and approach to domestic abuse including a stated commitment to the CCR.
- Definitions of domestic abuse and risk are agreed and shared by all statutory, voluntary and community organisations.
- A defined structure/mechanism(s) is in place for the coordination, governance and monitoring of the CCR to ensure accountability and to enable a flexible and evolving approach.
- An action plan is in place.
- Written policies and procedures are in place within every organisation covering their response to domestic abuse. Regular compulsory training at every level of the organisation supports these.
- Written policies and procedures are agreed covering multi-agency systems and working (including the MARAC and SDAC). Regular compulsory training supports these.
- An agreed dataset is in place and monitored on a regular basis.
- Survivors' voices (and the views of their advocates) are regularly sought, listened to and responded to.
- Adequately resourced specialist services are in place to respond to adults, children and young people: survivors and perpetrators.

We would to take this opportunity to give our gratitude to all the Survivors who allowed us to listen and share their voices and experiences. Your courage and honesty has enabled us to increase the effectiveness of the Coordinated Community Response and continue to ensure more survivors and their families receive effective support.

Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes (cont'd)

In 2024-2025 we particularly set out to:

- Continue to shape our impact measurement and resources tools to underpin our strategic development and operational practice.
- Develop our CCR offer around our Leadership course, membership and network.
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health-based settings to achieve a coordinated community response and comprehensive, victim focused services in health settings. Develop a Health Accreditation that ensures the effectiveness of interventions across health settings.
- Review and continue to develop MARAC models to enable the most effective practice through the CCR concept. Include responses to Black, Minoritised Ethnic/Global majority and Refugee communities.
- Promote the effectiveness of Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts and Court provision generally for victims of domestic abuse with a view to improving and shaping appropriate responses to domestic abuse through the CCR approach centred around victim/s' voices and experiences.
- Review themes through our learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and promote our training provision for Chairs and panel members.
- Continue to develop and grow our DAHA, continuously improving our training and accreditation offer for members and housing sector partners.
- Develop our Whole Housing and Housing First partnership work to tackle disadvantages experienced by victim-survivors as a consequence of domestic abuse; including those affected by Homelessness.
- Lay foundations to integrate our work on Multiple Disadvantages across all work streams.
- Strengthen our survivor voice, policy and data cross organisational work.
- Improve and modernise our organisational policies and procedures.
- Embed the groundwork for improving our internal efficiencies around IT and systems.
- Continue development of our internal CCR.



3

Communities and Coordinated Community Response (CCR)



Communities: Developments 2024-25

- Continuation of the **operational VAWG lead** work across the tri borough, including support from the team with coordination of the Housing Operation Group (HOG), Risk and Review meeting and Specialist Services Group (SSG) providing vital spaces for partners and colleagues to come together and work towards achieving the actions laid out in their individual plans and contributing to the objectives of the Hammersmith and Fulham and the Bi Borough VAWG strategies. We then ensure developments and updates on actions are fed in via reporting and attendance at Hammersmith and Fulham and Bi Borough Strategic Board Meetings.



- Ending harmful practice co-ordinator** has continued to administer the Harmful Practice Operational Group (HPOG) across the 3 Boroughs providing a space for members to have discussions and share practice and any issues or themes related to harmful practices.

The HPOG held their annual conference on 25th November 2024 and had multiple panels and workshops on harmful practices, with great feedback received and recommended actions taken for consideration for building into the HPOG action plan. The coordinator works to build partnerships and develop practices around harmful practices at all opportunities as well as collating and analysing data from across the Boroughs and partnerships.

The coordinator and HPOG chairs have also been offering Come Curious Drop-in Sessions to partner agencies and continue to develop and share the quarterly HPOG newsletter.



Communities: Developments 2024-25 (cont'd)

- The **Coaction Hub** partnership project with the Asian Women’s Resource Centre (AWRC) continued its work to improve the coordinated community response to Black and minoritised survivors of domestic abuse and harmful practices.



The Coaction Hub have mentored two DHR chairs from by and for specialist agencies, focussing on supporting Black and minoritised women from by and for agencies to be more engaged/able to share their expertise on DHRs. We also ran three workshops with professionals from by and for agencies around the role of expert panel members in DHRs.

Coaction Hub has continued to coordinate the pan London Harmful Practices Strategic Partnership (HPSP) and in February 2025 held a conference on Children and Harmful Practices aiming to ensure children and young people at risk of harmful practices are not invisibilised in policy and practice. [Click to view document](#)



The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team have continued to work on three core workstreams:



CCR NETWORK

The team continue to expand the network and support and engage with new members, with more by and for services signing up as members. The team also contacted all of the offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners to share information about the network.

As part of the Network offer the team have continued to secure external speakers for webinars on a variety of topics and provide webinars exploring the components of the CCR. The team have also continued to review and add to the resources library that members have access to.



CCR LEADERS COURSE

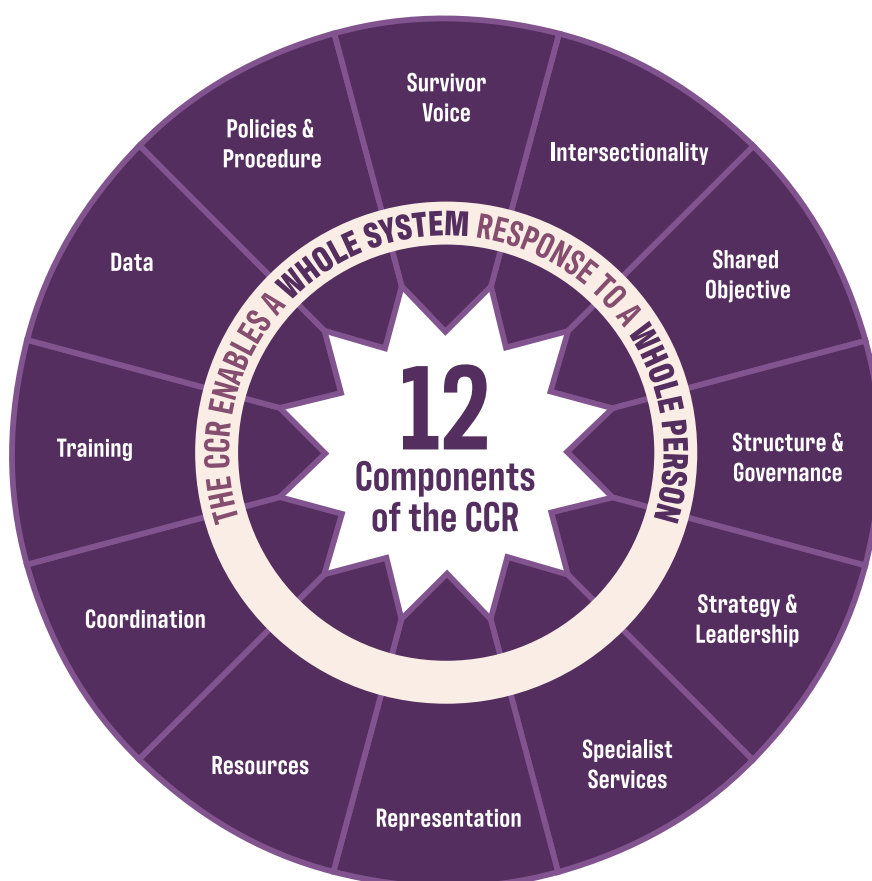
The team continue to deliver the leaders course and in 24/25 supported 13 learners to achieve the CCR leaders qualification.

The team shared some incredible feedback from learners including "I think this course would be invaluable to anyone working at a commissioning/strategic level in VAWG/DA to further their understanding of the nuances of VAWG, the benefits and depth of CCR and essentials when commissioning VAWG services"



CCR ACCREDITATION

Work with the accreditation pilot site has continued with focus being on codeveloping the detail of the standards for each of the CCR components and exploring the options for a tiered approach to accreditation.



4

Housing, DHR/DARDR and Criminal Justice



Housing

DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance)

This year the DAHA team have completed a full review of the accreditation framework and all processes that support this. The review has been completed using member feedback by way of a survey to all members and 3 round table events with members looking at how the framework could work better for them. As a result the framework has now moved to a tiered framework, with standards made clearer and simplified whilst not diluting the quality or survivor led focus that underpins the accreditation. Feedback from members has been overwhelmingly positive and we are now seeing membership grow as a result.

Alongside this, we have also changed our reaccreditation process, moving from 3 yearly reassessment to a continual review process. We had found that many providers were failing to achieve reaccreditation on the 3 yearly assessment process and in many cases they then left DAHA. The new process is designed to help members retain their accreditation in the long term by completing regular assessment activities to confirm standards are being upheld and this has also been very much welcomed by members.

The aim for DAHA now that this work has been completed is to grow our membership over the coming years with a target set of 10% growth for this year, something that we hope will be ongoing. The number of providers successfully achieving Gold Accreditation has risen to 43, with an additional 11 providers passing accreditation during the year.



Housing (cont'd)

Whole Housing Approach

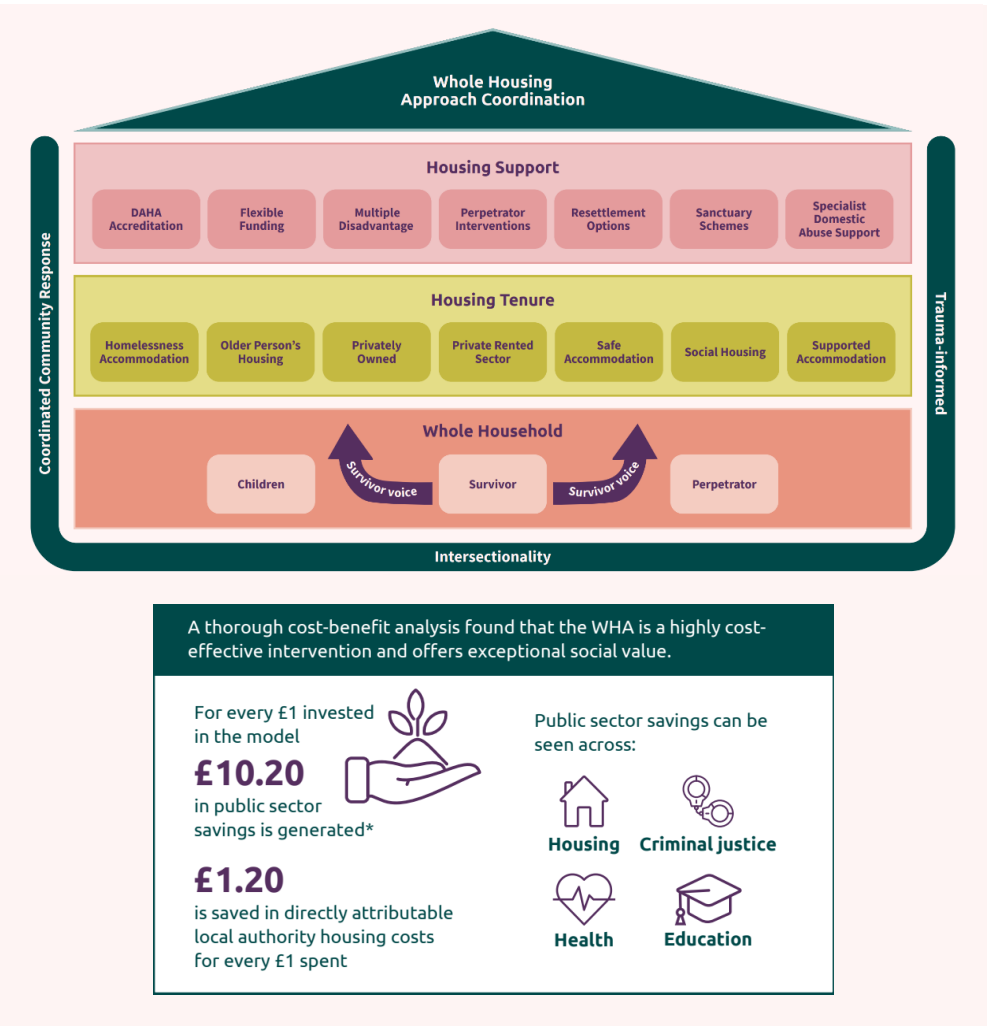
The Whole Housing Approach pilot in Cheshire East ended on 31 March 2025. A full evaluation of the pilot has been completed by the University of Lancashire and was shared at an event on 15 October 2025. This event was attended by MP's Paula Barker and Dave Robertson who have both spoken in support of the Whole Housing Approach in parliament. The most impactful session of the day included 2 survivors speaking around their experiences and how the Whole Housing Approach was able to help them. This included one survivor who informed the Cheshire East pilot throughout 3 year term and another from Islington Council, who is now a champion for DAHA and WHA.

The report found that “The WHA housing intervention in East Cheshire represents a highly cost-effective and socially valuable intervention” with an average of £10.20 saved to the public sector

for every £1 invested into the approach and “delivering extremely high public value generated beyond direct fiscal savings”.

Based on the learnings from this pilot the WHA team have revised the framework and toolkit which supports this. This will be launched as a membership offer at the event on 15 October and we will then look to grow this as a self-funding model in line with the DAHA Accreditation.

As part of our work to amplify the importance of Sanctuary Schemes we have established a National Working Group for Sanctuary to identify and share best practice across the country. In addition we have been working with MHCLG and the LGA to research this area and have worked with survivors from our Tri Borough work to input and inform this research.

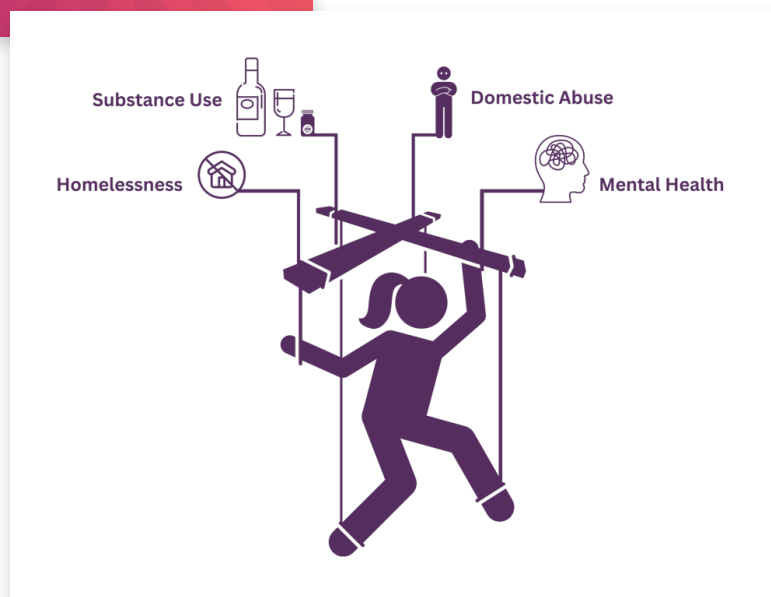


Housing (cont'd)

Multiple Disadvantage and Homelessness Programme

The VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage Forum:

When previous funding came to an end, Westminster City Council commissioned STADA to coordinate the forum for another year and are working with us to put in place a governance structure to support it. The forum is a multi-agency space where professionals working in Westminster can bring the cases of women they are supporting for both reflective discussion and practical advice around issues such as violence, abuse and trauma. There has been interest from other local areas in replicating the VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage (MD) forums in their area, and we have been invited to promote it at conferences and events.



Housing (cont'd)

MD&Homelessness Training:

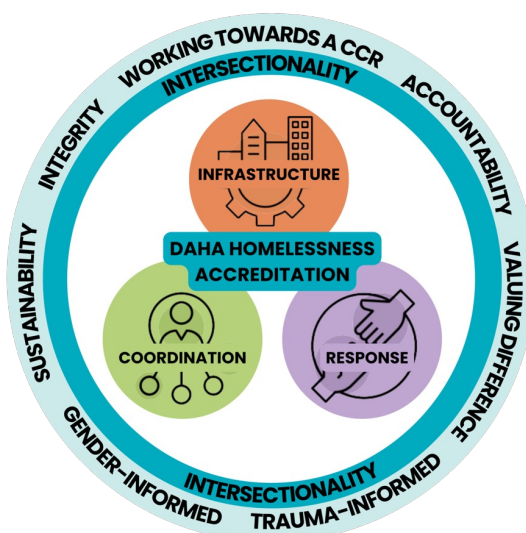
The programme has longstanding commissions from Westminster Council and Single Homelessness programme to deliver training around domestic abuse, women and multiple disadvantage.

Post year: With a new Multiple Disadvantage and Homelessness trainer in post we have delivered our first 'open course' and take up was positive. There are plans in place to promote the MD&Homelessness training catalogue and make training a consistent source of income for the team.



DAHA for Homelessness Organisations and Supported Accommodation Providers:

The team accredited their first homelessness provider, Single Homelessness Project earlier this year, which is a huge achievement. The accreditation currently has 8 members, and the development lead is actively recruiting more. MOPAC has committed to continue funding the project next year. Membership fees for next year have been finalised, with a view to start bringing in revenue, beyond the nominal fee that members have paid up to now.



Housing First:

STADA, alongside support provider Solace have continued to deliver housing coordination as partners in the Westminster City Council commissioned - Westminster VAWG Housing First service. This year we made a podcast and published an impact report for year 6 of the service, [From Harm to Home](#). This was launched at a well-attended event back in March.

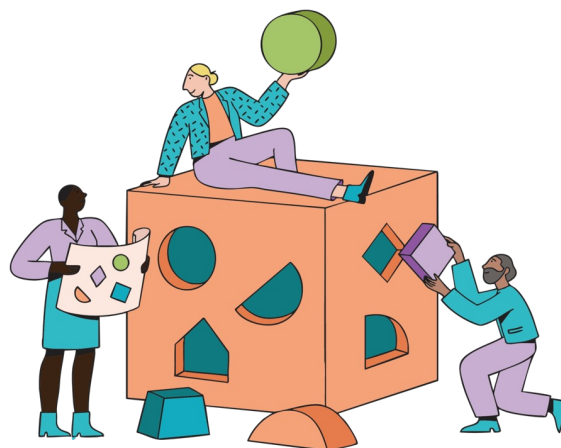
The current contract will end on 31 March 2026, and Solace will lead on a partnership bid with STADA for the new contract, the duration of which will be 3+2 years. We have consulted with project partners to develop an enhanced housing coordination offer, and renew commitments with housing partners, which will greatly strengthen our bid for the new contract.



Housing (cont'd)

Developing the Multiple Disadvantage Element of the Whole Housing Approach:

The programme Manager supported pilot site Cheshire East to develop the multiple disadvantage element of their Whole Housing Approach. The learning from this piece of work has been incorporated into the new Whole Housing Approach framework and multiple disadvantage toolkit chapter. There are plans in place to submit a bid to the National Lottery communities fund to pilot incorporating multiple disadvantage into the Whole Housing Approach in a local area in the Northeast.



Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) / Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) Programme

The team continued to deliver DHR/DARDR projects throughout the year. In autumn 2024, we undertook a review of this area of work, which highlighted the need for a more detailed assessment of the costs associated with delivery.

Following this, we took the decision to pause taking on any new reviews from January 2025 while a fuller evaluation was carried out. This included a comprehensive analysis of delivery costs and a consultation with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to understand what they would be prepared to pay for a fully coordinated model.

Alongside this, we have been exploring opportunities to expand our wider consultancy offer, including supporting areas to embed learning from previous work and conducting thematic analyses to bring together insights across local areas.

We continued to work closely with our Chairs who bring both broad and specialist knowledge, including our first Chair who accessed training through our partnership with the Co-Action project. This work supports leaders from 'by and for' organisations to train as DHR Chairs, helping to strengthen national expertise on issues affecting minoritised women.

Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice team has seen some staff changes this year, with our coordinator leaving and one Programme Manager taking early retirement. This means that currently we have just one Programme Manager in the team who is mainly involved in managing and coordinating the SDAC.

The SDAC continues to operate effectively, with excellent relationships across CPS, the police and the court officials. The culture of cooperation has ensured that risk levels around survivors of domestic abuse are being managed as effectively as possible within the court environment.

Alongside this, the Impact Project, which is exploring how survivors can be safely managed within the Crown Court system, has been extended for a further year. The funding for this project is being invested into the development of a data and evaluation framework, which will enable us to evidence the need and current outcomes within this area.

The focus moving forwards is to develop the SDAC work into other areas and following the government announcement that they are investing in the roll out of SDAC's across the country, we are keen to work with the Ministry of Justice to bring our expertise to this work.

5

MARAC Coordination Service

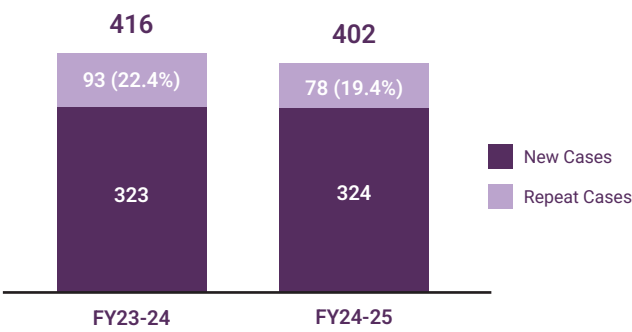


MARAC Coordination Service

In the 12 months between April 2024 and March 2025, 37 MARACs were held across the three boroughs. 1289 cases were discussed, 258 (20%) of which were repeat cases. Of all cases heard, 438 (34%) had children in the household, totalling 811 children.

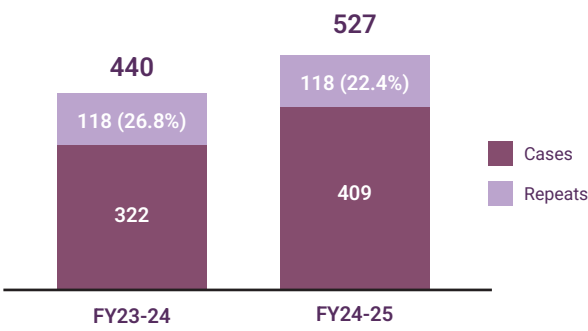
LBHF heard 402 cases (down from 416 last year) with a repeat referral rate of 19.4% (down from 22.4% last year). SafeLives recommends LBHF hears 320 cases per year based on 40 cases per 10,000 people).

In the last 12 months LBHF was operating at a volume of 122%.



WCC heard 527 cases (up from 440 last year, an increase of 17.8%) with a repeat referral rate of 22.4% (down from 26.8% last year). SafeLives recommends Westminster hears 360 cases per year based on 40 cases per 10,000 people).

In the last 12 months WCC was operating at a volume of 142%.

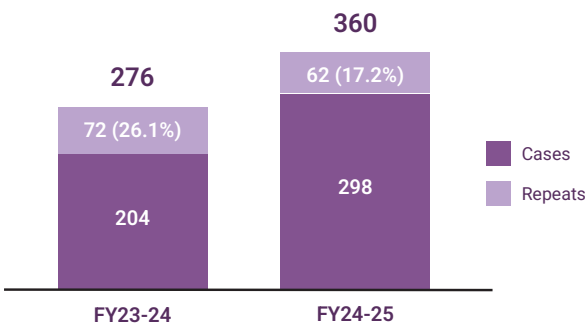


RBKC heard 360 cases (up from 276 cases last year, a considerable increase of 30.4%) with a repeat referral rate of 17.2% (down from 26.1% last year). SafeLives recommends RBKC hears 240 cases per year based on 40 cases per 10,000 people).

In the last 12 months RBKC was operating at a volume of 133%.

All three boroughs handled a volume of case referrals above the total recommended by SafeLives, which places best practice at 40 cases per 10,000 people. Experiencing high caseloads affects the workload of all partner agencies and the length of MARACs.

RBKC: 59.1% of V/Ss engaged with a DA support service prior to MARAC, up slightly from 58.3% last year. For those who did not engage with a support service the most likely reason was that the IDVA could not reach V/S (13.4%) followed by the V/S declining support (10.3%).



MARAC Coordination Service (cont'd)

Haringey MARAC received 82.3% of its referrals from agencies outside of the police, up from 77.2% last year.

This is the opposite of the SafeLives recommendation that 60-75% of cases should be referred by police, however, this is a trend the borough shares with the rest of London and may indicate good practice by non-police partner agencies showing a high awareness of domestic abuse and the MARAC process, rather than police under-referring.

Development and Training Opportunity - Adult Safeguarding

Adult Safeguarding engagement has been identified as an area with great potential for strengthening multi-agency collaboration.

Across the boroughs we will be Improving communication and looking at proactive involvement, particularly in progressing agreed actions outside of meetings, this will help deliver a more effective coordinated community response.

STADA Coordinators and Adult Safeguarding Rep collaborate prior to MARAC meetings.

Coordinators ensuring there is consistent attendance, which will further streamline and enhance discussions to ensure timely support for vulnerable individuals.

Attendance has improved from Q2 onwards, continued focus on readiness and follow up will make a significant impact.



6

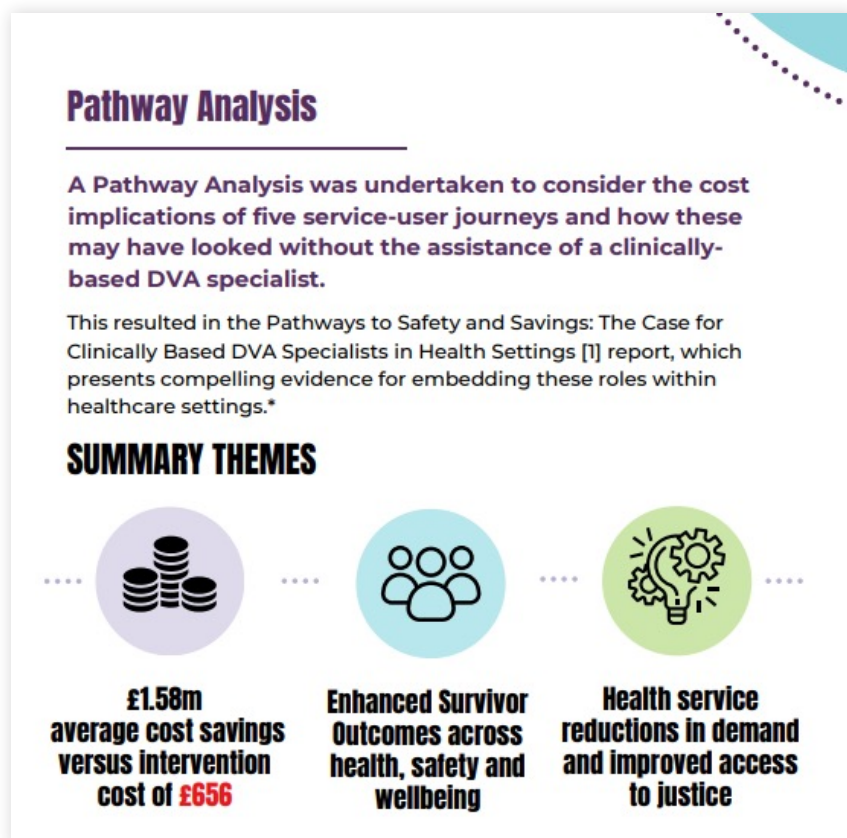
Whole Health



Whole Health

Developments throughout 2024-2025 the Whole Health Team

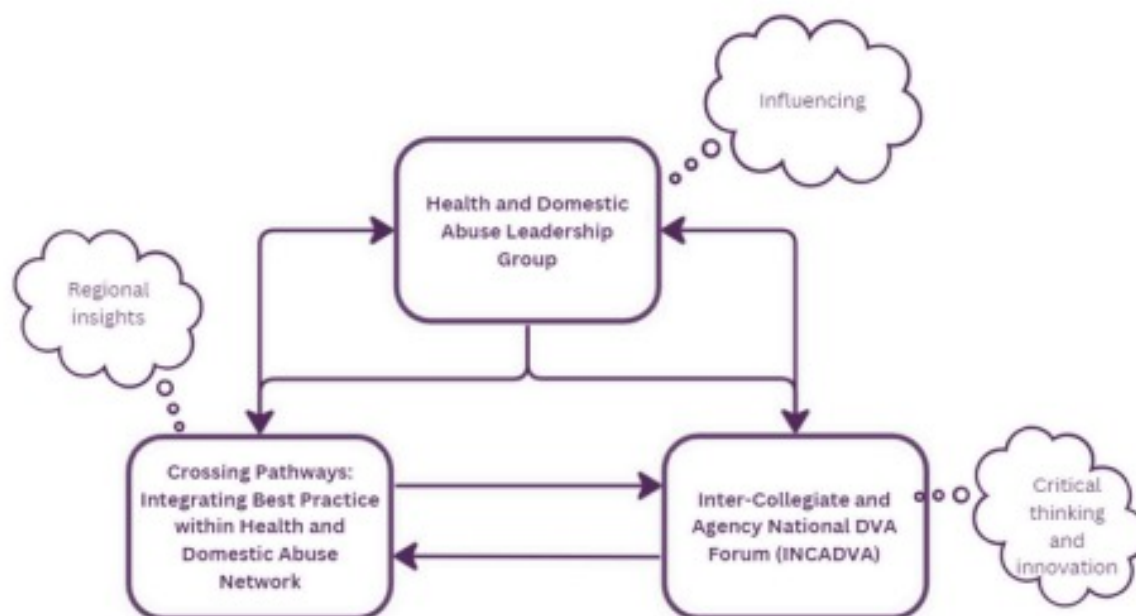
- Continued to support 30 grant funded specialist services to provide a range of services, roles and interventions in health settings which contributed to increased knowledge of what works and is best practice in terms of improving response to domestic abuse within health.
- Whole Health Evaluation completed by Social Led -



- Produced an animation showing the importance of a coordinated whole health response and the outcomes of the work done throughout the project.
- Produced Centring the Survivor Voice Phase Two continued the commitment to a trauma-informed and participatory approach, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all 135 participants, and led to the creation of a set of recommendations and action plan offers a comprehensive framework for enhancing domestic abuse support across health settings.
- "For somebody to name it is massive, or you know just to ask questions about me. How are you? What are you - what do you want? What do you need? You're important too, not just the children, or not just your husband, or not just what this medical form says."
- Continued to deliver 8 regional Crossing Pathways Network meetings, bringing together colleagues from health care services and specialist Domestic Abuse services as well as wider Coordinated Community Response (CCR) partners to look at national evidence and research, local best practice and discuss challenges and create a network of support.

Whole Health (cont'd)

- Continued to chair and coordinate Health and Domestic Abuse Leadership Group (HDALG) bringing together health and DA sector leaders to drive strategic engagement and influencing activity
- Continued to coordinate and attend the Inter-Collegiate and Agency Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum (INCADVA) a space for the Royal Colleges, Clinicians and Domestic Abuse Sector Partners to develop critical thinking and innovative ideas.

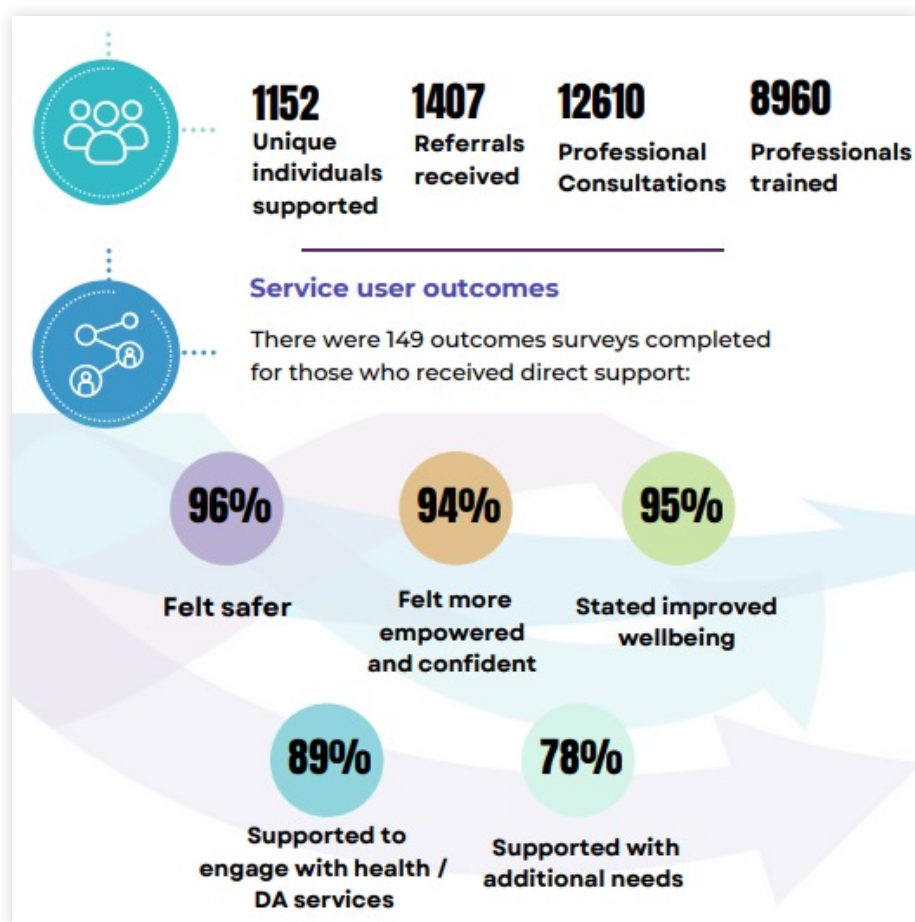


- Held a Parliamentary event sponsored by MP Sojhan Joseph which provided an opportunity to bring together supporters, services and survivors in the same room and showcase the work done through the whole health project. The event was supported by Baroness Merron, Minister for patient safety, women's health and mental health and it was great that she heard from a survivor about the difference a negative and positive health contact made on her.
- Worked to influence VAWG strategy around inclusion of health in addressing domestic abuse which included a letter with recommendations produced collaboratively by HDALG sent to officials, MP's and Ministers ahead of the VAWG strategy roundtable.
- Further work with consultants Social Led and Judith Vickress, sector partners Respect and IRISi and health sector pilot sites Northumbria NHS Healthcare Trust, Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust and Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust to develop the Pathways to Safety Accreditation Framework to support healthcare providers to strengthen their whole response to domestic abuse.

Whole Health (cont'd)

Highlights and Achievements

- Collaborative working and relationships built with specialist sector partners, local DA specialist providers, a range of health services, key government department contacts, MP's and Ministers.
- Work with and inclusion of survivor voice which led to a set of recommendations and actions developed by the Survivor Network which offers a comprehensive framework for enhancing support for domestic abuse survivors across healthcare settings.
- Findings of the evaluation upto February 2025



Challenges and Barriers

Sustainability and funding - no continuation funding from Home Office meant losing some of the team. A large number of the commissioned services were unable to secure sustainable ongoing funding despite the outcomes achieved and partnerships built.

Current climate, awaiting detail of VAWG strategy, announcement of the abolition of NHS England and funding cuts to ICB's as well as waiting for the guidance on duty to collaborate and comprehensive spending review decisions.

7

Training



Training Team



Team Structure

We are pleased to highlight that the team now consists of:

- 2 Trainers
- 2 Coordinators

This enhanced structure strengthens our capacity to:

- Respond promptly to training requests.
- Improve engagement with external partners.
- Deliver high-quality, versatile training tailored to individual needs.

Our training portfolio is designed to meet diverse needs across different sectors who play key parts in safeguarding victim survivors.

Key developments include:

- Courses aligned with DAHA accreditation, making them highly favourable among partners.
- Introduction of generalised courses applicable across multiple sectors.
- Implementation of a set standard for all training, ensuring consistency and quality.

Team Vision and Direction

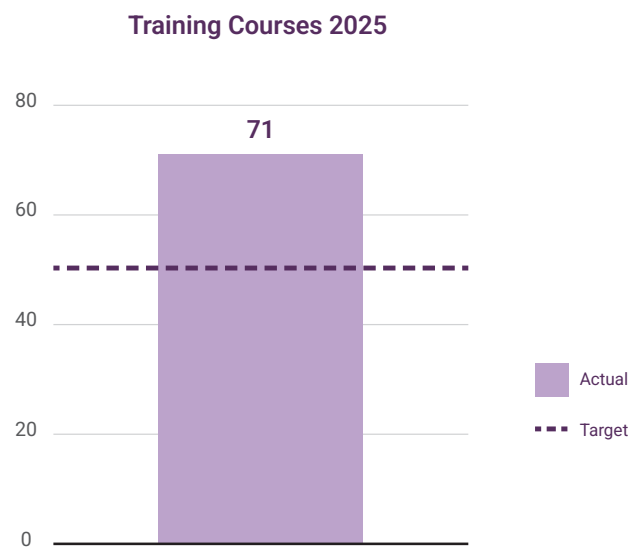
We have hosted two online away days, really looking at what the training team offer and want to highlight within the VAWG sector. We focused on:

- Driving team motivation.
- Clarifying vision and strategic direction.
- Strengthening collaboration and innovation.
- Looking at the gaps of training needs

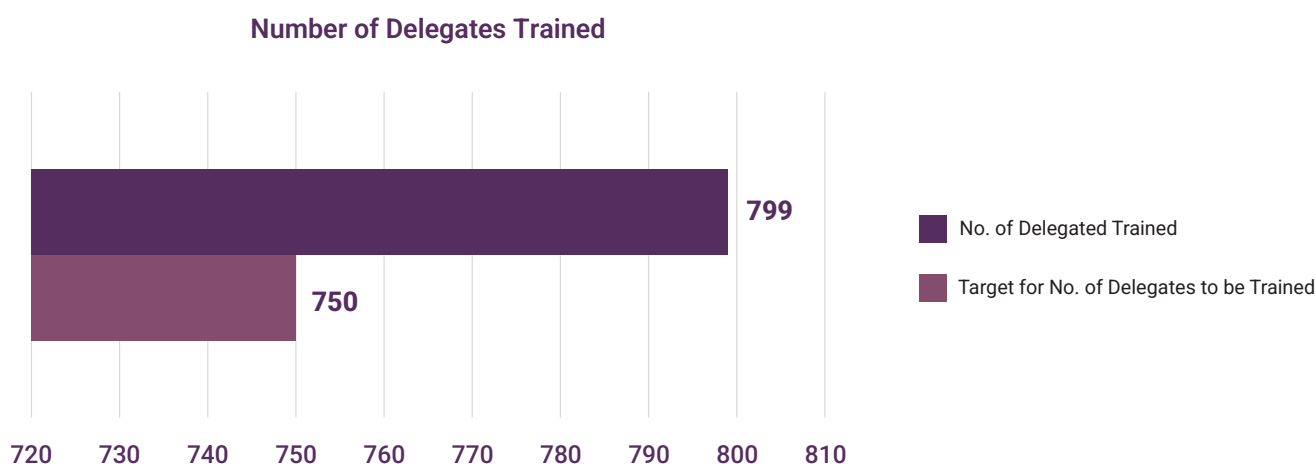
Training Team (cont'd)

Annual Training Performance (2024–2025 Financial Year)

We over-achieved by 42% on our predicted target for number of training courses delivered.



We overachieved our target by 6.53% for number of delegates trained.



Training Team (cont'd)

Training Courses Delivered

We over-achieved by 42% on our predicted target for number of training courses delivered.

Course Name	Total Deliveries
Domestic Abuse Training for Contact Centre Teams	11
Contact Centre Skills Training for Identifying Domestic Abuse Over The Phone	3
Domestic Abuse Awareness: A Foundation in Coercive Control	7
Domestic Abuse Champions Training for Housing Practitioners	6
Domestic Abuse Legal Tools and Powers Awareness: Giving Your Customers Choices	4
Domestic Abuse Training for Housing Options Teams	14
Domestic Abuse Training for Neighbourhood and Community Teams	16
Identifying Domestic Abuse in Housing	3
Seeking and Sharing Information to Increase Survivor/Victims Safety (PILOT)	1
Writing Effective Case Notes To Identify And Respond To Domestic Abuse	6
Grand Total	71

Top Training Courses

Course	Total Deliveries
Domestic Abuse Training for Contact Centre Teams	11
Domestic Abuse Training for Housing Options Teams	14
Domestic Abuse Training for Neighbourhood and Community Teams	16

”

Thank you to the tutor today, informative, polite, accommodating.

”

A lot information and links which was good and useful.

”

The trainer was very knowledgeable and passionate.

Impact Summary

The expanded team structure and strategic initiatives have:

- Increased capacity for timely and responsive training delivery.
- Enhanced partnership engagement through DAHA-accredited courses.
- Supported the development of sector-wide training solutions.
- Ensured all training meets consistent quality standards.

8

Campaigns and Events



The Blooming Strong Campaign



The Blooming Strong Campaign was created by us at STADA in 2014. It was originally set up to engage with partners to mark November 25th as the UN Day for the elimination of violence against women and as part of our 16 days of activism.

In the past, during this time of year, it was very often women were portrayed as victims of crime. We wanted to turn that around to promote the strength that women show either by surviving in an abusive relationship, continuing to get through each day despite the abuse, or leaving a relationship and starting out again, often with no more than they can carry.

This notion has developed over time, as we continue to primarily recognise resilience and strength of survivors, we have extended the recognition to others who have

impacted and dedicated their work to improve the lives of survivors and/or their families and children.

This year, 25 individuals from across the sector, as well as survivors, were nominated by STADA teams, to receive a flower produced by A Long's Story ([ALongsStory - Etsy UK](#)), a company started by a woman who used craft to manage their mental health.



The Connecting Together event



We held two organisation Connecting Together events during April and November 2024. Both events were in-person and gave everyone a rare opportunity to connect and meet colleagues familiar and new!

New Board members were introduced; along with the new Chair and CEO.

This was a welcomed time that gave space for acknowledgement and gratitude to staff; as well as opportunities to engage and input into the upcoming organisational strategy.

Amongst the serious professionalism, all employees took part in activities, presentations and team games, with good food and a lot of laughs!

We had the honour of holding an event at the Houses of Parliament, hosted by Sojan Joseph MP.

The event was to highlight the NHS's role in identifying and responding to domestic abuse, showcase STADA's work, and support national efforts to reduce VAWG by 2030.

Speakers included Dame Nicole Jacobs (Domestic Abuse Commissioner) delivered the keynote, alongside Sojan Joseph MP and Baroness Merron. A survivor also spoke of her lived experience.

There was good turnout of around 100 attendees from MPs, advisers, NHS stakeholders, and VAWG sector partners.

The Key themes of the day highlighted the:

- Importance of early intervention in healthcare.
- Need for consistent NHS practice, training, and survivor-centred pathways.
- Financial and social impact of domestic abuse on the NHS.

Several MPs expressed interest in further engagement. This event successfully raised STADA's profile in Parliament, strengthened relationships with MPs, and created follow-up opportunities for briefings and policy engagement.



Sojan Joseph MP

on behalf of Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse
requests the pleasure of your company

for a networking reception

in the Atlee Suite, House of Commons

on Monday, 3rd March 2025 from 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Address: UK Parliament, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA

RSVP by Monday 25th Feb | Emily Benneworth | events@standingtogether.org.uk

Entrance via Portcullis House
Allow at least **30** minutes for search and screening
No admittance without invitation

Smoking/e-cigarettes not permitted
No parking facilities available
Guests advised to bring personal photo ID

9

Strategic Influence



Strategic Influence

STADA serves on the following boards, panels, working groups and networks, sharing experience and expertise to our mutual benefit with partnership agencies and national boards/groups:

- Chair the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group
- External Consultation Group of the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service Scrutiny and Involvement Panel, Crown Prosecution Service
- London Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel, London Areas, Crown Prosecution Service
- The London Mayor's Expert Group on Violence Against Women and Girls
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- CBS Coalition Hub
- Victims' Voice Forum
- Local Authority VAWG Boards
- Parliamentary Roundtable sessions and consultations
- Parliamentary events
- Specialist sector networking events and meetings including Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office led initiatives
- European partnership groups and forums
- London Councils
- Coordinate the Crossing Pathways meetings across the Health sector
- European Domestic Violence Conference
- Sector specific groups and forums
- Post year end:
 - Women's Justice Board
 - Home Office Domestic Homicide Review Quality Assurance Panel



STADA's CEO, Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and staff speak at numerous international, national, regional and local conferences about our strategic and operational approach to the coordinated community response and often particular aspects of work.

CEO, ELT and key staff members work closely with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office and attend parliamentary events to influence and remain up to date with policy developments, contributing to addressing gaps in knowledge and service provision. They also work with local authority partners to disseminate policy thinking, ensure strategic oversight and associated operational practice both informs policy at government level, but also keep pace with policy changes.

10

Financial Review



Financial Review

Overview

For the financial year ended 31 March 2025, Standing Together reported a surplus of £202k compared to surplus of £235k in year ended 31 March 2024. This surplus is made up of £166k deficit for unrestricted income funds (2024: £26k surplus) and £368k surplus for restricted income funds (2024: £209k) carried forward to be spent in 2025/26.

The Charity's work in Year 2024-2025 continued along the strategically planned paths of making a difference in raising awareness and making changes to the response to domestic violence. This was in view of financial uncertainty as we continue to experience the effects of rising global inflation and the increased cost of living. This will require exceptional interventions and measures to protect the organisation's financial position. As a charity, Standing Together have assessed the risks faced by the charity and have formulated plans to protect its current and future operating reserves to mitigate risks and to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Financial Results

Standing Together's unrestricted reserves decreased during the year from £1,211k in 2024 to £1,025k at the end of year, with a well-diversified funding stream from local authorities, central government, NHS, trust foundations, consultancy work and training. The charity receives most of its funding in the form of restricted grants to support specific projects.

The income and expenditure accounts showed incoming resources for the year of £4,434k (2024: £5,027k) and expenditure of £4,231k (2024: £4,793k). The total reserves at the end of the year were £1,892k (2024: £1,690k) of which £867k (2024: £479k) is restricted for specific purposes and £1,025k (2024: £1,211k) is unrestricted and is available for general purposes decided by the charity. The unrestricted fund balance of £1,025k (2024: £562k) has been designated/earmarked for continuation of services (£635k), redundancy costs (£109k), training & consultancy costs (£90k), enhanced maternity leave costs (£100k), IT & security (£90k).

The overall financial plans are driven by our financial strategy including assumptions set out in budgets to establish the amount of income required to cover staff and operational costs in fulfilling Standing Together's plans and purpose.

The Chief Executive concentrates on local and national opportunities along with the team through shared visions, goals and policies to strengthen our position with existing contracts and future proposals to extend our work around domestic abuse. The committed Senior Leadership Team and staff collectively work together to ensure the operational existence of the charity for the foreseeable future. We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Principal Funding Sources: £4,433,612

We received income of £4,376k (2024:£4,987k) from charitable activities during the year. We also received £49k (2024: £28k) from investments.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations and support we receive from individuals and organisations. The donations totaling £8k this year (2024: £13k) are a valuable contribution towards the Charity's objective to alleviate domestic abuse.

Benefits In Kind

We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest and skills. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Financial Review (cont'd)

Charitable Expenditure: £4,231,529

Total charitable expenditure amounted to £4,231k (2024: £4,792k) which consisted of staff costs of £2,982k (2024: £2,401k) accounting for 70% of total costs. Support costs of £234k (2024: £166k) representing 6%, includes information technology support (IT), other professional fees, office and premise costs. Other direct costs of £1,015k (2024: £2,225k) include expenditure on consultant fees, onward cost to partners and general overheads/operational costs representing 24% of total costs.

Investments

The Finance Committee has considered options to place money in long term investment funds with the aim of achieving an increase in financial returns. Although this would be an opportunity to improve general reserves, after much thought it was deemed that the level of risk involved far outweighed the benefits. Most funds received by the charity are expended in the short term and need to be available at short notice.

In the best interest of the charity and looking at the impact on the running of the organisation, the decision was made to invest funds in fixed short term deposit accounts on the Flagstone Investment Platform online. This provides flexibility whereby funds are spread across several bank accounts offering different terms and rates of interest. To manage the level of risk, the aim is to have a maximum of £85k deposited in individual banking institutions, protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) if a financial institution goes out of business (rising to £120k from 1st December 2025).

The level of funds to invest on the Platform is reviewed by the Finance Committee and governed by investment policies and monitoring of the cashflows on a quarterly basis.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in consideration of the main risks to the organisation, they have identified the need for a robust financial planning and a clearer understanding of the necessity for reserves and liquidity. The Trustees recognise that it must manage its affairs to ensure that the level of reserves and associated cash balances remain sufficient such that Standing Together will continue to operate on a sustainable basis.

Taking into account the overall current grant position, the reserve represents the minimum level of funds required to protect Standing Together from the potential financial impact of known/unknown business risks. In the event of Standing Together facing difficult financial circumstances these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Having assessed the current risks, the Trustees have established a policy to retain the level of unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity. Trustees have decided that, after an allowance for future income expectations, Standing Together should maintain cash and realisable assets sufficient to fund three months of operational expenditure, taking into account the future use of reserves in line with its charitable objectives. This policy allows trustees to meet their obligations under the Companies Act and to comply with Charity Commission guidance.

Total unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2025 were £1,025k (2024: £1,211k), which are designated to ensure continuation of service, redundancy, training & consultancy, enhanced maternity leave, IT & security costs are covered for a period of three months at the current rate of annual expenditure.

11

Plans for the Future



Plans for the Future

With a new Government and new Violence Against Women and Girls strategy imminent, during 2024/25 STADA has been taking stock of current areas of work and exploring priorities for our new strategy.

In 2024/25 STADA set out to:

- Lay the foundations for a Strategy to be launched in 2025/26.
- Maintain existing contracts and grant funding.
- Develop our work in relation to impact measurement, data capture, and building a robust evidence base.
- Develop our reach and impact via all forms of media including social media.
- Continue to develop our work in influencing and policy at local and central government levels.
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health-based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and influence the Department of Health and Social Care.
- Roll out the CCR Leaders course along with a more robust training and membership package.
- Revisit the DAHA accreditation and membership model, including fee structure.
- Explore the best utilisation of the learning from our Domestic Homicide Reviews workstream.
- Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation to our criminal justice and Specialist Domestic Abuse Court work, housing and homelessness, health, harmful practices, MARAC, multiple disadvantages and community-based settings.
- Continue to strengthen governance protocols and financial management processes to ensure ongoing sustainability, financial resilience and effective management of the organisation.
- Monitor the transformation VAWG landscape and continue to seek opportunity to enhance the presence of the CCR in the sector.

STADA has achieved the launch of our strategy on 01 July 2025.

All workstreams continue to make in-roads to prepare the organisation for the national VAWG strategy.

12

Conclusion



STADA continues to promote the Coordinated Community Response as a framework by which we organise, plan and prioritise our work. This year we have shifted some focus to our internal CCR to improve the effectiveness of the model for each workstream.

Year on year, we build a more robust program of work locally and nationally to both undertake and model the breadth of systemic work that is required to promote safety for survivors of domestic abuse and to hold perpetrators to account.

Our challenge has always been to maintain the partnership work that we do in central London while promoting the best of what we are learning to our wider national networks. Despite economic challenges, STADA has remained financially resilient and has strengthened partnership networks to ensure a cohesive framework of support and to ensure our services remain aligned with their needs.

The recent growth of the organisation has stabilised as we have worked on maintaining operating at its current size.

Our national networks like the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, Domestic Homicide Reviews, Health, MARAC and Criminal Justice based activities serve to maintain and enhance our opportunities, mitigating risks and challenges.

We have placed some emphasis on recognising the need to strengthen our internal governance and systems; we continue to build on our robust platform of experience and expertise. STADA continues to be firmly grounded and the principles and components of the coordinated community response which remains the foundation stone for all we do and how we develop.

13

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities



Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law and the law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures
- Disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

- The Trustees confirm that, in the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the date of this report, the following applies:
- So far as each Trustee is aware there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- Each Trustee has taken all the steps necessary to make herself/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

No Trustee had any relationship with any of the main funders except as a Trustee of Standing Together. In so far as the Management Committee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware. The Management Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

This Report is agreed and signed at the AGM by the Chair of Standing Together, on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 30 January 2026.



Tabitha Morton

Chair of Board of Trustees

14

Independent Auditor's Report



Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the financial statements of Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis of 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.

Conclusion relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, 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 we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report (cont'd)

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- The information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The directors' report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Independent Auditor's Report (cont'd)

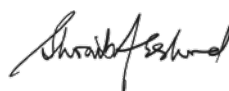
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) applicable to smaller entities and the Companies Act 2006.
- We understood how the charitable company is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the charity's documented policies and procedures. The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override and allocation of costs to charitable activities and restricted funds.
- Our approach was to check that the income from grants, donations and fee were properly identified and accurately disclosed, that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. We also reviewed major journal adjustments along with unusual transactions and considered the identification and disclosure of related party transactions.

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

Use of the audit report

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



Shoaib Arshad

Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

65 Leadenhall Street

London. EC3A 2AD

Date: **30 January 2026**

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Financial Statements



Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note		2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	8,115	-	8,115	12,850	-	12,850
Charitable activities	4	1,208,252	3,168,249	4,376,501	1,150,236	3,836,359	4,986,595
Investments	3	48,996	-	48,996	28,456	-	28,456
TOTAL INCOME		£ 1,265,363	£ 3,168,249	£ 4,433,612	£ 1,191,542	£ 3,836,359	£ 5,027,901
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Cost of raising funds	5	(21,312)	(46,617)	(67,929)	(30,599)	-	(30,599)
Charitable activities	5	(1,410,591)	(2,753,010)	(4,163,601)	(1,134,894)	(3,627,092)	(4,761,986)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(1,431,902)	(2,799,627)	(4,231,529)	(1,165,493)	(3,627,092)	(4,792,585)
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		(166,539)	368,622	202,083	26,049	209,267	235,316
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(19,419)	19,419	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 1 APRIL		1,210,901	479,472	1,690,373	1,184,852	270,205	1,455,057
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31 MARCH		£ 1,024,943	£ 867,513	£ 1,892,456	£ 1,210,901	£ 479,472	£ 1,690,373

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. None of the Charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

Financial Statements (cont'd)

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2025

(Registered Company No. 04283131)

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment	10	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	362,795	1,548,225
Cash at bank and in hand		2,093,156	1,523,845
		<u>2,455,951</u>	<u>3,072,070</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(563,495)	(1,381,697)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,892,456</u>	<u>1,690,373</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,892,456	1,690,373
NET ASSETS		<u>1,892,456</u>	<u>1,690,373</u>
		£	£
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds	14	1,024,943	562,266
General fund	14	-	648,635
		<u>1,024,943</u>	<u>1,210,901</u>
Restricted Funds	14	867,513	479,472
		<u>1,892,456</u>	<u>1,690,373</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Board of Trustees on 30 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by: -



Tabitha Morton
Trustee/Director

Financial Statements (cont'd)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	202,083	235,316
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	-	1,121
Decrease/(Increase) in Debtors	1,185,430	(1,123,606)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(818,202)	909,824
Investment income	(48,996)	(28,456)
	520,315	(5,801)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Returns on investment – interest receivable	48,996	28,458
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	569,311	22,657
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1st April	1,523,845	1,501,188
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st March	<u>£ 2,093,156</u>	<u>1,523,845</u>

Components of cash and cash equivalents

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Cashflow	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£ 1,523,845</u>	<u>£ 569,311</u>	<u>£ 2,093,156</u>

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Company status

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements and outlined in the Trustee report. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the note 14.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) which the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the amount will be received, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donation received are deferred when conditions are attached, for example when they relate to a specific future period.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately to the direct staff costs allocated to the activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised and stated at cost less depreciation.

Furniture and equipment	5 years on straight line

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pensions

The company is part of a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations	8,115	-	8,115	12,850	-	12,850
	<u>£ 8,115</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 8,115</u>	<u>£ 12,850</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 12,850</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Interest receivable from Bank interest	48,996	-	48,996	28,456	-	28,456
	<u>£ 48,996</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 48,996</u>	<u>£ 28,456</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 28,456</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants & contracts for services:						
Support & education to prevent domestic violence	457,553	3,168,249	3,625,802	384,492	3,826,474	4,210,966
Access to Work	-	-	-	-	9,885	9,885
Membership fees	419,010	-	419,010	408,542	-	408,542
Fee income	331,689	-	331,689	357,202	-	357,202
	<u>£ 1,208,252</u>	<u>£ 3,168,249</u>	<u>£ 4,376,501</u>	<u>£ 1,150,236</u>	<u>£ 3,836,359</u>	<u>£ 4,986,595</u>

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of grants & contracts for services

Support & education to prevent domestic violence	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chelwest NHS	-	60,933	60,933	-	51,500	51,500
City Bridge Trust	-	(5,321)	(5,321)	-	62,000	62,000
Domestic Homicide Reviews	124,553	-	124,553	111,509	-	111,509
Ealing Council	-	-	-	13,914	-	13,914
Erasmus (EU)	-	-	-	-	2,506	2,506
Esmee Fairburn	-	106,210	106,210	-	96,850	96,850
Firebird Foundation	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
GLA	-	243,788	243,788	-	153,252	153,252
Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea NHS	-	-	-	-	66,000	66,000
Haringey Council	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
Home Office - Drive Project	-	-	-	-	3,075	3,075
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	20,000	20,000	-	21,296	21,296
Home Office - Health Initiative	-	2,228,665	2,228,665	-	2,413,022	2,413,022
LBoF Hammersmith & Fulham	-	51,607	51,607	-	46,607	46,607
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	(5,033)	(5,033)	-	55,845	55,845
Westminster City Council – Whole Housing Approach	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	326,242	326,242	-	569,950	569,950
Global Dialogue	-	-	-	-	61,875	61,875
Treebeard Trust	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Tri Borough Funding	283,000	-	283,000	208,347	-	208,347
Charing Cross Hospital	-	25,000	25,000	-	54,600	54,600
Westminster City Council	-	85,658	85,658	-	103,096	103,096
Other income	-	500	500	722	-	722
	£ 457,553	£ 3,168,249	£ 3,625,802	£ 384,492	£ 3,826,474	£ 4,210,966

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

5a. Cost of charitable activities (current year as at 31st March 2025)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2025 £
Projects:				-
Fundraising	64,450	256	3,223	67,929
Community	78,419	77,406	3,153	158,978
Criminal Justice	111,006	6,216	17	117,239
DHRs	213,013	59,987	2,103	275,103
Health	1,180,422	530,180	112,709	1,823,311
Housing & Homelessness	975,894	295,752	33,326	1,304,972
MARAC	189,606	3,757	364	193,727
Training	63,970	10,407	250	74,627
Other charitable projects	105,268	31,437	78,939	215,644
Total as at 31 March 2025	£ 2,982,048	£ 1,015,398	£ 234,083	£ 4,231,529

5b. Cost of charitable activities (prior year as at 31st March 2024)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2024 £
Projects:				
Fundraising	28,898	256	1,445	30,599
Community	212,991	162,270	20,724	395,985
Criminal Justice	160,650	8,991	2,842	172,483
DHRs	153,115	56,668	2,403	212,186
Health	706,867	1,631,981	74,814	2,413,662
Housing & Homelessness	767,715	326,117	48,283	1,142,115
MARAC	241,246	4,204	2,687	248,137
Training	101,563	11,580	4,673	117,816
Other charitable projects	28,463	22,936	8,203	59,602
Total as at 31 March 2024	£ 2,401,508	£ 2,225,003	£ 166,074	£ 4,792,585

RESTATED

Resources expended include:

	2025	2024
Auditors' remuneration:	£ 7,235	£ 6,040

Details of resources expended are given in notes 6, 7 and 8

6. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Partner and stakeholder costs	-	9,790
Consultancy and Domestic Homicide Review Associate costs	95,885	156,475
Training and learning services	-	11,375
External evaluation	19,810	-
Other direct costs	899,843	2,047,364
	£ 1,015,538	£ 2,225,004

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2025	<i>Total 2024</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Premises and Office costs	163,126	<i>118,630</i>
Communication & IT	38,586	<i>20,637</i>
Legal & professional fees	24,997	<i>20,764</i>
Auditor's fee	7,235	<i>6,040</i>
	<u>£ 233,944</u>	<i><u>£ 166,071</u></i>

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	Total 2025	<i>Total 2024</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Gross salaries	2,239,271	<i>2,074,026</i>
Social security	231,241	<i>173,793</i>
Pension costs	71,708	<i>67,428</i>
Other staff costs	439,828	<i>86,261</i>
	<u>£ 2,982,048</u>	<i><u>£ 2,401,508</u></i>

The average weekly number of employees calculated as full time equivalents during the period was:

	Number	<i>Number</i>
Key Management Team	4.6	<i>2.6</i>
CCR & Communities	3.4	<i>5.8</i>
Criminal Justice	2.8	<i>2.5</i>
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	3.3	<i>5</i>
Health	9.6	<i>12.4</i>
Housing	24.5	<i>20.4</i>
MARAC	4.7	<i>7</i>
Training & consultancy	3.3	
Support Staff	10.1	<i>3</i>
	<u>66.3</u>	<i><u>58.7</u></i>
The average number of employees (head counts) during the period was:	<u>66.3</u>	<i><u>58.7</u></i>

One employee (2024: Nil) received remuneration of more than £70,000; between £70,001 to £80,000.

One employee (2024: One) received remuneration of more than £60,000; between £60,001 to £70,000.

During the year, key management received an aggregate salary and benefits of £326,777 (2024: £194,212)

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year, no members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration (2024 : £NIL) No members of the Board of Trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2024: £NIL)

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

10. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
<i>At 1 April 2024</i>	<u>5,607</u>	<u>5,607</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,607</u>	<u>5,607</u>
Depreciation		
<i>At 1 April 2024</i>	5,607	5,607
Charge for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,607</u>	<u>5,607</u>
Net book value		
<i>At 31 March 2024</i>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>

11. DEBTORS

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	298,862	261,261
Prepayments	30,010	22,892
Accrued income	20,500	1,248,279
Other debtors	13,423	15,793
	<u>£ 362,795</u>	<u>£ 1,548,225</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Due within one year		
Deferred income	116,430	121,000
VAT creditors	83,603	79,544
Social security and other taxes	53,524	46,600
Trade Creditors	110,271	-
Accruals & creditors	199,667	1,134,553
	<u>£ 563,495</u>	<u>£ 1,381,697</u>

13. TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and therefore is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available, to registered charities.

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

14a Statement of Funds (current year as at 31 March 2025)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	560,858	-	-	(560,858)	-
Redundancy costs	-	-	-	109,000	109,000
Continuation of services	-	-	-	635,943	635,943
Training & consultancy costs	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
Enhanced maternity leave costs	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
IT & security	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
DVCN Funds	1,408	-	-	(1,408)	-
Total as at 31 March 2025	£ 562,266	£ -	£ -	£ 462,677	£ 1,024,943

The Continuation of services designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Chelwest NHS	3,311	60,933	(57,793)	-	6,451
City Bridge Trust	5,322	(5,321)	(1)	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	17,472	106,210	(102,604)	-	21,078
	-	-	-	-	-
GLA	49,952	243,788	(198,409)	-	95,331
Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea NHS	27,993	-	(27,993)	-	-
Home Office - Drive Project	-	-	-	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	6,859	20,000	(41,245)	14,386	-
Home Office - Health Initiative	140,073	2,228,665	(1,727,412)	-	641,326
Inner London Magistrates Courts	1,652	-	(1,320)	-	332
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	19,891	51,607	(35,868)	-	35,630
London Councils	-	-	-	-	-
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	(5,033)	-	5,033	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	6,511	-	(6,511)	-	-
Westminster City Council – Whole Housing Approach	12,341	30,000	(30,916)	-	11,425
National Lottery Community Fund	163,121	326,242	(469,553)	-	19,810
Global Dialogue	8,118	-	(8,118)	-	-
Charing Cross Hospital	12,906	25,000	(37,906)	-	-
Westminster City Council	3,950	85,658	(53,478)	-	36,130
Women's History	-	500	(500)	-	-
	£ 479,472	£ 3,168,249	£ (2,799,627)	£ 19,419	£ 867,513

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	562,266	-	-	462,677	1,024,943
General Funds	648,635	1,265,363	(1,431,902)	(482,096)	-
	1,210,901	1,265,363	(1,431,902)	(19,419)	1,024,943
Restricted Funds	479,472	3,168,249	(2,799,627)	19,419	867,513
Total as at 31 March 2025	£ 1,690,373	£ 4,433,612	£ (4,231,529)	£ -	£ 1,892,456

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

14b Statement of Funds (prior year as at 31 March 2024)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	560,858	-	-	-	560,858
DVCN Funds	1,408	-	-	-	1,408
Total as at 31 March 2024	£ 562,266	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 562,266
RESTRICTED FUNDS	£	£	£	£	£
Chelwest NHS	2,621	51,500	(50,810)	-	3,311
City Bridge Trust	19,592	62,000	(76,270)	-	5,322
Erasmus (EU)	-	2,506	(2,506)	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	44,894	96,850	(124,272)	-	17,472
Firebird Foundation	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
GLA	12,149	153,252	(115,449)	-	49,952
Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea NHS	10,202	66,000	(48,209)	-	27,993
Home Office - Drive Project	-	3,075	(3,075)	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	12,991	21,296	(27,428)	-	6,859
Home Office - Health Initiative	-	2,413,022	(2,272,949)	-	140,073
Inner London Magistrates Courts	3,111	-	(1,459)	-	1,652
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	9,951	46,607	(36,667)	-	19,891
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	55,845	(55,845)	-	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	28,078	-	(21,567)	-	6,511
Westminster City Council – Whole Housing Approach	16,325	30,000	(33,984)	-	12,341
National Lottery Community Fund	-	569,950	(406,829)	-	163,121
Oak Foundation	83,597	-	(83,597)	-	-
Global Dialogue	-	61,875	(53,757)	-	8,118
Swiss Philanthropy	8,944	-	(8,944)	-	-
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Charing Cross Hospital	-	54,600	(41,694)	-	12,906
Westminster City Council	17,750	103,096	(116,896)	-	3,950
Access to Work	-	9,885	(9,885)	-	-
	£ 270,205	£ 3,836,359	£ (3,627,092)	£ -	£ 479,472
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	562,266	-	-	-	562,266
General Funds	622,586	1,191,542	(1,165,493)	-	648,635
	1,184,852	1,191,542	(1,165,493)	-	1,210,901
Restricted Funds	270,205	3,836,359	(3,627,092)	-	479,472
Total as at 31 March 2024	£ 1,455,057	£ 5,027,901	£ (4,792,585)	£ -	£ 1,690,373

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

15a. Analysis of net assets between funds (current year as at 31 March 2025)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net Current assets	1,024,943	-	867,513	1,892,456
Total as at 31 March 2025	£ 1,024,943	£ -	£ 867,513	£ 1,892,456

15b. Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year as at 31 March 2024)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net Current assets	562,266	648,635	479,472	1,690,373
Total as at 31 March 2024	£ 562,266	£ 648,635	£ 479,472	£ 1,690,373

16. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2025 the Company had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for land and buildings) as set out below:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Operating leases which expire: within one year	11,334	11,334
	£ 11,334	£ 11,334

The cost of operating lease during the year was as follows:
Office lease charges for the year

	£ 45,336	£ 44,645

Financial Statements (cont'd)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2025

17. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Pension costs in note 8 relate to payments made to a defined contribution scheme. The charitable company's liability is limited to making the payments due to scheme on timely basis. The liability as at 31 March 2025 is £13,328 (2024: £13,986)

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

During the year, members of the Board of Trustees made aggregate voluntary donations to the charity for the amount of £140 (2024 : £Nil).



www.standingtogether.org.uk

Accounts



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Company limited by guarantee No. 04283131
Registered Charity No. 1088844

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2024

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY
TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Board of Trustees	T Morton (appointed 20/11/2023)	Chair
	P Price	Treasurer
	C Clifford (appointed 12/08/2024)	
	F Holmes-Mackay (appointed 12/08/2024)	
	A Whiteside (appointed 12/08/2024)	
	C Griffin (resigned 12/08/2024)	
	K Patel (resigned 20/11/2023)	
	T Miller (resigned 12/08/2024)	
	A Patel (resigned 11/08/2023)	
	K Vernau (resigned 11/01/2024)	
Company Registration No:	04283131	
Charity Registration No:	1088844	
Registered Office:	The Polish Centre Room 44D, 4 th Floor 238 – 246 King Street London W6 0RF	
Auditors:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD	
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	

FOREWORD

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA). Our Trustees and staff team are proud of the pioneering work of our organisation and how it embeds a coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic abuse in the UK. We remain inspired by the ambition of our founders over twenty years ago. Establishing STADA as an independent charity makes us unique in the whole of the country.

Abuse is increasingly recognised within government and public awareness and there have undoubtedly been great strides in sector endeavors to challenge not only the cause of this crime but to enhance thinking around the complexities that surround it. We are proud of the broad, multi level range of work that we do to address and eradicate domestic abuse across so many different specialist areas and to embed systemic change to ensure a collaborative, person-centered response to supporting all victims of domestic abuse.

Charities in all sectors have been impacted by the pressures of rising inflation and the cost of living crisis, but through effective strategic, operational and financial management, we have steered our way through these difficulties and continued to provide our comprehensive range of services and expertise across the domestic abuse and criminal justice sector.

Our extensive work continues to enable strategic partnerships with our local authority partners to develop comprehensive plans and interventions in community-based settings, highlight continuous improvement opportunities in the activities of criminal justice agencies, systemic change in statutory responses, charity sector collaboration with all agencies across the sector and contributing to the shaping of policies at central and local government levels.

This is all underpinned through promoting the coordinated community response within national programs such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, our new Health interventions work, Faith and Communities, MARACs and in our Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) offer. In particular, we are proud to work with so many ambitious and talented charities, including 'by and for' organisations to ensure a truly intersectional approach, holistic and meaningful impact and outcomes for all victims of domestic abuse whilst elevating awareness of the range of complex issues that they face, to ensure appropriate support across the sector

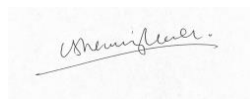
Our dedicated and hugely talented staff group have continued to work hard to sustain our varied work and impact which is much valued and enables Standing Together to continue to provide exceptional quality and standards in our work, maintaining our position as a market leader in second tier service provision and experts in our field.

We are pleased that our annual audit highlights our sound management of Standing Together. We would very much like to thank the Standing Together trustees, the staff team, our partners and all of those who have supported our work this year.

Sincerely,



Tabitha Morton
Chair of Board of Trustees



Cheryl Henry-Leach
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, and trustees for charity law purposes, present its report and audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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). The Company has taken advantage of the exemptions available to smaller entities.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6th September 2001 and registered as a charity in October 2001. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up Trustees are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Board Composition

The charity is governed by a Board of Directors (Trustees for the purposes of charity law) under the company's articles and are known as members of the management committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. The Trustees meet quarterly to discuss the affairs of the Charity and to make decisions, and to ratify decisions made by the Board.

During the year Trustees Anisha Patel resigned on 11 August 2023, Kruti Patel resigned on 20 November 2023, Kim Vernau resigned on 11 January 2024, and Tabitha Morton was appointed on 20 November 2023. Post year end, Cynthia Griffin and Tracey Miller resigned on 12 August 2024, and Carlene Clifford, Fraser Holmes-Mackay and Amanda Whiteside were appointed also on 12 August 2024.

The Chair along with selected members of the Board and CEO are responsible for recruiting members of the Board of Trustees. Membership of the Board is reviewed annually to ensure that the broadest interests served by Standing Together are represented. The Board benefits from Trustees who have a broad range of skills, who have valuable experience and influence in their field to promote the success of the Charity. They bring great abilities to bear on their role and in the various offices they hold on the Board. Their roles as Trustees include human resources; implementation of equal opportunities; financial management, education and equalities, criminal justice, legal expertise, a strategic overview of fundraising and strategic planning.

At the time of signing this report the Board of Trustees had five Trustee Directors including the Chair, the Treasurer and three new Trustees. The principle remains that the size and composition of the Board is considered to include appropriate expertise to populate the Board and the Committees to ensure that the Charity is run in accordance with its obligations. Standing Together recognise the benefits of diversity on the Board and throughout the organisation and has continued to support efforts to increase diversity.

There was a recruitment process during the year to appoint the three additional Trustees to the Board. On appointment, all Trustees received a thorough induction programme which includes meeting with key members of the Executive Leadership Team, and other Senior Managers. In addition, Trustees all receive information on training on duties and other key legislation/regulation as required.

Each year a planning and review day is held with trustees. It was recommended that to exercise best practice and in line with Charity Governance Code Commission guidelines, Standing Together has adopted that Trustees with nine years or more service will be replaced. The new and incumbent Trustees Tabitha Morton, Carlene Clifford, Amanda Whiteside, Fraser Holmes-Mackay, and Pat Price, in accordance with the Articles of Association were re-appointed to remain as Trustees at the AGM meeting on 21 January 2025- New Trustees were introduced at previous Board meeting 28 August 2024.

On an annual basis, each Trustee is required to declare any potential conflicts of interests, and at each Board meeting Trustees are prompted to raise any conflicts of interests they have in any matters that are to be discussed. If conflicts of interest are raised, appropriate safeguards are put in place to take the necessary actions to manage the conflict.

Trustees do not receive remuneration or derive any other personal benefit from the activities of the charity.

Finance Committee

The Board are supported by the Finance Committee, to provide assurance and dedicated oversight to financial matters and governance of the Charity.

The Finance Committee consists of Trustees Pat Price and Tabitha Morton; Cherryl Henry-Leach (CEO), Jo Choi (COO), Jackie Hyland (Executive Director of Services) and Joel Lane-Smith (Head of Finance); please note Caron Bailey (Finance & Governance Manager) attended prior to leaving the Organisation in May 2024. The Committee formally met three times during the year (reduction due to changes in personnel).

The committee is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness and independence of the external auditors and advises the Board on the appointment of the external auditors and their remuneration for audit work. Various other usual governance matters have been considered during the period, including a review of the Scheme of Delegation and items that have been assigned to it from the Trustee's Risk Register.

Management of the Charity

Standing Together is managed by a highly committed Board of Trustees which meets four times during the year with ad hoc meetings held as and when necessary, to ensure matters are considered and progressed in a timely matter. The Chair has the responsibility of leading the Trustee Board towards its objective of placing the Charity on a secure footing for the future. Each trustee has a clear understanding of their accountability and responsibilities. The Board meetings are chaired by the Chair of the Board and provide an open and constructive forum for trustees to be kept up to date on developments across all areas of the charity, provide oversight of operational matters and make informed decisions.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Executive Leadership Team, headed by the Chief Executive and including the Director of Operations and Director of Health has overall responsibility for the running of the organisation and delivery of Standing Together's strategy, its development and achievements reporting directly to the Board. The Senior Leadership Team is supported in financial matters by the Finance & Governance Manager.

The remuneration for key management is determined by the Trustees taking into account the skills, experience, and management responsibilities, the overall budget constraints and a view of what is suitable as compared to similar roles in the sector in which we work. Standing Together's policy is to provide appropriate and fair level of remuneration and incentives at a level which attracts appropriate and retain good quality directors, management and staff.

During the year an extensive pay review was conducted and a new pay band structure was implemented which seek to address increase in cost of living and provide responsible incentives that encourage enhanced performance and reward individual contributions to the long term strategic goals of the organisation.

Financial Management

The Board has fulfilled its role this year in being responsible for the strategic direction and the sound financial health of the company and for ensuring that the activities of the company meet its charitable objectives.

The Board is supported by the Finance Committee who exercises stewardship and fiscal responsibilities over the finances of the Charity. The Committee commissions detailed work on financial matters in connection with the budget, financial performance and funding of the Charity; communicating its findings at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Board receives accurate, comprehensive and timely information on the company's business and financial performance to enable appropriate monitoring and effective oversight of key matters.

Standing Together has policies and procedures in place to carry out robust financial management, clear audit trails and integrity of financial information provided to the Board to ensure that there are sufficient funds to maintain core services in the short, medium and long term. Other policies and procedures include Finance Regulations; quarterly Finance Reports to Trustees; regular review of systems for supporting financial procedures; designated staff with clear roles and responsibilities. The organisation is externally audited by Knox Kropper LLP.

The Finance Committee continues to focus on ways and measures to increase the general reserves and monitor the organisation's performance against contingency plans. As the charity continues to expand their reach and impact within the sector, trustees will establish and agree on the level of sufficient general reserve needed to maintain and sustain the Charity.

The emphasis is on how the Charity is funded, the development of the overarching organisational strategy, fundraising strategy and business plan to meet challenges, demands and opportunities, and a strong management structure to support our ambitions.

Risk Management

The Board is committed to the long term sustainable growth of the company and to seeking opportunities whilst ensuring effective oversight and mitigation of risk. Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity. Risks are considered in light of their likelihood and potential impact and the necessary steps to mitigate them. The key operational and strategic risks are outlined in a risk register. It sets out the process that we use to identify and manage risks in all our activities. Risks are managed at both a strategic and operational level along with Standing Together's scheme of delegation policy.

The trustees complete an overall review of the risk register whereby the Board consider:

- the high and significant risks to which Standing Together is exposed,
- the potential impact and probability associated with each risk,
- existing internal controls and accountability for them, and
- mitigating actions to reduce each risk to a level that is acceptable.

Processes are in place to ensure that inherent and emerging risks are identified in a timely manner and are then appropriately managed. Securing future funding is the biggest risk for the charity and this challenge has been addressed in the Business Continuity Plan. These are monitored by the Executive Leadership Team, Head of Finance along with the Finance Committee, and assessed annually by the full Board. Standing Together has succeeded in diversifying its sources of funding which has aided the process of forward planning; the management of cash flow and enabled the organisation to manage risk, maintain and develop its activities to advance its charitable objectives.

Standing Together is satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to possible major risks.

Health and Safety

Standing Together continues its responsibility for the safety of its members of staff. The charity maintains a health and Safety policy committed to reducing the risks of hazards in the organisation's workplace, making sure that premises, resources and working practices meet recognised standards for quality, security and safety. The

trained First Aid Officers and designated Fire Marshal ensures compliance is upheld in alignment with the company's policy and the landlord's responsibilities towards the organisation, regarding fire, safety and security precautions.

To maintain staff well being we continue to offer in addition to monthly supervisions, regular clinical supervisions, which are delivered in a confidential manner to protect individuals' privacy. We have an independent qualified counsellor who acts as a point of contact for both staff and volunteers who require support emotionally on matters of concern both in the workplace and their private life.

Data

All data protection processes and IT security systems are reviewed regularly for compliance with Standing Together's clear policies on privacy, confidentiality, protocols and procedures. We ensure that our agents, representatives, subcontractors and employees comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), (The Data Protection Act 2018) on processing and protecting personal data.

Standing Together uses a IT cloud based cloud database system. The security of the system is regularly managed by our expert IT provider through the implementation of encryption, password management and daily backups on the system and all devices. Regular reviews on systems security are carried out to protect against data theft, leakage, corruption and deletion.

All new employees receive General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) online training as part of their onboarding with Standing Together. Existing employees complete GDPR refresher training every two years.

Standing Together continue to register for Cyber Essentials and make any necessary improvements to ensure compliance. For the remainder of 2024/25, a specialist IT Consultant has been brought in to review our systems, and appropriateness for the growth of the organisation; where an ongoing development plan along with any immediate remedies will be identified and actioned.

Related Parties

None of the trustees of the charity receive any remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

2. Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes

Our governing document sets out our key purpose underpinning Standing Together as an organisation. Standing Together was established for the provision of services directed towards the prevention of domestic abuse and to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence and their families. This is coupled with advancing the education of voluntary, statutory agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic abuse, including without limit, its causes and prevention and the relief of its consequences.

A key element of this overarching mission is the centrality of the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) in our work to engender systemic change across all agencies and their approach to supporting victims of domestic abuse. Applying Theory of Change modeling, this includes identifying the most appropriate data capture and evidence base to demonstrate the effectiveness of the model in practical settings and enable income generation to support this approach.

Coordinated Community Response Defined

The Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse is a local, whole system approach to the issue.

Standing Together's Core Principles underpinning the CCR approach

- The only way to respond to the issue of domestic abuse is to work collaboratively through the CCR.
- Domestic abuse is caused by, and generates, gender inequality.
- Individual experiences of domestic abuse are influenced by gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, race, religion, marital status, immigration, socio-economic position and many other factors: responses must understand the differing needs and potential barriers of the local population and be flexible enough to account for this.
- The CCR enables a whole system response to a whole person, recognising the wellbeing and safety needs of victims and survivors, with communities and organisations working alongside them.
- Responsibility for safety should not rest solely with individual victims but also with the community and services.
- Perpetrators must be held to account for the harm they inflict and offered routes to change their abusive behaviors.
- A CCR supports organisational responses, it does not replace them: organisations remain responsible and accountable (to their own agencies and to the partnership) for their own responses to domestic abuse, within a context of multi-agency working.
- A CCR requires leadership, a shared understanding of domestic abuse and risk, and coordination.

Standing Together's CCR Approach

- We put the safety and needs of survivors (adults and children) at the heart of every CCR.
- We ensure that the voices of survivors and their advocates are integral to every CCR.
- We require CCRs cover the spectrum from primary prevention to early intervention, to crisis responses, and the long-term recovery of survivors and behavior change of perpetrators.
- Our CCR acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic abuse.
- Our CCR addresses the diverse and intersecting backgrounds, identities and experiences and situations of survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR addresses adults, children and young people, survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR encompasses all organisations operating in an area (statutory, voluntary, community) plus individuals who live / work in the area, and informal groups / networks located there.
- We require that all local organisations have an equal place and voice in the CCR.
- Our CCR requires coordination, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and leadership.

- Our CCR is flexible and will evolve.
- We ensure that local organisations recognise that they are best placed to identify, and develop, improvements to practice in developing a CCR - and we provide help to them to do this.
- We are committed to providing a consultative, learning and empowering approach to areas developing CCRs.

Standing Together' s CCR Core Components

- The following standards represent what every CCR will have, regardless of area or local structures; all components adhere to the principles listed above.
- All organisations have developed and agreed a common purpose and approach to domestic abuse including a stated commitment to the CCR.
- Definitions of domestic abuse and risk are agreed and shared by all statutory, voluntary and community organisations.
- A defined structure/mechanism(s) is in place for the coordination, governance and monitoring of the CCR to ensure accountability and to enable a flexible and evolving approach.
- An action plan is in place.
- Written policies and procedures are in place within every organisation covering their response to domestic abuse. Regular compulsory training at every level of the organisation supports these.
- Written policies and procedures are agreed covering multi-agency systems and working (including the MARAC and SDVC). Regular compulsory training supports these.
- An agreed dataset is in place and monitored on a regular basis.
- Survivors' voices (and the views of their advocates) are regularly sought, listened to and responded to.
- Adequately resourced specialist services are in place to respond to adults, children and young people: survivors and perpetrators.

In 2023-2024 we particularly set out to:

- Continue to shape our impact measurement and resources tools to underpin our strategic development and operational practice.
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and comprehensive, victim focused services in health settings. This has resulted in the award of Home Office funding of £2.5 million per year until the end of March 2025, to map support pathways for victims of domestic abuse presenting to health services across the country. Utilise the health interventions mapping to commission and monitor services that will enable best practice models and collaborative working in areas that will benefit most from these service pathways.
- Develop the CCR membership model and accredited training programme.
- Review and continue to develop MARAC models to enable the most effective practice through the CCR concept.
- Promote the effectiveness of Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts and Court provision generally for victims of domestic abuse with a view to improving and shaping appropriate responses to domestic abuse through the CCR approach and victim centered intelligence.
- Review Domestic Homicide Reviews and promote our training provision for Chairs.
- Support 'by and for' service providers through the growth and transition to independent status of the Faith and VAWG Coalition.
- Continue to develop and grow our DAHA offer through our partnership with Gentoo and Peabody, continuously improving our training and accreditation offer for members and housing sector partners.
- Develop our Whole Housing and Housing First partnership work to tackle disadvantages experienced by victim-survivors as a consequence of domestic abuse.
- Continue development of our internal CCR.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

3. Achievements and Performance

We report below on our achievements in meeting the aims of our charitable company; with highlights of developments, achievements; and any challenges.

Whole Health

Developments

The Whole Health Team have worked hard to meet the ambitious timeframes of the project.

The Whole Health team developed the CCR in our Health and Domestic Abuse forums, creating a space to share expertise, and knowledge and foster collaboration.

The Whole Health Team undertook national mapping or scoping of England's health and domestic abuse landscape.

Throughout 2023-24 built the foundational work for a Whole Health Accreditation Framework in collaboration with Social Led.

Highlights and Achievements

A Key achievement was the establishment and embedding of the Health and DA Forums

- CP Regional Groups
- Continued coordination of INDVCA
- Development and roll-out of regular National Webinars which has seen fantastic attendance.
- Founding of the Health Leadership Group

Another key achievement was the grant funding of 30 services, in various health contexts, including Maternity, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHs), Hospital Trusts, Primary care and Mental Health settings. STADA hosted the Health and Domestic Abuse Conference on the 29 November 2023.

The Whole Health Team mapped the national response to domestic abuse in healthcare settings.

Challenges and Barriers

One of the challenges has been to secure sustainable funding for grant-funded services including obtaining sustainability for the Whole Health programme of work.

The project has extremely ambitious delivery timeframes of which all have a knock-on impact to the wider stakeholders.

Within the context of CCR in health, a wide range of stakeholders in NHS, LA each facing funding shortages make the health economy an extremely challenging landscape.

Criminal Justice

Standing Together, having originally been established based on the need to improve the response to domestic abuse victims in the criminal justice system, continues to coordinate the Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDACs) at Westminster Magistrates Court covering the boroughs of Westminster City Council, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. They are currently the only specialist courts available in London.

The SDACs ensure the presence in the court room of specialist staff who have been trained on the specific management of domestic abuse cases, as well as the presence of victim and witness support agencies. These elements assist the justice process and helps ensure that victim safety is prioritised as an outcome. In the SDACs information is shared quickly and efficiently, and expertise about domestic abuse is applied in a systematic, well-regulated, and timely way. Although domestic abuse cases can be more time-consuming than other cases, the SDAC helps to ensure the right information is available quickly and the appropriate safeguards are considered to prioritise victim safety. STADA's coordination is vital both on the court day itself, but also outside of the courtroom. Criminal Justice Sector (CJS) partners benefit from data and observation collected by STADA to address gaps between CJS services and agencies and to share information effectively.

This operational partnership working ensures the component parts of the CJS are working to their best effect.

The SDACs at Westminster have continued to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to observe the courts and learn from the good practice established by the partnership. They provide an opportunity for areas looking to establish or improve their own domestic abuse courts using our model at Westminster, which has long been considered a gold standard, as a template. This has also included visits from government ministers and international justice departments. A particular highlight was the opportunity to host a team of delegates headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions from Bermuda who are looking to establish their own SDAC based on our model at Westminster. This included a roundtable discussion with representatives from all the SDAC partners who form the steering group.

The team convenes and coordinates the DA Court Steering Group which continues to meet on a quarterly basis where operational feedback is provided to members to ensure consistency between the courts but to also hold the partner agencies to account regarding their commitment to the specialist courts. The DA Focus group also meets every two months and there is also a quarterly meeting where the scrutiny of local data and outcomes is discussed.

The Impact Project continues to focus on repeat victimisation and those facing multiple disadvantages and the STADA team and the CJ IDVA work closely with the Risk Management Unit at Charing Cross Police station to improve essential relationships with the police but to also facilitate an induction and training programme which has led to an increase in referrals to Advance. Unfortunately, due to changes in the police computer systems, our previous access to information and files used to provide information to the SDACs and partner agencies has been removed resulting in a huge gap in information available for decision making in the both the court and for partner safeguarding decisions. Whilst a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to remedy this situation, the policing decision continues to hamper the work of the SDAC.

The team continues to provide expertise and knowledge to a number of strategic and working groups including the London Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) Delivery Board, NPCC External Stakeholders Group, CPS VAWG and RASSO LSIP Panels, CPS VAWG ECG, Protective Orders Group, DVDS task group etc. One of the key objectives of the LCJB Delivery Board is to make progress on further DA courts in London, one in the North and one in the South, in addition to the court at Westminster. The CJ team is party to those discussions and provides operational and strategic support to stakeholders involved in this initiative. To further that progress, there is now a standing agenda item to discuss the SDAC at Westminster to disseminate good practice.

Following on from the Mentor Court Project in 2021-23, we continue to promote the SDAC model and use the evidence gathered in our final findings report to impart knowledge, expertise, and good practice to a wide-ranging variety of stakeholders. We are currently working with two areas in the north of England who are keen to work in partnership with Standing Together by employing coordinators for their SDACs however both are hampered by lack of funding at the present time. It is the teams' view that funding for SDACs should come from a central government source alongside a form of accreditation process to hold stakeholders to account rather than relying on individual local authority funding. SDACs benefit not only individuals and local communities but statutory organisations working in the criminal justice system.

In planning for the future, we would like to look at moving the SDAC model into the Crown Court system to enable a seamless process of support for domestic abuse victims who having experienced the gold standard at the SDAC at Westminster then suffer the poor process and support in the upper court.

It is also our view that the model could be a template used for the much talked about Specialist Sexual Violence courts but where there is currently no detail of how these will look moving forward.

Whilst SDACs work within the magistrates' court system, there is clearly a cross over of work for victims of domestic abuse going through the family court. Once again, we believe that the model of partnership working and information sharing of the SDAC is one that would yield benefits for victims of domestic abuse having to navigate the complex process of the civil and family courts.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Developments:

The three boroughs (3 Boroughs): Westminster City Council (WCC); Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF) and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) - receive between 16.4% and 22.6% of their referrals from agencies outside of the police which is the opposite of the SafeLives recommendation that 60-75% of cases should be referred by police. However, these figures are in alignment with the rest of London and may indicate good practice by non-police partner agencies showing a high awareness of domestic abuse and the MARAC process. Notably, this could not be known without further investigation. In all 3 boroughs, IDVA Services submitted the most referrals to MARAC, accounting for 25.4% of all referrals across the boroughs.

Haringey - In the 12 months between April 2023 and March 2024, 17 MARACs were held in Haringey with a case average of 25.8 (down from 30.5 last year). Haringey heard a total of 438 cases (down from 488 last year) with a mean average repeat referral rate of 29.5% (up from 25.2% last year). According to SafeLives, repeat referrals should make up between 28% and 40% of cases.

Highlights and Achievements

LBHF: In LBHF 57.5% of V/Ss engaged with a DA support service in advance of MARAC, up from 48.9% last year. For those who did not engage with a support service the most likely reason was that the IDVA could not reach V/S (14.4%) followed by the V/S declining support (8.4%).

WCC: 61.4% of V/Ss engaged with a DA support service in advance of MARAC, up from 53.0% last year. For those who did not engage with a support service the most likely reason was that the IDVA could not reach V/S (10.5%) followed by the V/S declining support (8.6%).

RBKC: 58.3% of V/Ss engaged with a DA support service in advance of MARAC, up from 52.3% last year. For those who did not engage with a support service the most likely reason was that the IDVA could not reach V/S (14.1%) followed by the V/S declining support (10.1%).

Despite the lengths of MARAC and cases being discussed, the team work collaboratively and support each other so Victim/ Survivors are discussed to reduce their risk.

Challenges and Barriers

Haringey - Over the 12 months, 5 agencies attended less than 90% of MARACs: 1. BEH Mental Health Trust (73% attendance, down from 81% last year) 2. Haringey Advisory Group on Alcohol (HAGA) (81% attendance, up from 75% last year) 3. Haringey Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) (81% attendance, up from 75% last year) 4. Haringey Safeguarding Adults (81% attendance, down from 88% last year). 5. Haringey Council Tenancy Management (88% since being represented and recorded separately as core outside of Haringey in September) The overall average attendance of all agencies combined for the year was 92% up from 90% last year. Notably, The Grove and Haringey Education Welfare Service (EWS) both achieved 94% attendance up from 75% and 63% respectively last year.

Across the Boroughs for MARAC there have been a number of chair changes for the police. Our WCC MARAC has been running over two days.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

We started the year with a new manager in place after a year of many staff changes and recruitment, so although this was maternity cover, it was good to have some stability in the team. Our new manager began to build the teams confidence with new coordinators and the support of our wonderful volunteer.

Due to the previous staffing issues we had previously been unable to take on new DHRs in the previous months but throughout this year while we worked with 23 different DHRs in total, 10 of those were new and started during the year and we were able to bring 6 reviews to completion and have them signed off by the Home Office. Throughout the year we completed 2 research reports one on the impact of Covid on DHRs and their learning and the second about issues for minoritised Women.

We were fortunate to invite Beyond the Streets to deliver a webinar to the whole staff team on their research 'Lessons Learnt? Domestic Homicide Reviews through a Sex Industry Lens'. The session was well intended and created discussion and learning about the additional issues and barriers for women who were involved in the sex industries.

We have continued to support our chairs and were delighted to welcome our first chair who accessed our training in partnership with the Co-action project. Supporting leaders from by and for organisations to train as DHR Chairs, thereby enhancing the knowledge on issues for minoritised Women across the pool of chairs nationally. We remain indebted to the broad and specialized knowledge of our experienced DHR Chairs that enhance our ability to bring the learning forward from these tragic events.

Communities Including the Faith and VAWG Coalition, the Co-action Hub and the Harmful Practices Operational group.

This year saw the successful transition for the **Faith and VAWG Coalition** from a service that STADA has nested and developed, into its own independent charity. We have supported the Coalition to develop its own strategy, find a base, negotiate further funding and employ staff. We wish them all the best in taking their important work forward.

The **Coaction Hub** is a partnership project with the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) which works to improve the co-ordinated community response to Black and minoritized survivors of domestic abuse and harmful practices. The project aims to create an equitable partnership between a second tier domestic abuse organisation, and a specialist by and for agency.

Over the past year we have developed a number of strands of work, producing research, a toolkit, and training, as well as strengthening collaboration with specialist by and for agencies. We launched our research on the effectiveness of MARAC for harmful practices cases with a webinar which was attended by over 200 attendees. The research is accompanied by a practical toolkit for MARAC co-ordinators, chairs and reps to improve their responses to these cases. We have presented on this research at a number of forums, as well as meeting with the Domestic Abuse Commissioners office to influence strategic change. To support this research and our exploration on the effectiveness of risk assessment tools for Black and minoritized survivors we held a world café event, which was attended by 25 professionals. This event not only contributed to our findings, but brought together practitioners from by and for agencies and VAWG organisations to strengthen relationships and make individuals feel valued in the context of a sector which is characterised by retention issues. This was an important event for the Coaction Hub as it fitted with our values of feminist participation and collaboration. Our DHR chair mentoring scheme for women working in by and for agencies entered its second year, with our first mentee starting to co-chair a DHR, and our second beginning her training. We have also developed and held workshops for by and for agencies on the role of being an expert panel member in DHRs. This strand of work has been developed in response to our observations around the side lining of by and for expertise in DHRs, which has also been highlighted in recent research from Imkaan and the Centre for Women's Justice. We continue to co-ordinate the Harmful Practices Strategic Partnership (HPSP) a pan London by and for led strategic group. This year we have produced a series of factsheets for professionals on harmful practices, held a webinar for VAWG leads in London, and responded to the government's stance on harmful practices through presentations and a petition. Throughout the project we continue to model good practice by creating an equitable partnership with a specialist by and for agency. We have presented on the importance of co-production, working equitably with by and for agencies, and centring harmful practices. We have also met with researchers from 2 universities to input on their research on harmful practices.

The **Harmful Practices Operational group** (HPOG) has made a huge difference across the 3 boroughs. Harmful practices often qualify as a hidden issue. The complexity of cases and the consequences on survivors are therefore particular and could differ from other forms of VAWG. Data on harmful practices is very limited, locally and nationally. HPOG is a working space to make sure that HP issue is known, well-identified, and that professionals from many sectors have a better understanding of it. The importance of the HPOG is mainly because harmful practices tend to be lost within VAWG conversations, and HPOG helps to make sure that harmful practices are part of these. The HPOG has its own Action HP-centred Plan aligned with the VAWG strategies and the outcomes are

specifically relevant to harmful practices survivors. Data being particular to harmful practices, the data collection within the HPOG and analysis by the co-ordinator is the most sufficient way to have a picture of the issue in the tri-borough. Data collection is also an easy way to highlight any gaps in services and to share with other partners the best practices regarding HP. HPOG held its first and successful Yearly Conference in December. The group looks forward to working on the next one. HPOG newsletter is sent out quarterly. This is relevant to help promote the agencies' work, as upcoming events and interesting HP paper/information. The mailing list has increased distribution, demonstrating that many professionals from different sectors have interest to learn more about Harmful Practices. Members are engaged and motivated, which increases great collaboration and partnerships - sharing a common vision.

Three Boroughs VAWG Operational Groups

STADA have continued to support our local 3 borough's Coordinated Community Response through Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Bi-Borough) Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership, and Hammersmith and Fulham VAWG Partnership. STADA coordinates 5 of the 3 borough Operational groups, Housing, Children and Young People, Risk and Review, Harmful Practices and the Specialist Services Consultative Group and all but Housing come under the 3 Borough coordination contract. Throughout the year 2023/24 they have all developed action plans in line with the 4 objectives of the Hammersmith and Fulham and the Bi Borough VAWG Strategy :

1. VAWG is prevented
2. Survivors are supported
3. Abusers are held to account
4. Collaboration to Create Change

Each group has also reviewed its terms of reference and ensure they are still relevant. For the individual groups some of the highlights over the year have included the following.

In the **Children and Young People's Operational Group** we exceeded the target for referrals into MARAC from Health Partners.

1. Health referrals – LBHF 35 , RBKC 30 WCC 50 annually

23/24	H&F	RBKC	WCC	Total
Q1	15	20	16	51
Q2	13	23	19	55
Q3	15	16	17	48
Q4	21	15	25	61
Total	64	74	77	215

In the **Harmful Practices Operational Group** the new coordinator had developed the group, increased membership and continued to develop a robust dataset. This enabled us to produce MARAC HARMFUL PRACTICES PAPER (squarespace.com) providing important learning especially for VAWG services and partners about the risks involved with HP cases and the increased likelihood of multiple perpetrators and multiple types of abuse.

The **Risk and Review Operational Group** was a new responsibility this year. It encompasses the MARAC Steering Group and also the Criminal Justice monitoring group. We saw our local Specialist Domestic Abuse Court enable 71% of cases to have an appropriate sentence, 82% of defendants convicted with 49% making an early guilty plea as we continue to be one of the best performing boroughs in London.

The **Specialist Service Consultative Group** remains a space where local voluntary sector services can share good practice, information on trends and raise any concerns that they wish the VAWG Boards to address. This year this has included lack of support for those dealing with the Family Court, Provisions to address perpetrators, issues with the police especially in response to by and for services, raising awareness of services locally and the impact of the serious violence duty.

In addition throughout the year we have organised regular meetings between the coordinators to share knowledge and prevent silo working. All groups took part in the 16 days of Activism with STADA running 6 different 'lunch and

learn' sessions over the 16 days. The Partnerships Manager attended the Safeguarding Adults Boards and relevant sub groups and has delivered training events on older person abuse and DA awareness for the WKC ambassadors. She also attends the new Police VAWG Board.

Housing

The **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)** team have had a busy year. We welcomed new members and celebrated our first Housing Association achieving Enhanced Accreditation. We launched a new portal to streamline the accreditation process, making it easier for members to upload their evidence. Our team has grown to support the expansion of membership, now comprising 10 dedicated staff members.

The **London programme** was initiated to support London Boroughs through accreditation and to address the unique challenges faced by survivors in these areas.

Looking ahead, our priority is to continue expanding our membership to ensure that more survivors can access safe and secure accommodation when they need it.

The DAHA led **National Domestic Abuse & Housing Policy and Practice Group** has been very active, developing a Manifesto ahead of the election. We have also made evidence submissions for several key areas of legislation, including the Renters Rights Bill, Social Housing Regulation Bill, Supported Housing Regulatory Oversight Bill, and the Social Housing Allocations Consultation.

The **Whole Housing Approach (WHA)** pilot in Cheshire East is now in its third year. Our staff have been working closely with the Cheshire East team to ensure project outcomes are met. We have worked with local 'By and For' services to highlight their impact on survivors and engaged with the Experts By Experience group to incorporate lived experiences into WHA responses and processes. The success of these efforts will be invaluable for the future development of the WHA framework. In London, we continue to deliver housing solutions for survivors and manage the Flexible Funding and Sanctuary Scheme in local boroughs. Our Private Rental Sector Lead has begun work on an accreditation program for Private Landlords and Lettings Agents to address the challenges survivors face in the private rental sector and improve their overall response.

This year, the Housing First and Homelessness Programme was rebranded as the **Multiple Disadvantage and Homelessness Programme** to better reflect its focus on multiple disadvantage. We have worked with a consultant to develop a Theory of Change, outlining our strategy and future plans. We continue to work in partnership with Westminster Council, leading the VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage elements of the Changing Futures project. We lead the delivery of the operational VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage Forum, and the VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage strategic group, achieving positive systems change with Criminal Justice partners. We continue to provide housing coordination support for the Westminster VAWG Housing First project, housing some of the most vulnerable women in the borough. Additionally, we are developing a podcast and films featuring the women supported by the project as part of the year 5 service evaluation. The DAHA accreditation work for homelessness and supported accommodation providers received additional funding this year, allowing us to expand our membership offer. Five new members have signed up, bringing the total to eight. The first provider will be assessed before Christmas, and we plan to bring an external evaluator on board to evaluate the process. The MD&Homelessness programme lead has also been working with the Whole Housing Approach pilot in Cheshire East to improve the response to survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Events

The Blooming Strong Campaign was created by us in 2014, it is the way we engage with partners to mark November 25th as the UN Day for the elimination of violence against women and as part of our 16 days of activism.



This year we utilised the Blooming Strong initiative twice, with the induction of its use for International Women's Day. We commissioned our existing partner Page and Bloom [About Us | Page & Bloom](#) to create the flowers. 36 nominees received flowers, made from paper, with the lyrics of the song 'Woman' by Helen Reddy; with an affirmation note stating why she was 'Blooming Strong'.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Strategic Influence

Standing Together serves on the following boards, panels, working groups and networks, sharing experience and expertise to our mutual benefit with:

- Chair the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group
- External Consultation Group of the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service Scrutiny and Involvement Panel, Crown Prosecution Service
- London Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel, London Areas, Crown Prosecution Service
- The London Mayor's Expert Group on Violence Against Women and Girls
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- CBS Coalition Hub
- Victims' Voice Forum
- Local Authority VAWG Boards
- Parliamentary Roundtable sessions and consultations
- Parliamentary events
- Specialist sector networking events and meetings including Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office led initiatives
- European partnership groups and forums
- London Councils
- Sector specific groups and forums

Standing Together's CEO and staff speak at numerous international, national, regional and local conferences about our strategic and operational approach to the coordinated community response and often particular aspects of work.

CEO and key staff members work closely with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office and attend parliamentary events to influence and remain up to date with policy developments, contributing to addressing gaps in knowledge and service provision. They also work with local authority partners to disseminate policy thinking, ensure strategic oversight and associated operational practice both informs policy at government level, but also keeps pace with policy changes.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

5. Financial Review

Overview

For the financial year ended 31 March 2024, Standing Together reported a surplus of £235k compared to a deficit of £100k in year ended 31 March 2023. This is due to the delay in expenditure on activities in respect of restricted funding projects in the year ending 31~~st~~ March 2024.

The Charity's work in Year 2023-2024 continued along the strategically planned paths of making a difference in raising awareness and making changes to the response to domestic violence. This was in view of financial uncertainty as we continue to experience the effects of rising global inflation and the increased cost of living. This will require exceptional interventions and measures to protect the organisation's financial position. As a charity, Standing Together have assessed the risks faced by the charity and have formulated plans to protect its current and future operating reserves to mitigate risks and to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Financial Results

Standing Together's unrestricted reserves increased during the year from £1,185k to £1,211k at the end of year, with a well-diversified funding stream from local authorities, central government, NHS, trust foundations, consultancy work and training. The charity receives most of its funding in the form of restricted grants to support specific projects.

The income and expenditure accounts showed incoming resources for the year of £5,027k (2023: £2,679k) and expenditure of £4,793k (2023: £2,780k). The total reserves at the end of the year was £1,690k (2023: £1,455k) of which £479k (2023: £270k) is restricted for specific purposes and £1,211k (2023: £1,185k) is unrestricted which is available for general purposes decided by the charity. Of the unrestricted funds, £562k (2023: £562k) has been designated/earmarked for contractual liabilities, leaving a balance of £649k (2023: £623k) as general/free reserves.

The overall financial plans are driven by its financial strategy including assumptions set out in budgets to establish the amount of income required to cover staff and operational costs in fulfilling Standing Together's plans and purpose.

The Chief Executive concentrates on local and national opportunities along with the team through shared visions, goals and policies to strengthen our position with existing contracts and future proposals to extend our work around domestic abuse. The committed Senior Leadership Team and staff collectively work together to ensure the operational existence of the charity for the foreseeable future. We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Principal Funding Sources: £5,027,901

We received income of £4,987k from charitable activities during the year. We also received £28k from investments.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations and support we receive from individuals and organisations. The donations totaling £103k this year are a valuable contribution towards the Charity's objective to alleviate domestic abuse.

Benefits In Kind

We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest and skills. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Charitable Expenditure: £4,792,585

Total charitable expenditure amounted to £4,792,585 which consisted of staff costs of £2,401,507 accounting for just over 50% of total costs. Support costs of £166,075, representing 3.5%, includes information technology support (IT), other professional fees, office and premise costs. Other direct costs of £2,225,003 include expenditure on consultant fees, onward cost to partners and general overheads/operational costs representing 46% of total costs.

Investments

The Finance Committee has considered options to place money in investment funds with the aim of achieving increase in financial returns. Although this would be an opportunity to improve general reserves, after much thought it was deemed that the level of risk involved far outweighed the benefits. Most funds received by the charity are expended in the short term and need to be available at short notice.

In the best interest of the charity and looking at the impact on the running of the organisation, the decision was made to invest funds in fixed short term deposit accounts on the Flagstone Investment Platform online. This provided flexibility whereby funds are spread across several bank accounts offering different terms and rates of interest. To manage the level of risk, the aim is to have a maximum of £85k deposited in individual banking institutions, protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) if a financial institution goes out of business.

The level of funds to invest on the Platform is reviewed by the Finance Committee and governed by investment policies and monitoring of the cashflows on a quarterly basis.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in consideration of the main risks to the organisation, which has identified the need for a robust financial planning and a clearer understanding of the necessity for reserves and liquidity. The Trustees recognise that it must manage its affairs to ensure that the level of reserves and associated cash balances remain sufficient such that Standing Together will continue to operate on a sustainable basis.

Taking into account the overall current grant position, the reserve represents the minimum level of funds required to protect Standing Together from the potential financial impact of known/unknown business risks. In the event of Standing Together facing difficult financial circumstances these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Having assessed the current risks, the Trustees have established a policy to increase the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity. Trustees have decided that, after an allowance for future income expectations, Standing Together should maintain cash and realisable assets sufficient to fund three months of operational expenditure, taking into account the future use of reserves in line with its charitable objectives. This policy allows trustees to meet their obligations under the Companies Act and to comply with Charity Commission guidance.

Total unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2024 was £1,211k (2023: £1,185k), which includes £562k (2023: £562k) allocated to designated reserve and £649k (2023: £623k) available as free reserve.

Plans for the Future

Each year, Standing Together Staff and Trustees meet to review our objectives and priorities for achieving our charitable aims and to refresh our Theory of Change.

In 2023-24 Standing Together set out to:

- Develop our work in relation to impact measurement, data capture and building a robust evidence base.

- Develop our reach and impact via all forms of media and IT
- Continue to develop our work in influencing and policy at local and central government levels
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health-based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and influence the DH.
- Roll out the CCR Leaders course along with a more robust training and membership package
- Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work, housing, health, faith and communities program, harmful practices, MARAC and community based settings.
- Review and reinforce governance protocols and financial management processes to ensure ongoing sustainability, financial resilience and effective management of the organisation.

ST has achieved this and more by expanding the scope of our work in relation to community, housing and health based work. We are seeking to set clear benchmarks on the practices and services that should be core to the coordinated community response. We will further all of these aims developing, delivering and evaluating best practice models and toolkits to underpin our strategic aims and strengths within the sector.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Conclusion

Standing Together continue to promote the Coordinated Community Response as a framework by which we organise, plan and prioritise our work. Year on year, we build a more robust program of work locally and nationally to both undertake and model the breadth of systemic work that is required to promote safety for survivors of domestic abuse and to hold perpetrators to account. Our challenge has always been to maintain the partnership work that we do in central London while promoting the best of what we are learning to our wider national networks. In spite of economic challenges, Standing Together has remained financially resilient and has strengthened partnership networks to ensure a cohesive framework of support and to ensure our services remain aligned with their needs. The growth of the organisation is based on continual review and assessment of our internal resources and structures that underpin our work but also the strength of our partnerships and external relationships. Our national networks like the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, DHRs, Health and Criminal Justice based activities serve to maintain and enhance our opportunities, mitigating risks and challenges. We continue to build on a robust platform of experience and expertise firmly grounded and the principles and components of the coordinated community response which remains the foundation stone for all we do and how we develop.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law and the law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures
- Disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

- The Trustees confirm that, in the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the date of this report, the following applies:
- So far as each Trustee is aware there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- Each Trustee has taken all the steps necessary to make herself/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Relationship with Funders

- No Trustee had any relationship with any of the main funders except as a Trustee of Standing Together

In so far as the Management Committee is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The Management Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

This Report is agreed and signed at the AGM by the Chair of Standing Together, on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 21 January 2025.



Tabitha Morton

Chair of Trustees
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis of opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, 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 we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting

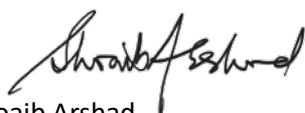
and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) applicable to smaller entities and the Companies Act 2006.

- We understood how the charitable company is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the charity's documented policies and procedures. The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override and allocation of costs to charitable activities and restricted funds.
- Our approach was to check that the income from grants, donations and fee were properly identified and accurately disclosed, that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. We also reviewed major journal adjustments along with unusual transactions and considered the identification and disclosure of related party transactions.

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

Use of the audit report

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



Shoaib Arshad
Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
65 Leadenhall Street
London. EC3A 2AD

Date: 31 January 2025

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	12,850	-	12,850	79,696	-	79,696
Charitable activities	4	1,150,236	3,836,359	4,986,595	943,641	1,634,465	2,578,106
Investments	3	28,456	-	28,456	21,630	-	21,630
TOTAL INCOME		£ 1,191,542	£ 3,836,359	£ 5,027,901	£ 1,044,967	£ 1,634,465	£ 2,679,432
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable activities	5	(1,165,493)	(3,627,092)	(4,792,585)	(849,659)	(1,930,190)	(2,779,849)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(1,165,493)	(3,627,092)	(4,792,585)	(849,659)	(1,930,190)	(2,779,849)
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		26,049	209,267	235,316	195,308	(295,725)	(100,417)
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 1 APRIL		1,184,852	270,205	1,455,057	989,544	565,930	1,555,474
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31 MARCH		£ 1,210,901	£ 479,472	£ 1,690,373	£ 1,184,852	£ 270,205	£ 1,455,057

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. None of the Charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March 2024 (Registered Company No. 04283131)

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment	10	-	1,122
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	1,548,225	424,619
Cash at bank and in hand		1,523,845	1,501,189
		<u>3,072,070</u>	<u>1,925,808</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(1,381,697)	(471,873)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,690,373</u>	<u>1,453,935</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,690,373	1,455,057
NET ASSETS		<u>1,690,373</u>	<u>1,455,057</u>
		£	£
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds	14	562,266	562,266
General fund	14	648,635	622,586
		<u>1,210,901</u>	<u>1,184,852</u>
Restricted Funds	14	479,472	270,205
		<u>1,690,373</u>	<u>1,455,057</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Board of Trustees on 21 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by: -



Tabitha Morton
Trustee/Director

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	235,316	(100,417)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	1,121	1,121
(Decrease)/increase in Debtors	(1,123,606)	141,220
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	909,824	(32,043)
Investment income	(28,456)	(21,630)
	<u>(5,801)</u>	<u>(11,749)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Returns on investment – interest receivable	28,456	21,630
	<u>22,655</u>	<u>9,881</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		
	<u>22,655</u>	<u>9,881</u>
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1st April	1,501,188	1,491,307
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st March	<u><u>£ 1,523,843</u></u>	<u><u>1,501,188</u></u>
Components of cash and cash equivalents		
	Balance at	31 March
	1 April 2023	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u><u>£ 1,501,188</u></u>	<u><u>£ 1,523,843</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Company status

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements and outlined in the Trustee report. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the note 14.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) which the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the amount will be received, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donation received are deferred when conditions are attached, for example when they relate to a specific future period.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately to the direct staff costs allocated to the activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised and stated at cost less depreciation.

Furniture and equipment	5 years on straight line

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pensions

The company is part of a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations	12,850	-	12,850	79,696	-	79,696
	£ 12,850	£ -	£ 12,850	£ 79,696	£ -	£ 79,696

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Interest receivable from Bank interest	28,456	-	28,456	21,630	-	21,630
	£ 28,456	£ -	£ 28,456	£ 21,630	£ -	£ 21,630

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Grants & contracts for services:						
Support & education to prevent domestic violence	384,492	3,826,474	4,210,966	465,686	1,634,465	2,100,151
Access to Work	-	9,885	9,885	-	-	-
Membership fees	408,542	-	408,542	229,153	-	229,153
Fee income	357,202	-	357,202	248,802	-	248,802
	£ 1,150,236	£ 3,836,359	£ 4,986,595	£ 943,641	£ 1,634,465	£ 2,578,106

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of grants & contracts for services

Support & education to prevent domestic violence

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Calypso Browning	-	-	-	4,036	-	4,036
Chelwest NHS	-	51,500	51,500	-	51,500	51,500
City Bridge Trust	-	62,000	62,000	-	65,387	65,387
DCMS - CJ Mentor Courts	-	-	-	-	476,960	476,960
Domestic Homicide Reviews	111,509	-	111,509	131,066	-	131,066
Ealing Council	13,914	-	13,914	55,655	-	55,655
Erasmus (EU)	-	2,506	2,506	-	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	-	96,850	96,850	-	116,030	116,030
Firebird Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	20,000
GLA	-	153,252	153,252	-	111,513	111,513
Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea NHS	-	66,000	66,000	-	66,000	66,000
Haringey Council	50,000	-	50,000	49,928	-	49,928
Home Office - Drive Project	-	3,075	3,075	-	25,615	25,615
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	21,296	21,296	-	25,182	25,182
Home Office - Health Initiative	-	2,413,022	2,413,022	-	143,658	143,658
LBoF Hammersmith & Fulham	-	46,607	46,607	-	51,000	51,000
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	55,845	55,845	-	89,427	89,427
Westminster City Council – Whole Housing Approach	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	569,950	569,950	-	150,309	150,309
Oak Foundation	-	-	-	-	115,500	115,500
Global Dialogue	-	61,875	61,875	-	-	-
Swiss Philanthropy	-	-	-	-	12,500	12,500
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
Tri Borough Funding	208,347	-	208,347	205,001	-	205,001
Charing Cross Hospital	-	54,600	54,600	-	-	-
Westminster City Council	-	103,096	103,096	-	103,884	103,884
Other income	722	-	722	-	-	-
	£ 384,492	£ 3,826,474	£ 4,210,966	£ 465,686	£ 1,634,465	£ 2,100,151

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

5a. Cost of charitable activities (current year as at 31st March 2024)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2024 £
Projects:				
Community	212,991	162,270	20,724	395,985
Criminal Justice	160,650	8,991	2,842	172,483
DHRs	153,115	56,668	2,403	212,186
Health	706,867	1,631,981	74,814	2,413,662
Housing & Homelessness	767,715	326,117	48,283	1,142,115
MARAC	241,246	4,204	2,687	248,137
Training	101,563	11,580	4,673	117,816
Other charitable projects	57,360	23,192	9,649	90,201
Total as at 31 March 2024	£ 2,401,507	£ 2,225,003	£ 166,075	£ 4,792,585

5b. Cost of charitable activities (prior year as at 31st March 2023)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2023 £
Projects:				
Community	182,287	62,519	14,221	259,027
Criminal Justice	349,509	224,919	42,236	616,664
DHRs	108,070	57,118	4,594	169,782
Health	309,433	44,293	37,558	391,284
Housing & Homelessness	665,891	174,341	41,381	881,613
MARAC	274,744	5,987	8,450	289,181
Training	18,613	17,619	6,753	42,985
Other charitable projects	64,321	33,176	31,816	129,313
Total as at 31 March 2023	£ 1,972,868	£ 619,972	£ 187,009	£ 2,779,849

Resources expended include:

	2024	2023
Auditors' remuneration:	£ 6,040	£ 5,350

Details of resources expended are given in notes 6, 7 and 8

6. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Partner and stakeholder costs	9,790	194,549
Consultancy and Domestic Homicide Review Associate costs	156,475	133,319
Training and learning services	11,375	12,250
External evaluation	-	8,337
Other direct costs	2,047,364	271,517
	£ 2,225,004	£ 619,972

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Premises and Office costs	118,630	143,987
Communication & IT	20,637	21,058
Legal & professional fees	20,764	16,616
Auditor's fee	6,040	5,350
	<u>£ 166,071</u>	<u>£ 187,011</u>

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Gross salaries	2,074,026	1,630,265
Social security	173,793	160,830
Pension costs	67,428	55,158
Other staff costs	86,261	126,616
	<u>£ 2,401,508</u>	<u>£ 1,972,869</u>

The average weekly number of employees calculated as full time equivalents during the period was:

	Number	Number
Key Management Team	2.6	1.5
CCR & Communities	5.8	3.7
Criminal Justice	2.5	5.2
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	5.0	3.9
Health	12.4	9.6
Housing	20.4	15.7
MARAC	7.0	6.4
Support Staff	3.0	3
	<u>58.7</u>	<u>49.0</u>

The average number of employees (head counts) during the period was:

<u>58.7</u>	<u>49.0</u>

One employee (2023: One) received remuneration of more than £60,000; between £60,001 to £70,000.

During the year, key management received an aggregate salary and benefits of £194,212 (2023: £105,768)

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year, no members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration (2023 : £NIL) No members of the Board of Trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2023 : £NIL)

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

10. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
<i>At 1 April 2023</i>	<u>5,607</u>	<u>5,607</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,607</u>	<u>5,607</u>
Depreciation		
<i>At 1 April 2023</i>	<u>4,486</u>	<u>4,486</u>
Charge for the year	<u>1,121</u>	<u>1,121</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,607</u>	<u>5,607</u>
Net book value		
<i>At 31 March 2023</i>	<u>£ 1,121</u>	<u>£ 1,121</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>

11. DEBTORS

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	261,261	163,535
Prepayments	22,892	5,493
Accrued income	1,248,279	239,323
Other debtors	15,793	16,267
	<u>£ 1,548,225</u>	<u>£ 424,618</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Due within one year		
Deferred income	121,000	137,029
VAT creditors	79,544	63,055
Social security and other taxes	46,600	44,345
Trade Creditors	-	353
Accruals & creditors	1,134,553	227,091
	<u>£ 1,381,697</u>	<u>£ 471,873</u>

13. TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and therefore is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available, to registered charities.

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

14a Statement of Funds (current year as at 31 March 2024)

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Transfers and Resources Expended £	Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	560,858	-	-	-	560,858
DVCN Funds	1,408	-	-	-	1,408
Total as at 31 March 2024	<u>£ 562,266</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 562,266</u>

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

RESTRICTED FUNDS	£	£	£	£	£
Chelwest NHS	2,621	51,500	(50,810)	-	3,311
City Bridge Trust	19,592	62,000	(76,270)	-	5,322
Erasmus (EU)	-	2,506	(2,506)	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	44,894	96,850	(124,272)	-	17,472
Firebird Foundation		20,000	(20,000)	-	-
GLA	12,149	153,252	(115,449)	-	49,952
Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea NHS	10,202	66,000	(48,209)	-	27,993
Home Office - Drive Project	-	3,075	(3,075)	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	12,991	21,296	(27,428)	-	6,859
Home Office - Health Initiative	-	2,413,022	(2,272,949)	-	140,073
Inner London Magistrates Courts	3,111	-	(1,459)	-	1,652
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	9,951	46,607	(36,667)	-	19,891
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	55,845	(55,845)	-	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	28,078	-	(21,567)	-	6,511
Westminster City Council – Whole Housing Approach	16,325	30,000	(33,984)	-	12,341
National Lottery Community Fund	-	569,950	(406,829)	-	163,121
Oak Foundation	83,597	-	(83,597)	-	-
Global Dialogue	-	61,875	(53,757)	-	8,118
Swiss Philanthropy	8,944	-	(8,944)	-	-
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Charing Cross Hospital	-	54,600	(41,694)	-	12,906
Westminster City Council	17,750	103,096	(116,896)	-	3,950
Access to Work	-	9,885	(9,885)	-	-
	£ 270,205	£ 3,836,359	£ (3,627,092)	£ -	£ 479,472

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	562,266	-	-	-	562,266
General Funds	622,586	1,191,542	(1,165,493)	-	648,635
	1,184,852	1,191,542	(1,165,493)	-	1,210,901
Restricted Funds	270,205	3,836,359	(3,627,092)	-	479,472
Total as at 31 March 2024	£ 1,455,057	£ 5,027,901	£ (4,792,585)	£ -	£ 1,690,373

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

14b Statement of Funds (prior year as at 31 March 2023)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	557,652	-	-	3,206	560,858
DVCN Funds	1,408	-	-	-	1,408
Total as at 31 March 2023	<u>£ 559,060</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 3,206</u>	<u>£ 562,266</u>

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Birmingham City Council	28,723	-	(28,723)	-	-
Chelwest NHS	1,479	51,500	(50,358)	-	2,621
City Bridge Trust	15,594	65,387	(61,389)	-	19,592
Comic Relief - Whole Health	9,650	-	(9,650)	-	-
DCMS - CJ Mentor Courts	44,411	476,960	(521,371)	-	-
Erasmus (EU)	1,346	-	(1,346)	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	-	116,030	(71,136)	-	44,894
GLA	106,983	111,513	(206,347)	-	12,149
Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea NHS	5,476	66,000	(61,274)	-	10,202
Home Office - Drive Project	25,922	25,615	(51,537)	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	5,657	25,182	(17,848)	-	12,991
Home Office - Health Initiative	-	143,658	(143,658)	-	-
Inner London Magistrates Courts	4,264	-	(1,153)	-	3,111
LBoF Hammersmith & Fulham	27,429	51,000	(68,478)	-	9,951
London Councils	8,337	-	(8,337)	-	-
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	89,427	(89,427)	-	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	28,078	-	-	-	28,078
GLA – Whole Housing Approach	-	30,000	(13,675)	-	16,325
National Lottery Community Fund	61,113	150,309	(211,422)	-	-
NHS Trust Development	47,926	-	(47,926)	-	-
Oak Foundation	69,905	115,500	(101,808)	-	83,597
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	12,158	-	(12,158)	-	-
Swiss Philanthropy	-	12,500	(3,556)	-	8,944
Treebeard Trust	13,092	-	(13,092)	-	-
Tri Borough Funding	20,068	-	(20,068)	-	-
Vivid Homes	23,795	-	(23,795)	-	-
Westminster City Council	4,524	103,884	(90,658)	-	17,750
	<u>£ 565,930</u>	<u>£ 1,634,465</u>	<u>£ (1,930,190)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 270,205</u>

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	559,060	-	-	3,206	562,266
General Funds	430,484	1,044,967	(849,659)	(3,206)	622,586
	989,544	1,044,967	(849,659)	-	1,184,852
Restricted Funds	565,930	1,634,465	(1,930,190)	-	270,205
Total as at 31 March 2023	£ 1,555,474	£ 2,679,432	£ (2,779,849)	£ -	£ 1,455,057

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

15a. Analysis of net assets between funds (current year as at 31 March 2024)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net Current assets	562,266	648,635	479,472	1,690,373
Total as at 31 March 2024	£ 562,266	£ 648,635	£ 479,472	£ 1,690,373

15b. Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year as at 31 March 2023)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	1,122	-	1,122
Net Current assets	562,266	621,464	270,205	1,453,935
Total as at 31 March 2023	£ 562,266	£ 622,586	£ 270,205	£ 1,455,057

16. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2024 the Company had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for land and buildings) as set out below:

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Operating leases which expire:		
within one year	11,334	45,954
	£ 11,334	£ 45,954
The cost of operating lease during the year was as follows:		
Office lease charges for the year	£ 44,645	£ 45,954

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2024

17. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Pension costs in note 8 relate to payments made to a defined contribution scheme. The charitable company's liability is limited to making the payments due to scheme on timely basis. The liability as at 31 March 2024 is £13,986 (2023: £13,512)

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

There were no related party transactions, other than those disclosed in note 8 and 9.

Accounts



REPORT AND **FINANCIAL** STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Company limited by guarantee No. 04283131
Registered Charity No. 1088844

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2023

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY
TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Board of Trustees	K Patel	Chair
	C. Griffin	Vice Chair
	M Hill (resigned 21/03/2023)	
	T Miller	
	R Latif (resigned 12/01/2023)	
	A Patel	
	L. Payne (resigned 17/11/2022)	
	P Price	Treasurer
	A Smith (resigned 17/11/2022)	
	K Vernau	

Company Registration No: 04283131

Charity Registration No: 1088844

Registered Office: The Polish Centre
Room 44D, 4th Floor
238 – 246 King Street
London
W6 0RF

Auditors: Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

FOREWORD

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA). Our Trustees and staff team are proud of the pioneering work of our organisation and how it embeds a coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic abuse in the UK. We remain inspired by the ambition of our founders over twenty five years ago. Establishing STADA as an independent charity makes us unique in the whole of the country.

Abuse is increasingly recognised within government and public awareness and there have undoubtedly been great strides in sector endeavors to challenge not only the cause of this crime but to enhance thinking around the complexities that surround it. We are proud of the broad, multi level range of work that we do to address and eradicate domestic abuse across so many different specialist areas and to embed systemic change to ensure a collaborative, person-centered response to supporting all victims of domestic abuse.

Charities in all sectors have been impacted by the pressures of rising inflation and the cost of living crisis, but through effective strategic, operational and financial management, we have steered our way through these difficulties and continued to provide our comprehensive range of services and expertise across the domestic abuse sector.

Our extensive work continues to enable strategic partnerships with a range of stakeholders to develop comprehensive plans and interventions in community-based settings, highlight continuous improvement opportunities in the activities of criminal justice agencies, health, housing education, systemic change in statutory responses, charity sector collaboration with all agencies across the sector and contributing to the shaping of policies at central and local government levels.

This is all underpinned through promoting the coordinated community response within national programs such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, our new Health interventions work, Faith and Communities, MARACs and in our Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) offer. In particular, we are proud to work with so many ambitious and talented charities, including 'by and for' organisations to ensure a truly intersectional approach, holistic and meaningful impact and outcomes for all victims of domestic abuse whilst elevating awareness of the range of complex issues that they face, to ensure appropriate support across the sector

Our dedicated and hugely talented staff group have continued to work hard to sustain our varied work and impact which is much valued and enables Standing Together to continue to provide exceptional quality and standards in our work, maintaining our position as a market leader in second tier service provision and experts in our field.

We are pleased that our annual audit highlights our sound management of Standing Together. We would very much like to thank the Standing Together trustees, the staff team, our partners and all of those who have supported our work this year.

Sincerely,

Kruti Patel
Chair of Board of Trustees

Acting CEO
Chief Executive

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, and trustees for charity law purposes, present its report and audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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). The Company has taken advantage of the exemptions available to smaller entities.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6th September 2001 and registered as a charity in October 2001. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up trustees are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Board Composition

The charity is governed by a Board of Directors (trustees for the purposes of charity law) under the company's articles and are known as members of the management committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. The Trustees meet quarterly to discuss the affairs of the Charity and to make decisions, and to ratify decisions made by the Board.

During the year trustees Lorna Payne and Anne Smith both resigned on 17th November 2022. Rizwan Latif and Michelle Hill subsequently resigned respectively on 12th January 2023 and 21st March 2023.

The Chair along with selected members of the Board and CEO are responsible for recruiting members of the Board of Trustees. Membership of the Board is reviewed annually to ensure that the broadest interests served by Standing Together are represented. The Board benefits from trustees who have a broad range of skills, who have valuable experience and influence in their field to promote the success of the Charity. They bring great abilities to bear on their role and in the various offices they hold on the Board. Their roles as Trustees include human resources; implementation of equal opportunities; financial management, education and equalities, criminal justice, legal expertise, a strategic overview of fundraising and strategic planning.

At the end of the year The Board of Trustees had six Trustee Directors including the Chair, the principle remains that the size and composition of the Board is considered to include appropriate expertise to populate the Board and the Committees to ensure that the Charity is run in accordance with its obligations. Standing Together recognise the benefits of diversity on the Board and throughout the organisation and has continued to support efforts to increase diversity.

There will be a recruitment process in the next financial year to appoint additional trustees to the

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Board. On appointment, all trustees receive a thorough induction program which includes meeting with key members of management and the opportunity to shadow individual projects. In addition, trustees all receive information on training on duties and other key legislation/regulation as required. To support trustees, they are provided with a "Buddy", an existing board member who can mentor them through the first few months.

Each year a planning and review day is held with trustees. It was recommended that to exercise best practice and in line with Charity Governance Code Commission guidelines, Standing Together has adopted that Trustees with 9 years or more service will be replaced.

On an annual basis, each trustee is required to declare any potential conflicts of interests, and at each Board meeting trustees are requested to raise any conflicts of interests they have in any matters that are to be discussed. If conflicts of interest are raised, appropriate safeguards are put in place to take the necessary actions to manage the conflict.

Trustees do not receive remuneration or derive any other personal benefit from the activities of the charity.

Finance Committee

The Board are supported by the Finance Committee, to provide assurance and dedicated oversight to financial matters and governance of the Charity.

The Finance Committee consists of Trustees Pat Price, Cynthia Griffin and Kim Vernau; Andrea Kilvington (CEO), Jo Choi (Director of Operations) and Jackie Hyland (Director of Health) and Caron Bailey (Finance & Governance Manager). The Committee formally met four times during the year.

The committee is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness and independence of the external auditors and advises the Board on the appointment of the external auditors and their remuneration for audit work. Various other usual governance matters have been considered during the period, including a review of the Scheme of Delegation and items that have been assigned to it from the Trustee's Risk Register.

Management of the Charity

Standing Together is managed by a highly committed Board of Trustees which meets four times during the year with ad hoc meetings held as and when necessary, to ensure matters are considered and progressed in a timely matter. The Chair has the responsibility of leading the Trustee Board towards its objective of placing the Charity on a secure footing for the future. Each trustee has a clear understanding of their accountability and responsibilities. The Board meetings are chaired by the Chair of the Board and provide an open and constructive forum for trustees to be kept up to date on developments across all areas of the charity, provide oversight of operational matters and make informed decisions.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Senior Leadership Team, headed by the Chief Executive and including the Director of Operations

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

and Director of Health has overall responsibility for the running of the organisation and delivery of Standing Together's strategy, its development and achievements reporting directly to the Board. The Senior Leadership Team is supported in financial matters by the Finance & Governance Manager. The remuneration for key management is determined by the Trustees taking into account the skills, experience, and management responsibilities, the overall budget constraints and a view of what is suitable as compared to similar roles in the sector in which we work. Standing Together's policy is to provide appropriate and fair level of remuneration and incentives at a level which attracts and retains high quality staff.

During the year an extensive pay review was conducted and a new pay band structure was implemented which addressed the increase in the cost of living and provides responsible incentives to encourage enhanced performance and reward individual contributions to the long term strategic goals of the organisation.

Financial Management

The Board has fulfilled its role this year in being responsible for the strategic direction and the sound financial health of the company and for ensuring that the activities of the company meet its charitable objectives.

The Board is supported by the Finance Committee who exercises stewardship and fiscal responsibilities over the finances of the Charity. The Committee commissions detailed work on financial matters in connection with the budget, financial performance and funding of the Charity; communicating its findings at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Board receives accurate, comprehensive and timely information on the company's business and financial performance to enable appropriate monitoring and effective oversight of key matters.

Standing Together has policies and procedures in place to carry out robust financial management, clear audit trails and integrity of financial information provided to the Board to ensure that there are sufficient funds to maintain core services in the short, medium and long term. Other policies and procedures include Finance Regulations; quarterly Finance Reports to Trustees; regular review of systems for supporting financial procedures; designated staff with clear roles and responsibilities. The organisation is externally audited by Knox Kropper LLP.

The Finance Committee continues to focus on ways and measures to increase the general reserves and monitor the organisation's performance against contingency plans. As the charity continues to expand their reach and impact within the sector, trustees will establish and agree on the level of sufficient general reserve needed to maintain and sustain the Charity.

The emphasis is on how the Charity is funded, the development of the overarching organisational strategy, fundraising strategy and business plan to meet challenges, demands and opportunities, and a strong management structure to support our ambitions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Risk Management

The Board is committed to the long term sustainable growth of the Charity and to seeking opportunities whilst ensuring effective oversight and mitigation of risk. Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity. Risks are considered in light of their likelihood and potential impact and the necessary steps to mitigate them. The key operational and strategic risks are outlined in a risk register. It sets out the process that we use to identify and manage risks in all our activities. Risks are managed at both a strategic and operational level along with Standing Together's scheme of delegation policy.

The trustees complete an overall review of the risk register whereby the Board consider:

- the high and significant risks to which Standing Together is exposed,
- the potential impact and probability associated with each risk,
- existing internal controls and accountability for them, and
- mitigating actions to reduce each risk to a level that is acceptable.

Processes are in place to ensure that inherent and emerging risks are identified in a timely manner and are then appropriately managed. Securing future funding is the biggest risk for the charity and this challenge has been addressed in the Business Continuity Plan. These are monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, the Finance & Governance Manager along with the Finance Committee, and assessed annually by the full Board. Standing Together has succeeded in diversifying its sources of funding which has aided the process of forward planning; the management of cash flow and enabled the organisation to manage risk, maintain and develop its activities to advance its charitable objectives.

Standing Together is satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to possible major risks.

Health and Safety

Standing Together continues its responsibility for the safety of its members of staff. The charity maintains a health and Safety policy committed to reducing the risks of hazards in the organisation's workplace, making sure that premises, resources and working practices meet recognised standards for quality, security and safety. The trained First Aid Officer and designated Fire Marshal ensures compliance is upheld in alignment with the company's policy and the landlord's responsibilities towards the organisation, regarding fire, safety and security precautions.

To maintain staff well being we continue to offer in addition to monthly supervisions, regular clinical supervisions, which are delivered in a confidential manner to protect individuals' privacy. We have an independent qualified counsellor who acts as a point of contact for both staff and volunteers who require support emotionally on matters of concern both in the workplace and their private life.

Data

All data protection processes and IT security systems are reviewed regularly for compliance with Standing Together's clear policies on privacy, confidentiality, protocols and procedures. We ensure that

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

our agents, representatives, subcontractors and employees comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), (The Data Protection Act 2018) on processing and protecting personal data.

Standing Together uses a IT cloud based cloud database system. The security of the system is regularly managed by our expert IT provider through the implementation of encryption, password management and daily backups on the system and all devices. Regular reviews on systems security are carried out to protect against data theft, leakage, corruption and deletion.

All new employees receive General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) online training as part of their onboarding with Standing Together. Existing employees complete GDPR refresher training every two years.

Related Parties

None of the trustees of the charity receive any remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

2. Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes

Our governing document sets out our key purpose underpinning Standing Together as an organisation. Standing Together was established for the provision of services directed towards the prevention of domestic abuse and to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence and their families. This is coupled with advancing the education of voluntary, statutory agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic abuse, including without limit, its causes and prevention and the relief of its consequences.

A key element of this overarching mission is the centrality of the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) in our work to engender systemic change across all agencies and their approach to supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Coordinated Community Response Defined

The Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse is a local, whole system approach to the issue.

Standing Together's Core Principles underpinning the CCR approach

- The only way to respond to the issue of domestic abuse is to work collaboratively through the CCR.
- Individual experiences of domestic abuse are influenced by gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, race, religion, marital status, immigration, socio-economic position and many other factors: responses must understand the differing needs and potential barriers of the local population and be flexible enough to account for this.
- The CCR enables a whole system response to a whole person, recognising the wellbeing and safety needs of victims and survivors, with communities and organisations working alongside them.
- Responsibility for safety should not rest solely with individual victims but also with the community and services.
- Perpetrators must be held to account for the harm they inflict and offered routes to change their abusive behaviors.
- A CCR supports organisational responses, it does not replace them: organisations remain responsible

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

and accountable (to their own agencies and to the partnership) for their own responses to domestic abuse, within a context of multi-agency working.

- A CCR requires leadership, a shared understanding of domestic abuse and risk, and coordination.

Standing Together's CCR Approach

- We put the safety and needs of survivors (adults and children) at the heart of every CCR.
- We ensure that the voices of survivors and their advocates are integral to every CCR.
- We require CCRs cover the spectrum from primary prevention to early intervention, to crisis responses, and the long-term recovery of survivors and behavior change of perpetrators.
- Our CCR acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic abuse.
- Our CCR addresses the diverse and intersecting backgrounds, identities and experiences and situations of survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR addresses adults, children and young people, survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR encompasses all organisations operating in an area (statutory, voluntary, community) plus individuals who live / work in the area, and informal groups / networks located there.
- We require that all local organisations have an equal place and voice in the CCR.
- Our CCR requires coordination, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and leadership.
- Our CCR is flexible and will evolve.
- We ensure that local organisations recognise that they are best placed to identify, and develop, improvements to practice in developing a CCR - and we provide help to them to do this.
- We are committed to providing a consultative, learning and empowering approach to areas developing CCRs.

Standing Together's CCR Core Components

- The following standards represent what every CCR will have, regardless of area or local structures; all components adhere to the principles listed above.
- All organisations have developed and agreed a common purpose and approach to domestic abuse including a stated commitment to the CCR.
- Definitions of domestic abuse and risk are agreed and shared by all statutory, voluntary and community organisations.
- A defined structure/mechanism(s) is in place for the coordination, governance and monitoring of the CCR to ensure accountability and to enable a flexible and evolving approach.
- An action plan is in place.
- Written policies and procedures are in place within every organisation covering their response to domestic abuse. Regular compulsory training at every level of the organisation supports these.
- Written policies and procedures are agreed covering multi-agency systems and working (including the MARAC and Specialist Domestic Violence Court). Regular compulsory training supports these.
- An agreed dataset is in place and monitored on a regular basis.
- Survivors' voices (and the views of their advocates) are regularly sought, listened to and responded to.
- Adequately resourced specialist services are in place to respond to adults, children and young people: survivors and perpetrators.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

In 2022-2023 we particularly set out to:

- Continue to shape our impact measurement and resources tools to underpin our strategic development and operational practice.
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and comprehensive, victim focused services in health settings. This has resulted in the award of Home Office funding of £2.5 million per year until the end of March 2025, to map support pathways for victims of domestic abuse presenting to health services across the country. This involves reviewing the health interventions mapping to identify the commissioning of services that will enable best practice models and collaborative working in areas that will benefit most from these service pathways.
- Develop the CCR membership model and accredited training program building on previous work in partnership with Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and EU partners and gaining insight from partners and new members to inform ongoing development.
- Review and continue to develop MARAC models to enable the most effective practice through the CCR concept.
- Review and report on the effectiveness of Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts and Court provision generally for victims of domestic abuse with a view to improving and shaping appropriate responses to domestic abuse through the CCR approach and victim centered intelligence.
- Review and refine Domestic Homicide Reviews and promote our training provision for Chairs.
- Develop more robust faith based partnerships and promote activities of 'by and for' service providers through our Faith and Communities team workstreams.
- Continue to develop and grow our DAHA offer through our partnership with Gentoo and Peabody, continuously improving our training and accreditation offer for members and housing sector partners.
- Develop our Whole Housing and Housing First partnership work to tackle disadvantages experienced by victim-survivors as a consequence of domestic abuse.

3. Achievements and Performance

We report below on our achievements in meeting the aims of our charitable company.

A. Promoting the development of services to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence

The Coordinated Response in the Three Boroughs

To develop our local CCR, STADA worked closely with the VAWG Strategic Partnership for the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF), and in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and the City of Westminster (WCC) to develop and implement a strategy for violence against women and girls (VAWG).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2023



The Strategy was written after considerable consultation with survivors, service users, stakeholders from a range of statutory and voluntary organisations as well as elected members across the three councils. The Strategy details how the Partnership will deliver a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to VAWG; it keeps survivors and children at the centre of its aims and objectives, whilst also holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. This year as the Boards split into a Hammersmith and Fulham Board and a Bi Borough Board working in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea the development of the strategy was developed together with some specific elements for each board included.

Our vision is to end violence against women and girls through our coordinated community response approach. Our theory of change shows how we expect to meet this goal through the four outcomes highlighted above. Our theory of change also shows the problem and barriers we want to address in achieving our goal.

The Three Borough VAWG Strategic Partnerships

STADA takes the operational lead in delivering the Strategy and is an integral part of the governance structure of the boards. This year the board split into a Bi Borough board (Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea) and Hammersmith and Fulham became a sovereign board. As many of the services work across the three boroughs and services are still commissioned to work across the three boroughs; the boards while recognizing specific needs of their area work together to end VAWG. The board structure remained broadly

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

similar with operational groups feeding to the Strategic boards but the Specialist Services group now becomes a consultative group and is joined by additional consultative groups (one for each board) with Experts through experience. ST Coordinates the Housing, Harmful Practice and Children and Young People Operational groups and the Specialist Services Consultative group. STADA sits on both the Risk and Review and the Whole Health Operational group.

The Coordinated Response in the Three Boroughs

To develop our local CCR, STADA continue to work closely with the VAWG Strategic Partnership for the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF), and in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and the City of Westminster (WCC) to develop and implement the new strategy for violence against women and girls (VAWG). This year the boards had split into a Bi borough (RBKC and WCC) and a sovereign (LBHF) board and we were without a strategic lead for the Bi Borough board until late summer. Action plans were developed for both Boards and for each of the operational groups.

The vision across the three boroughs is to end violence against women and girls through our coordinated community response approach. Our theory of change shows how we expect to meet this goal through the four outcomes highlighted above. Our theory of change also shows the problem and barriers we want to address in achieving our goal.

Goal	To end violence against women & girls through our coordinated community response.			
Objective achieved	VAWG is prevented.	Survivors are supported.	Abusers are held to account.	Collaboration to create change.
Outcomes	Increased knowledge and Understanding across communities. Awareness raising through campaigns and activities. Stakeholders understand their roles in responding to and ending VAWG.	Partners follow duties and best practice. Referrals are made. Trauma informed and inter-sectional support.	Professionals safely challenge abusers. Abusers will be provided support to reform. Root causes of abuse are tackled.	All agencies see VAWG as their "core business." A shared understanding of need and response. Increased knowledge, skills and capacity in responding. Working with survivors to create change.
Barriers	Lack of understanding of the social and economic impact of VAWG.	Lack of awareness around VAWG and intersectionality. Risk prioritised over need. Victim blaming.	Limited funding for programmes. Lack of established best practice model. Victim blaming and abuser invisibility.	Competing priorities. Limited resources and capacity. Clashing cultural approaches. Victim blaming.
Problem	Violence against women & girls (VAWG), and the threat of such violence, exercised through individuals, communities and institutions in both formal and informal ways, violates women and girls human rights, constrains their choices and agency, and negatively impacts on their health and ability to participate in, contribute to and benefit from development.			

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Three Borough VAWG Strategic Partnerships

STADA takes the operational lead in delivering the Strategy and is an integral part of the governance structure of the boards. STADA Coordinates the Housing, Harmful Practice and Children and Young People Operational groups and the Specialist Services Consultative group. STADA sits on both the Risk and Review and the Whole Health Operational group.



The VAWG Strategic Boards are tasked to:

- To ensure the voices and experiences of survivors of VAWG are reflected throughout the Strategy and Action Plan via regular consultation and feedback;
- To monitor progress of targets and objectives against the Shared VAWG Action Plan and assess whether actions and activities, including of the 6 VAWG Operational Groups, are achieving the required outcomes;
- To establish the overall impact of the strategy via quality assurance and performance monitoring frameworks;

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

- To promote effective links with the work other Strategic Partnerships including the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards and Health and Well-Being Boards;
- To incorporate new legislation, policy and guidance alongside ongoing understanding and assessment of local need and recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews and serious case reviews; and
- To report regularly on the progress of the Strategy to each of the three-sovereign borough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, for which VAWG is a priority area of business.

Angelou partnership:

STADA is a member of the Angelou Partnership but no longer receives any funding to deliver specific aspects of the work. We attend the Partnership meetings and assist in sharing training, knowledge and best practice across the partnership.

Specialist Services Operational Group

The Specialist Services group met quarterly during 22/23. It has defined its place as a consultative group and agreed its mission statement as follows:

The Specialist Services Group (SSG) is a collection of experts working in the VAWG sector. The SSG directs the work of the partnerships across the three boroughs, to ensure the local offer is reflective of the diversity of short and long-term needs of those impacted by VAWG. As a consultative body, we work to ensure survivors' voices are at the heart of all strategic decision making and collaboratively hold local systems of power to account. Using a feminist perspective, we collectively ensure equitable sharing of power, amplifying the most marginalised voices and acting as a catalyst for change.

SSG partnered with the specialist courts to create a template to assist small specialist agencies to assess information about their clients who were going through the criminal court process. We have supported the Operational groups in commenting on their action plans and shared and supported H&F in their survivor consultation. We also commented on the Metropolitan Police VAWG action plan and shared our concerns via the Risk & Review group. Throughout the year we have consistently highlighted both the cost of living issues for services and survivors and the paucity of robust perpetrator work to both boards.

Children and Health Operational Group

The Children and Young People's Operational Group (CYP-OG) encourages the implementation of the CCR model by improving responses to domestic abuse from statutory, voluntary and health services who come into contact with children and young people. This is achieved through institutional advocacy, coordinating evidence-based interventions, promoting the voice of survivors and their children within meetings and forums and policy development and implementation.

The Children and Health Coordinator (CHC) engages with a variety of stakeholders including health services, substance misuse services, health visitors, Children's Social Care, Early Years and front-line domestic abuse service providers in the Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Children and young people meetings take place on a quarterly basis, the shared services VAWG strategy is delivered via a robust Children and Health Action Plan. An update on the CYP-OG Action Plan draft was presented at the CYP-OG meeting in January. Members agreed that a workshop outside of the quarterly meeting to finalise the action plan would help to ensure the plan reflects capacity & goals of all agencies involved, and incorporates new members of the CYPOG. CHC will confirm a date and an agenda at the next CYP-OG meeting in April.

The children and health coordinator has contributed to a range of training sessions and workshops across the Bi Borough and Hammersmith and Fulham Health Professionals trained to handle disclosures 100 per borough (300 in total).

The Ending VAWG lead in the bi-borough hosted a workshop on the 30th January exploring the current partnership and breadth of services. The feedback and information gathered will inform an overarching action plan for the VAWG partnership as well as the CYP-OG action plan, which remains under review.

The CYP-OG have agreed a framework for the Children and Young People Action Plan, which will include ongoing data collection. The Children & Health Coordinator & Senior Health Manager are supporting commissioners with the health board data dashboard which will be worked on following development of the bi-borough VAWG action plan and CYPOG Action Plan.

Key Achievements in the last period

- The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel released a thematic review on DA in which they highlighted the CYP-OG as an area of good practice. On the 9th of March, the CYPOG chair and coordinator, along with 2 other CYPOG members, delivered a presentation at a webinar highlighting the work of the CYPOG and the rollout of the Safe & Together model.
- CYP-OG members celebrated International Women's Day by hosting and/or attending numerous conferences and events including, 'Walking Through Fear: Empowering Women and Young Girls', part of a Pan London webinar series delivered by Jewish Women's Aid (JWA), IMECE and the Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS).

Acute Trust Project with Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust (CWFT)

The Acute Trust Project aims to develop and sustain a Trust-wide response to domestic abuse within CWFT; increasing Trusts' and professionals' capacity to identify, respond and appropriately refer domestic abuse cases through training, development of policy and referral pathways and creation of a network of DA.

A total of 3,840 staff trained at Levels 1-4 in 2022/23 compared to 3,008 in 2021/22. This is a 28% increase from 2021/22 and a 58% increase from 2020/21 when 2425 staff were trained.

A total of 2,482 staff completed training at Level 1, 1239 at Level 2, 67 at Level 3 and 52 at Level 4. We now have a total of 324 Domestic Abuse Links (DAL) across the Trust.

Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA)/MARAC - A total of 207 referrals were made in 2022/23

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compared to 236 in 2021/22. This is a 12% decrease from 2021/22 and a 12% increase from 2020/21 when 185 referrals were made.

Other updates.

The trust is hosting demonstrations of HoloPatient for external partners

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week has taken place between 6-12th February.

NHS Parliamentary Award application was submitted on 13th April 2023.

Category of training	Session No. Q1	No. trained Q1	Session No. Q2	No. trained Q2	Session No. Q3	No. trained Q3	Session No. Q4	No. trained Q4	No. trained 2022/23
Level 1 (Basic DA Awareness):	7 (+E Learning and voiceover sessions)	466	12 (+E Learning)	557	8 (+E Learning)	491	29 (+E Learning)	968	2482
Level 2 (DA Awareness):	27	415	23	358	13	163	17	303	1239
Level 3 (DAL Training):	3	15	3	13	3	23	3	16	67
Level 4 (DAL Supervision and specialist training):	2	12	3	13	2	14	3	13	52
TOTAL:	39 (+E Learning and voiceover sessions)	908	41 (+E Learning)	941	26 (+E Learning)	691	50 (+E Learning)	1300	3840

Number of IDVA referrals received by:		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2022/23
	CW Victim Support IDVAs	78	71	71	Data unavailable	Data unavailable
	WM Victim Support IDVA	26	46	42		
	Trust-wide Galop IDVA	17	32	24		
	Total:	121	149	137		
Number of MARAC referrals made by:	CW staff	20	25	24	24	93
	WM staff	12	29	19	17	77
	CW Victim Support IDVA	0	0	0	0	0
	WM Victim Support IDVA	3	6	7	9	25

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Macmillan Cancer and Domestic Abuse Project

Key achievements:

The Domestic Abuse Coordinators (DACs) build strong relationships with partners to navigate offering and deliver training to a large number of staff, in a short amount of time. This resulted in a high number of staff receiving training only 6 months into the project.

The DACs have created a training package which is meeting the needs of the projects aims- increasing professionals' confidence and expertise to identify and respond safely and appropriately to domestic abuse in a cancer setting.

There are a number of key partnerships for this project- Macmillan, Royal Marsden Hospital and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston. The DACs have maintained consistent and productive communication with all partners to ensure a strong partnership working model. The project has continued to highlight that there is a need for more understanding of the intersecting challenges of experiencing cancer and domestic abuse, and therefore how professionals can best provide support to victim-survivors in this situation.

Training

The DACs have been delivering training to Trust staff in person and online. These training sessions have ranged in length from 1 hour to 6 hours (DAL training). Most of the staff trained have been Clinical Nurse specialists and Advanced Nurse Practitioners in both hospitals. The coordinators have also trained, Admin Staff, Psychologists, Volunteers and Consultants.

Royal Marsden Hospital:

The total number is 401 trained individuals between 26/09/2022 and 12/04/2023.

University Hospital Bristol and Weston:

The total number is 224 trained individuals between 29/11/2022 and 12/04/2023

In the evaluation responses we can see that:

- the training increased staff confidence in each aspect of identification and response.
- Training also shifted perceptions of barriers to responding to domestic abuse.
- Almost all (95%) of respondents said they would change their practice following the training.
- training has been well-received and senior staff members e.g.; chief nurses have praised the DACs and their skill and expertise.

Quote from Participant:

I don't think [domestic abuse] is at the forefront of our minds when we're thinking of cancer.... people aren't looking out for it. So, I felt it was really important for us to all remind ourselves of those signs... so that we can then try and identify people that could do with some support.

Whole Health

Standing Together has been commissioned by the Home Office to help drive the national transformation of the health response to domestic abuse. Our overall aim is to instil sustainable change and ensure a consistent and coordinated whole health system approach. The first phase of the project is to map the existing domestic

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abuse provision within health, referral pathways, identifying gaps and best practice. We are working with partners such as Local Authorities, VAWG Forums, Police and Crime Commissioners and Specialist Domestic Abuse Services to more accurately gather data from the interconnected nature of a system's approach to health and domestic abuse. We want to include a wide range of partners who can provide information about domestic abuse and health with an equality, diversity and inclusion focus.

This work is being delivered in collaboration with colleagues in NHS England who are undertaking the Domestic Abuse Support Models project and are currently auditing the internal provision of domestic abuse interventions and services. Together with our mapping (see below for more details), this will provide a comprehensive picture of the links with community services and the broader commissioning and strategic landscape across the country. This will then inform the commissioning phase of the project.

Mapping Domestic Abuse Response

To effectively transform the health response to domestic abuse, we must gain a clear understanding of the relevant referral pathways, structures and services currently in place. Our mapping survey aims to gather information in several key areas of the health response to domestic abuse:

- Governance, Leadership and Strategy
- Policy, Practice and Process
- Models and Interventions
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Participation and Representation
- Referral Pathways
- Training
- Data Recording, Collection, and Information Sharing
- Awareness Raising
- Funding, Sustainability and Commissioning

Following this mapping, Standing Together will work with local partners to commission necessary domestic abuse interventions such as Domestic Abuse Coordinators, Co-located IDVAs or other initiatives to improve the systems that impact the lives of survivors of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Courts

Standing Together continue to coordinate the Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDACs) at Westminster Magistrates Court to provide a specialist criminal justice response to the boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Kensington & Chelsea. The SDAC for Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea and the Dedicated Domestic Abuse Courts for Westminster have been running for twenty and ten years respectively and continue to evolve good practice and improve the service to victims/survivors. The SDAC model ensures that the focus on victim and witness safety is maintained throughout the entire specialist court process which has become more important in the continuing financial climate where agency resources have been cut.

During the 2 year period 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2023, we secured £1.2 million in funding from the Tampon Tax via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) the Criminal Justice team have now completed the Mentor Court project. The project enabled the team to enhance the SDAC at Westminster to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to observe the courts and learn from the good practice established by the

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partnership. The team also held workshops and learning sessions to take the SDAC model back to their local area. The funding also provided the SDAC to have 2 dedicated criminal justice IDVAs and enabled the team to evidence the benefits of this role for victims going through the criminal justice system. The Centre for Justice Innovation undertook an independent evaluation of the SDAC at Westminster and the findings were delivered via a webinar in January 2023. The evaluation found that the Westminster SDAC improves victim/survivor engagement with the justice system, better manages risks, and facilitates partnership working between key agencies. The evaluation also found that the Westminster SDAC works in spite of, rather than because of, the surrounding system, and that the work of the SDAC is undermined by limited funding, lack of buy-in from over-stretched agencies, and inconsistent policies across the justice system.

Standing Together have successfully recruited a Policy Lead (Criminal Justice), who will be using the evaluation and the traction it gains to influence at a senior level. The Policy Lead (Criminal Justice) is putting together a policy plan for the final months of the project, to influence and to promote the findings of the evaluation and wider project. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner is participating in the webinar, which Standing Together hope will attract a variety of professionals to attending the webinar and hearing more about the evaluation. The Victims' Commissioner for London has also invited Standing Together to present at the Victim Summit to promote the findings of the project, all of which will be good policy influencing opportunities for the team.

The project also enabled the team to be able to engage with stakeholders on a national basis to map and create a database of existing SDACs to determine whether these SDACs are still delivering the core principles of an SDAC but also to look at how DA is dealt with in the criminal justice system where there is no specialist court. Discussions with stakeholders revealed the postcode lottery of provision for victims and identified gaps and barriers they face whilst navigating the criminal justice system. We held a webinar in March 2023 to disseminate our findings from the mapping and a report will be published imminently.

As part of the mapping exercise, and engaging with stakeholders, we were able to provide capacity building support to a newly established SDAC in the North West of England with a view to possible further capacity building work in the future. We are also engaging in ongoing discussions with other areas to promote SDACs and our capacity building consultancy packages.

The Criminal Justice Programme Manager (mapping and capacity building) presented a workshop of the projects findings at the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Festival of Practice in Manchester in March 2023 and is due to present at a workshop at the Centre for Justice Innovations conference on problem solving courts in April 2023 and at the Westminster Insights Domestic Abuse Conference in May 2023.

The completion of the project and the consequent reduction in funding means that the Criminal Justice team is drastically reduced but continues to pioneer good practice locally and nationally to promote the SDAC model. In addition, the project has enabled the team to identify further work streams and initiatives to be pursued moving forward.

The SDAC at Westminster has continued to benefit from the uplift that the Tampon Tax funding has provided, particularly in relation to the Criminal Justice IDVA provision. During the second and final year of the specialist Criminal Justice IDVA provision in London, ADVANCE have received a total of 150 referrals into their service, of which 71% were successfully contacted. Of these successfully contacted survivors, 81% of women engaged with ADVANCE's Criminal Justice IDVA provision. ADVANCE's Criminal Justice IDVAs are co-located within the police station and deliver regular training to the police, which has led to an increase in referrals as the CJ IDVA provision has become more established.

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The Impact Project has continued over the last year and the Performance & Review Coordinator has been focusing on repeat victimisation and those facing multiple disadvantages. This work has recently expanded to incorporate coordination of professional meetings for the highest risk repeat cases. This has shown to have had a positive impact on the response to such cases from various agencies, particularly Adult Social Care. The expanded work has been welcomed by LBHF who fund the Impact Project, and they are exploring ways to increase the funding and incorporating this work into the existing contract.

The Performance & Review Coordinator, Programme Managers and SDAC Coordinator continue to co-locate at Charing Cross Police Station and foster vital relationships with the police. Inductions are provided to new police joining the Safeguarding team and the police regularly seek the Criminal Justice team out at the police station for advice and guidance.

The team have delivered training to the police, as well as other criminal justice partners, including attending the Crown Prosecution Service IDVA training day in November 2021 and briefing 130 national CPS and IDVA colleagues about SDACs and a CCR to domestic abuse. Standing Together's Criminal Justice Programme Manager (London Mentor Court) and SDAC Coordinator also supported an SDAC visit from Shadow Justice Minister, Ellie Reeves, visited the SDAC to observe the SDAC in session. Ellie was very engaged and interested in the work of the SDAC. A short roundtable was arranged with CPS, Police, Advance, the Judiciary and Standing Together's Criminal Justice Programme Manager (London Mentor Court). Ellie also spoke with HM Courts and Tribunals Service and Probation as part of her visit. Partner services were able to speak about the benefits of the SDAC for their own agency and staff, giving a broad perspective of how the SDAC operates on a multi-agency basis. This visit was a very positive experience, as Ellie gained a good understanding of how the SDAC works, the advantages of an SDAC and the challenges that the local partners face, including obtaining probation reports from custodial remands, and the lack of domestic abuse cases filtering through the courts. Ellie and her parliamentary assistant are interested in hearing more about the mapping work, and the Criminal Justice Programme Manager (Mapping & Capacity Building) is in contact to set up a meeting to discuss the mapping further.

Further visits to the SDAC were from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside, a delegate group of French judiciary and policymakers and a lawyer from Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions who was interested in learning more about how domestic abuse is dealt with in the UK. In addition, Standing Together arranged and hosted visits from a number of stakeholders (including from the PCC, local authority, CPS and Police) from Merseyside and Cheshire and facilitated workshops to enable learning from the SDAC and expertise of Standing Together and key SDAC partners.

The Criminal Justice Team continues to be valued members of CPS VAWG Scrutiny Panel, Police NFA Scrutiny Panel, LCJB Delivery Board, CPS External Consultation Group and Regional Stakeholders Meeting. The DA Court Steering Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis where operational feedback is provided to members to ensure consistency between the courts but to also hold the partner agencies to account regarding their commitment to the specialist courts. The DA Focus group also meets every two months and there is also a quarterly meeting where the scrutiny of local data and outcomes is discussed.

The completion of the project and the consequent reduction in funding means that the Criminal Justice team is drastically reduced but the specialist courts at Westminster Magistrates Court continue to be acknowledged as best practice and the team continue to pioneer good practice locally and nationally to promote the SDAC model, improving practice and multi-agency working within the criminal justice system and ultimately, improving victim/survivor's experiences of the criminal justice system. In addition, the project has enabled the team to identify further work streams and initiatives to be pursued moving forward.

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The SDAC at Westminster were finalists in the 2023 Justice Innovation Awards and despite not winning, the team received the following feedback;

'You were a very strong contender in what was a remarkably impressive field of finalists, and I received a range of specific positive feedback on your project from the judges. The judges were struck by how the project presented an innovative way of involving different partners to address domestic abuse whilst keeping a victim focus alive. The team have truly created something fantastic and I would like to pass on the praise of the judges to the team for all their brilliant work.'

Just to be nominated is acknowledgement of the hard work that the Criminal Justice Team has done over the years to maintain the SDAC at Westminster and continue this example of good practice.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

In 1999 STADA played a pioneering role in the development and implementation of MARACs. STADA founded the MARAC in Hammersmith & Fulham (September 2007) and Kensington & Chelsea (January 2008) then adding Haringey (March 2013), Ealing (June 2013) and Westminster (September 2013). Some of SafeLives MARAC documentation was modelled on paperwork created by STADA. Our MARACs have been visited by the Home Office and recommended by SafeLives as among the best in the country and at the forefront of championing survivor safety.

Aligning with SafeLives best practice guidance and the principles of an effective MARAC, all STADA MARACs have run effectively and in line with SafeLives recommended practice in 2022-23. Our work includes close liaison with specialist agencies, bringing their expertise to MARAC meetings, helping inform practitioners, reducing barriers to support experienced by some communities and individuals with intersectional characteristics and complex needs, ensuring equality of access and inclusive action planning that recognises diversity. Through this process STADA is committed to actively increasing MARAC referrals from all sections of the community.

We have a well-developed MARAC training package providing team briefings, representative inductions, and quarterly workshops to frontline staff on domestic abuse awareness, risk identification, SafeLives Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour'-based violence Risk Identification Checklist (DASH RIC), MARAC processes and protocols, referral thresholds, and specialist services.

We pride ourselves on our uniquely robust team capacity consisting of a Team manager, one FT support officer, a FT Data Impact Analyst five Coordinators meaning we have built in resilience and are able to remain compliant with all contractual obligations in terms of service delivery. At each MARAC meeting we provide two staff; a MARAC Coordinator and a minute-taker which enhances quality and allows for more effective action planning and support for representatives and chairs.

STADA coordinates and administrates the London MARAC Coordinators Forum bringing together Coordinators to share best practice, learn from each other, discuss challenges and explore innovation in the MARAC field. Underpinning our MARAC work is the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model. This provides us unrivalled expertise in developing partnerships and multi-agency working. Our Coordinators benefit from organisational learning and best practice knowledge enriching each MARAC we coordinate and ensuring that our MARAC team has considerable influence and in roads amongst a wide variety of practitioners in the DA field sharing good practice and encouraging appropriate interventions. All MARAC Coordinators at STADA bring a background of frontline or other relevant experience.

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The following data breakdowns indicate high performance when compared to SafeLives recommended target figures in all areas of provision across April 2022-March 2023.

Hammersmith & Fulham

	SafeLives Recommends	2022-23
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	320	398
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	30.6
	SafeLives Recommends	2022-23
% Repeat	28% - 40%	26.1%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	3.0%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	6.3%
% BAME Referrals	55%	52.8%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	22.6%
Number of children	N/A	0%

Kensington & Chelsea

	SafeLives Recommends	2022-23
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	12
Cases heard (N)	270	304
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	25.3
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	20.1%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	4.9%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	8.2%
% BAME Referrals	55%	44.0%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	17.4%
Number of children in household	N/A	0%

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Westminster

	SafeLives Recommends	2022-23
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	370	477
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	36.7
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	20.5%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	5.9%
Male Referrals	5% - 10%	9.0%
% BAME Referrals	55%	42.7%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	20.5%
Number of children in household	N/A	0%

Ealing

	SafeLives Recommends	2022-23
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	17
Cases heard (N)	540	703
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	41.4
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	10.0%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	1.4%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	8.10%
% BAME Referrals	55%	56.0%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	17.5%
Number of children in household	N/A	700

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<u>Haringey</u>		
	SafeLives Recommends	2022-23
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	17
Cases heard (N)	410	488
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	28.7
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	25.2%
LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	3.4%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	8.0%
% BAME Referrals	55%	48.8%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	21.5%
Number of children in household	N/A	345

All MARACs performing above SafeLives recommended volume

This indicator of good quality MARAC provision is measured by the volume of referrals (best practice is meeting 80-100% of SafeLives recommended volume.) As noted in the tables above, volume in 2022-23 across all five MARACs were above best practice. This is a very positive year on year achievement accomplished.

MARAC Health ChelWest & ICHT Referral distribution point

Standing Together has continued to be the centralised referral point for all MARAC referrals originating from Imperial College Health Trust (ICHT) and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Foundation NHS (ChelWest) Trust. ICHT and ChelWest have their own MARAC referral form and all staff send this to the secure Health MARAC inbox at Standing Together for distribution onwards to the appropriate MARAC (if not Tri-Borough). This saves busy medical staff time by providing a simplified system increasing the likelihood of professionals referring to MARAC.

MARAC Awareness Raising

Standing Together works closely with partner agencies to ensure that all relevant members of staff are familiar with the MARAC process, and their role and responsibilities within it by providing MARAC briefings, inductions and workshops. In 2022-23, MARAC Coordinators in the service area completed 69 sessions with partner agencies in the MARAC boroughs, reaching 331 partners. As a result of Standing Together's MARAC workshops, professionals have improved knowledge and confidence in referring to MARAC as measured by evaluations.

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April 2022 -March 2023	Number of sessions	Total attendees
<i>Briefings</i>	6	109
<i>Inductions</i>	51	72
<i>Workshops</i>	12	150
Total	69	331

MARAC Team Forward Plan Priorities 2022-2023

MARAC & COVID-19

The impact of the pandemic on the MARAC process continues into the next financial year. Coordinators continue to work remotely as do most of our partner agencies. Standing Together will continue to ensure a coordinated community response to domestic abuse by internal monitoring and consultation with partners and front-line services working directly with victim/survivors. Our data analysts will provide insight into the process across the previous year and how this will inform out practices moving forward.

Standardization of MARAC Processes and Documentation

The MARAC team are working together to standardize MARAC processes and documentation across all five boroughs which Standing Together operate. This will help ensure consistency between all five boroughs, and guarantee the team maintain delivery of high quality work. Standardization of documentation and processes will also help streamline workflows and improve efficiency.

Development of MARAC Conduct Agreement

The MARAC team are also developing a MARAC Conduct Agreement to help ensure that all MARAC representatives and Chairs work together to ensure MARACs remain inclusive. This will help guarantee that the victim/survivors heard at MARAC are treated with respect, and that consideration is given to an individual's protected characteristics when the panel are creating risk-reduction plans.

Development of MARAC Training

Lastly in terms of development, the MARAC team are also currently working on updating the MARAC training package, which includes the MARAC workshop, briefings and inductions. As part of this, the MARAC manger will also be developing a MARAC refresher training for all representatives who are signed up to the MARAC process and attend meetings. This will help further improve professionals' awareness of MARAC, and ensure they engage appropriately with the entirety of the MARAC process.

Service Update

Please note that Standing Together will no longer operate Ealing MARAC past 30th June 2023. This is a result of Ealing Council bringing their MARAC in-house, and switching to a Daily Safeguarding Meeting model.

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Domestic Homicide Reviews

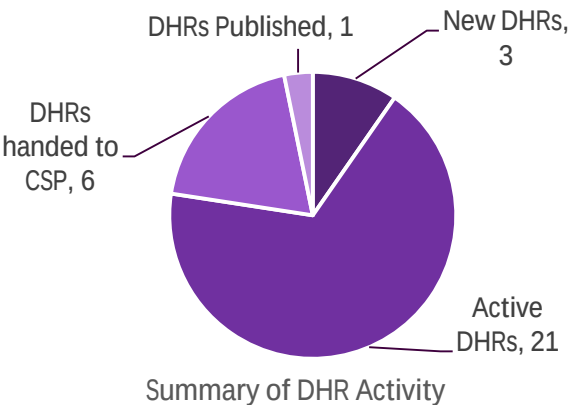
The Domestic Homicide Review Team at Standing Together have continued to deliver a complete and inclusive approach to DHRs. We produce high quality Overview Reports and Executive Summaries while keeping importance of the coordinated community response at the forefront of our work. Our experience of a coordinated community response and domestic abuse partnerships ensures we balance the needs of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and panel agencies with the sensitivities of the victims' and perpetrators' families.

We have 8 associate DHR Chairs along with 2 additional Chairs who are about to finish their training and 1 DHR Chair who is part of our Mentorship program in collaboration with the Coaction Hub. Of these 11 Chairs, 7 are female and 4 male.

Recruitment and training:

- Standing Together has provided training for two new Chair associates and they are now ready to join our pool of active Chairs with the support of their mentors.
- 3 new coordinators have joined the DHR team and are successfully managing a portfolio of DHRs.
- A new DHR Manager has been recruited.
- These appointments mean the DHR team is now back to full capacity.

Active DHRs:



- Standing Together is now chairing/has successfully chaired 125 Domestic Homicide Reviews. 78 of these reviews are now published.
- 6 DHRs have been handed over to the CSP during the year: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Bexley, Stroud, Lewisham, Herts, Wales
- 4 newly commissioned DHRs: Barking & Dagenham, Cotswolds, Luton, Bexley

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- 21 DHRs ongoing: Buckinghamshire x3, Central Bedfordshire, Cornwall x2, Forest of Dean, Gloucester x2, Hackney x 2, Kingston, Lambeth x 3, Leicester, Mole Valley, Northumbria, Stroud, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales
- 1 DHR has been published: Croydon

National Work

- Standing Together continues to contribute as a panel member for the monthly Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel as their specialist DA service.
- Standing Together sits as a panel member for non-Standing Together DHRs as their expert DA service.
- Standing Together meets monthly with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office to discuss their DHR oversight mechanism.

New Initiatives

- The manager is working with the Finance Team and Partnerships Manager to review their current fees in line with inflation.
- We have sourced pro bono advice from an international law firm to update our GDPR documentation and provide advice on international contracts.
- The DHR team are increasing focus on wider sharing of its service and activities including via social media channels including the website, Twitter and Linked In.
- The team will be creating DHR training packages with a focus on the CCR and best practice for panel members and CSPs.
- Chairs' Day – as an addition to regular monthly Chairs' meeting, the DHR team are holding an in person full day Chairs' event providing the opportunity to discuss key issues and share learning.

The Faith and VAWG Coalition

The Faith and VAWG Coalition has been forging and growing, creating a space to collaborate with organisations, feminists, faith leaders and activists working at the intersections of faith, race, ethnicity and violence against women and girls. We focus on strategic and structural approaches to tackling issues around VAWG with a mission to create strategic space and centering voices of women of faith. We are strengthening partnerships, providing much needed faith informed insights to the VAWG sector and building bridges between members of faith communities and domestic abuse prevention specialists and organisations within VAWG.

Collective leadership and Intersectionality: We are also an active member of Harmful Practice Strategic Group (HPSP) which is an evolving platform to develop strategies and operational intervention guidance to respond to the needs and barriers faced by Black and minoritised women within the coordinated community response (CCR) model of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) delivery. In the HPSP subgroup, The Faith and VAWG Coalition often chair the meetings and provide a discussion around harmful practices including faith based abuse; what it means to be and for organisations, how it impacts survivors and how faith provides comfort but is also weaponised against survivors.

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Launch of The Expert by Experience Panel:

The impact and influence of initiatives addressing faith and VAWG are steadily increasing and gaining momentum. In August 2022 we launched The Expert Panel, a safe space for women of all faiths and non to share their experiences and to bridge the gaps between faith and VAWG. The feedback and responses from survivors will be embedded in a good practice booklet we have been working on with an aim to offer guidance and provide faith informed perspectives for meaningful changes with an aim for improved responses for survivors from faith based communities.

Membership update

Our membership program is now well established with its annual strategy to create a safe space, share, and learn from each other. We continuously design, review and develop a structure that benefits the Coalition members. We inform professionals in the VAWG sector, create a platform to raise the voices of women of faith and promote Black and minoritised community work. Some of the key highlights include:

- We are excited to share that the number of Faith & VAWG Coalition members, including the co-founders, has increased to 36. The Coalition's seven individual members include academics and professionals from the VAWG sector. The 18 member organisations comprise of community-based, faith-based, Faith & VAWG, and by & for organisations. 99% of our members actively access the Coalition's platform to campaign, advocate and support each other.
- Sharing & learning: We use the members' and co-founders' WhatsApp groups to prompt conversations and actions. Using our group email, we send out a bi-weekly News Digest where we spotlight our members, share new research materials and reports relevant to the Faith & VAWG work, and call for actions to campaign and advocate for Victims & survivors of DA. Most of our members are small/medium-sized organisations that have limited capacity to search for funding information, so we use the News Digest to supply up-to-date funding information.
- Creating safe space-building partnership: We continue to organise the members' monthly coffee morning, providing the space for our members, especially the 'by & for organisations, to showcase their success, highlight the barriers affecting their work, and form solidarity with other members. We also organised an annual membership forum to understand and build partnerships among members based on their areas of work and issues affecting their communities. We were very pleased our Membership Coordinator represented the Faith & VAWG Coalition and Standing Together's CCR model at an international conference organised by Project DIdI, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This valuable opportunity facilitated global collaboration, enabling us to exchange knowledge, best practices, and expand partnerships.
- Informing the public: We organised a webinar entitled - "Practical Perspective of Decolonisation in the VAWG Sector involving academic, local and international 'By & For' organisations in the panel. We also facilitated the Faith, Family and Community' workshop at the Festival of Practice national conference organised by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, highlighting the important role faith can play in ending VAWG.

Coaction Hub: AWRC in Partnership with STADA

Coaction Hub is a unique partnership between STADA and a by and for agency (Asian Women's Resource

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Centre). The project aims to create an equitable partnership between the two organisations, with each agency bringing their expertise and insights to the project. This equity is embedded in all stages of fundraising, staffing, delivery and resource sharing, and is reviewed with learning partners throughout the life of the project. Whilst individual agencies may lead on aspects of the project this is carried out within a collaborative partnership structure.

The project aims to strengthen the Co-ordinated Community Response (CCR) for Black and minoritized survivors of domestic abuse and harmful practices. We are exploring responses to survivors in areas such as risk assessment, MARAC and DHRs as well as incorporating learning from international models of VAWG. The project will produce research, toolkits, training and other learning materials to influence the sector.

The project started in May 2022, and this year we have:

- Formed the Harmful Practices Strategic Partnership (HPSP), a pan London, by and for led forum which brings together statutory, non-statutory and by and for agencies and activists to address harmful practices issues. We have submitted evidence to the government on 'honour' based abuse and are currently developing training. The HPSP is chaired by and for agencies and decision making is weighted in their favour to make sure that power inequalities are addressed in the group.
- We are carrying our research on the effectiveness of risk assessment tools, and MARAC forums for Black and minoritized survivors. We have held focus groups with by and for agencies, as well as consulted MARAC Co-ordinators.
- Recruited our first DHR Mentor chair. The DHR mentoring scheme aims to recruit women from the by and for sector to be mentored to become DHR chairs. They will receive full training and support to develop their skills, whilst bringing their knowledge and expertise into the DHR sector. This scheme was created in the context of the overrepresentation of Black and Asian women in domestic homicides, lack of diversity of DHR chairs, and concerns regarding a limited understanding of intersectionality in some domestic homicide reviews.
- Presented at a variety of forums to promote the Coaction Hub, emphasising the importance of working equitably with by and fors, with this project as a model for good practice. This includes the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's (DAC) office, MOPAC, health meetings such as INCADVA (national) and the DA Clinical Reps Group (London). Faith and VAWG members meeting, and local meetings such as the Kingston Harmful Practices Subgroup and the Children and Young People's Operational group in central London. We held a stall and co-facilitated a workshop at the DAC national conference. In partnership with other members of the Communities team, we have also worked internally at Standing Together to influence practice, including discussing working equitably with by and fors.

Harmful Practices

- The Harmful Practices project began in January 2020 for a data co-ordinator to support the work of the local Harmful Practices Operational Group (HPOG). In 2021-22 this role has gone from strength to strength, taking over the coordination of the HPOG.
- Harmful practices often qualified as a hidden issue, the complexity of cases and the consequences on survivors are therefore particular and could differ from other forms of VAWG. The HPOG is a working

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space to make sure that harmful practices issue is known, well-identified, and that professionals from different sectors have a better understanding of it. In 2022-23 the group developed its three-year action plan aligned with the VAWG strategies, with outcomes specifically relevant to harmful practices survivors.

- A core part of the harmful practices work has been to support the local specialist by and for agencies to improve links with other professionals to support their work and improve the community response. A lot of work has been done to promote the group and many professionals from different sectors expressed their interest to know more about harmful practices. To respond to this need, the co-ordinator has found new ways to promote the work of the specialist agencies including training and information sessions and has developed a newsletter that is sent quarterly. In 2022, the group held the first Harmful Practices Yearly Conference, a successful event that the group is looking forward to doing again next year. The co-ordinator also launched the Harmful Practices Specialist Agencies Contact Guide, a tool for all professionals to have easy access to specialist services in their boroughs.
- Data collection and analysis remains another core part of the project. This data is presented to the group in themes to support the work of agencies as well as in presentations outside of the group to promote the centring of harmful practices in agency responses. Data being particular to harmful practices, this data is the most efficient way to have a picture of the issue in the borough of Kensington and Chealse, Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster. It is also an easy way to highlight any gaps in services and to share with other partners the best practices. In the last year, this has included multi-agency webinars for professionals and presentations to different stakeholders in the tri-boroughs. The MARAC data was also utilised to produce a report entitled Harmful Practices and MARAC: What Does the Data Tell Us? In the context of limited harmful practices data nationally, this paper presents interesting findings about cases heard in the borough of Kensington and Chealse, Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster MARACs and highlights some gaps in terms of services for survivors.

Housing Team

The purpose of the Housing Team is to meaningfully address the housing and homelessness support needs of all victims/survivors of domestic abuse so they can achieve emotional and physical safety and stability. We achieve this through influencing national and local policy and practice in response to housing/homelessness and domestic abuse, across all relevant agencies, but with a particular focus on the role of the housing and homelessness sector as a part of a Coordinated Community Response.

Intersectional and Anti-racist practice

Our housing team is dedicated to ensuring our work reflects and meets the needs of Black and minoritized victims/survivors, uplifts specialist by and for services, and supports housing and homelessness sector partners to take an anti-racist and intersectional approach to their work with victims/survivors. As individual programmes, we meet regularly to apply an intersection and anti-racist lens to each of our workstreams. The detail of our work is within our team strategy.

1. Housing First & Homelessness Team

The Housing First and Homelessness project works with local authorities, homelessness support providers, specialist women's services, amongst a range of other agencies, to ensure that survivors of domestic abuse and women experiencing homelessness and other forms of multiple disadvantages have better access to safe

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accommodation and support that meets their needs.

2. Housing Coordination and Evaluation for the Westminster VAWG Housing First project

The Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator builds and maintains relationships with support provider Solace Women's Aid and the housing associations who offer the housing for the Westminster VAWG Housing First project. This post is funded via the RSI5 and GLA Safe Accommodation fund until March 2024 – to co-ordinate and evaluate Standing Together's work on the Westminster VAWG Housing First Project, and support with co-ordination of Standing Together's branch of the Changing Futures programme (mentioned below).

This year the project expanded from supporting 20 women up to 30, with 28 women being accommodated at the end of year 3 (2 on the waitlist for a property). In March 2023 the Year 3 learning report was launched virtually to a range of professionals across the sector. You can read our report [here](#) for more detailed information about the project's positive outcomes.

Next year the project will be expanding further, offering 18 new spots for women from May 2023. The Coordinator will be working closely with housing providers to obtain 18 units of accommodation for this new cohort of women over the coming months. Last year our Housing First for Women project won the Westminster Homelessness Award.

3. Developing DAHA standards for homelessness organizations

The DAHA Development Lead for Homelessness Organisations role is funded by the GLA MOPAC Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation fund.

This financial year, the project began with 2 pilot sites beginning their journey towards DAHA accreditation in April 2022. A third pilot site joined in September 2022. We worked in partnership with all 3 pilot sites over the year, including meetings to secure buy-in, regular attendance at working group meetings and gathering feedback. We are finalising the DAHA framework in May 2023, have written a learning report, and developed tools and guidance to support organisations to achieve accreditation going forward. We reviewed and updated the Early Identification of Domestic Abuse for Homelessness Settings training package, with the view that this package will be offered to providers undergoing DAHA accreditation in the future.

4. Changing Futures VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage Workstream

The Housing First and Homelessness Programme Manager co-project manages the VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage workstream of the Westminster Changing Futures project, alongside Westminster Council, to transform services and systems to better meet the needs of women experiencing VAWG and multiple disadvantage in Westminster. The projects key objectives are:

- Workforce professional development: we develop and deliver training to professionals across the homelessness, domestic abuse and supported accommodation sector on a quarterly basis. This year we delivered 13 courses in total to 123 professionals across Westminster.
- Connection and co-ordination: promoting better partnership working to improve support for women experiencing VAWG and multiple disadvantage. Standing Together administer and chair the VAWG and

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multiple disadvantage forum, for frontline professionals to attend and discuss cases that are 'stuck'. The forum has a panel of multidisciplinary professionals who provide advice on how to continue supporting the woman. This year we chaired 11 forums, hearing the cases of 40 women. Standing Together also administers and chair the VAWG and multiple disadvantage strategic group, and next year will be looking at how we can integrate this work into the wider bi-borough VAWG structures.

- Addressing system barriers and piloting innovative solutions: we focus on four key systems barriers – data, couples, the criminal justice system, and gender informed service standards. This year we have worked alongside Westminster Council, Single Homeless Project, and the Women's Development Unit on a pilot project to improve how women are 'verified' as rough sleeping. The pilot will begin in 23-24 and will improve the data collected on this cohort of women. We have collaborated with Westminster Council and Respect to create a perpetrator specialist role, requested by several London Boroughs. Next year we will continue this work and begin work on our other two systems barriers: the criminal justice system and gender informed service standards.

5. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) was formed in 2014, in partnership with Housing Associations Gentoo Group Ltd and Peabody Housing. DAHA offers a comprehensive accreditation process for housing providers to improve individual organisation responses and promote engagement in a coordinated community response. A team of DAHA Regional Leads drive this work forward and we also offer bespoke training for the housing sector.

Since we moved to a membership model our principal aim has been to create a sustainable and professionalized membership offer, which has been achieved in part through increased team capacity. We are well on our way to achieving this.

Our DAHA team has 4 key external facing workstreams to meet our objectives: (1) Membership, (2) Accreditation & Assessment, (3) Training (4) Policy influencing.

DAHA Accreditation

Year two of our membership model has enabled us to continue our team growth as per our DAHA business plan. The business plan was developed, signed-off and monitored by the DAHA Board, which includes Peabody, Gentoo and Standing Together.

Our membership grew to 147, with 27 of these members accredited. The income from membership was £228,803, with an additional income of £161,540 from assessment fees. This represents over 100% increase from year one of membership. As planned for this stage in the business, the team is now solely funded through membership. We have increased fees and income for 23-24. Already in the first month of 23-24 we have surpassed the total for 22-23 so we are confident of the continued sustainability of this income-based funded team.

This year saw us develop our membership offer to include:

- Increased capacity of regional leads to provide more support to members.
- Monthly expert guest speaker webinars – designed and planned in response to what our members tell us they need/want. These are free for members and payable for non-

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members. They have had an average attendance of 90+. Income from these has covered speaker fees across the year.

- Monthly workshops – free to members, designed and delivered by the regional leads these are focused on the Priority Areas and aim to support the providers to embed the standards in the DAHA framework.
- More resources to support accreditation.

Membership Portal

We have invested this year in a Members Portal which will be an additional offer for all members. It will hold a library of resources and be a place where members can connect. It will also provide a much smoother membership sign-up mechanism which supports our aim to professionalise the programme. The portal will also host the new portfolio, a tool for members to upload their evidence against the standards.

Accreditation standards

We have supported our members through the transition to our new DAHA Accreditation Framework and have seen considerable success in the implementation of the new more rigorous standards. Our membership for 2022-23 reached 1.7 million households which is something to celebrate – we are reaching more survivors than ever.

We have completed the review of the DAHA accreditation assessment process and begun to implement this. The process moves away from an “inspectorate style” intense assessment that takes place over a week to an organic, more robust process that takes place over several weeks/months. This ensures that we can undertake activities that allow members to demonstrate that they meet the standards.

DAHA Regional Groups

We continue to facilitate and host nine regional groups with a total membership of well over 400 across England. These groups link with the DA Commissioner’s Office, the DAHA-led National Housing Policy & Practice Group and with the National Housing Federation.

Training

2023 has been an important year with the development of several training packages that are bespoke to housing providers and the different roles within housing. To increase capacity for further course development, we have employed a full-time trainer. She is now delivering 3-4 sessions per week and has led on the CPD accreditation of our courses. We have also trained and retained 6 associate trainers who will also deliver training sessions when required.

Training delivered by the housing team during the year, generated income of £46,516. We expect this to increase significantly for 2023-24 and we have an ambitious target of an income of £150,000 during 2023-24.

The demand for training has increased and we made the decision to have a full-time training coordinator (now in place for 2023-24). We have also invested in a training management system which will enable us to manage a higher volume of training requests and offer open courses – meeting the needs again of the sector. All these decisions were outlined within the DAHA Business Plan.

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Policy Work

Led by the Senior Housing Manager, our policy work has gone from strength to strength. The 'National Domestic Abuse and Housing Policy and Practice Group' continue to meet six weekly bringing together all key stakeholders from homelessness and VAWG sectors with an aim to ensure joint working across VAWG and housing sectors in response to upcoming and existing legislation. Current areas of policy focus for the national group include:

- Social Housing (Regulation) Bill and the new set of consumer standards for social housing providers
- Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Bill, and how regulation of exempt accommodation providers will impact survivors of domestic abuse and specialist refuges that are considered exempt accommodation.
- Renter's Reform Bill-the impact of changes to PRS protections and its impact on survivors of domestic abuse, particularly around anti-social behaviour and rent arrears, which disproportionately impact survivors of domestic abuse.
- Local connection and joint tenancies-ongoing discussions with government about these consultations and the government's response.
- Sex for rent consultation-working with national group partners to respond to the government consultation on sex for rent, which disproportionately impacts Black and minoritized survivors of domestic abuse, especially migrant women.
- Labour Manifesto-working with labour leaders in housing, homelessness, and domestic abuse to influence the Labour manifesto and accompanying strategies.

6. Whole Housing Approach Project

The [Whole Housing Approach](#) (WHA) was first conceptualised in 2018 by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) in collaboration with the DAHA-led National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group. The WHA endeavors to improve the housing options and outcomes for people experiencing domestic abuse so that they can achieve stable housing, live safely, and overcome their experiences of abuse.

We have 4 workstreams to deliver our work:

- Local coordination of Sanctuary, Flexible Funding and Housing Operational Group in the Bi-Borough and Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Whole Housing Approach Pilot in Cheshire East
- Private Rented Sector development work
- Restart Early Intervention and Accommodation Programme.

Local Coordination work in the Bi-Borough and Hammersmith and Fulham

Three Boroughs Housing Operational Group

The Domestic Abuse and Housing Operational Group (HOG) is led by STADA through the WHA Coordinator who works in partnership with local housing providers and services, to review and improve responses within their organisations. The HOG meetings take place on a quarterly basis, with four being held in 2022-23. The following areas were explored:

- Supporting survivors from Black and Minoritised backgrounds.
- Training on Polygamy delivered by HOG member MEWSO.
- Modern Slavery and Exploitation.

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- Part 4 of the domestic abuse act and how housing providers are implementing this.
- Implementing the VAWG/Housing Operational Group Action Plan across the three boroughs.

This year we developed guidance for local authorities on '[Developing Your Own Domestic Abuse and Housing Operational Group \(HOG\)](#)' which was launched through a webinar.

Sanctuary Scheme

The WHA Coordinator leads the Sanctuary Scheme in Hammersmith and Fulham. The Sanctuary Scheme is the provision of enhanced home security measures to enable survivors of domestic abuse to stay safe in their own home and prevent further harm and homelessness. The table below demonstrates how sanctuary scheme funding has been utilised:

Year	Total number of homes secured	Total cost for the year	Average cost per home	Total spent on Safe Room installation
2022/23	36	£15,917.72	£442.13	£2786.40 (1 property)

In 2022/23, the Whole Housing Coordinator continued facilitating a working group with Sanctuary leads from the three boroughs to address operational issues with the scheme.

Flexible Funding

The Whole Housing Coordinator continues to administer the Flexible Funding pot, in the London boroughs of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith. Flexible Funding is the provision of money to survivors of domestic abuse, in the form of multi-use vouchers and cash, so that survivors can use this money to meet their housing related needs in whatever way they need. Funds were mainly used for rental assistance, utility assistance, debt assistance, moving costs, employment assistance, essential furnishings, basic needs, childrens' needs and safety enhancements.

The following table shows the number of survivors supported by flexible funding the over the financial year April 2022 – March 2023:

	Total
Number of referrals received	53
Number of survivors supported	45
Number of children indirectly supported	54
Average number of working days from referral to payment	6
Average cost per referral	£437
How much allocated to date?	£15,645
Smallest amount allocated	£309
Largest amount allocated	£5,090

The following quotes are from survivors accessing the fund:

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Client 1: "I'm so thankful to Standing Together for giving me funding to purchase household items and the curtains I needed, I feel safer knowing people can't look into my flat and it gives me a sense of privacy inside my new home."

Client 2: "I was in constant fear but feel safer now with the doorbell and additional security installed."

Client 3: "I was struggling and worried about money, I can now buy food and clothes for myself and the children and I'm so happy."

Whole Housing Approach Pilot

We continue to deliver the three-year Whole Housing Approach pilot project, funded by The National Lottery, to implement all the components of the Whole Housing Approach in one local authority area, which is Cheshire East.

Our key achievements this year for the pilot include:

- Bringing together local partners to monitor the progress of our WHA work through the WHA Steering Group, WHA Operational Group, WHA Sanctuary Scheme Steering Group and weekly partnership group.
- Commenced implementation of the economic abuse and private ownership components through training and DHR support from Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA).
- Starting implementation of Managed Reciprocity with Safer London through training delivery.
- Building relationships with local 'By and For' services to embed an anti-racist and intersectional approach to the WHA.
- Developing an Experts by Experience Group to inform our pilot learnings and inform the development of the WHA Hub.
- Collecting our first set of data for TNL through developing effective monitoring and evaluation. Tools, and developed an evaluation framework and theory of change for the pilot.
- Organising a webinar for local housing associations in Cheshire East to encourage them to undertake DAHA membership and accreditation.

Private Rented Sector Work

Our PRS Lead continues to engage with the PRS and domestic abuse sectors to focus on effectively supporting survivors experiencing the PRS. Key achievements include:

- Developing guidance for block managers on recognising and responding to domestic abuse.
- Delivering training and guidance to domestic abuse services on supporting survivors in the PRS.
- Developing an accreditation framework for local authority PRS teams to support survivors in the PRS, which is a part of wider local authority DAHA accreditation.
- Leading on policy and influencing work on the upcoming Renters Reform Bill, including working with National Group partners to develop policy briefings such as on the [links between domestic abuse and anti-social behavior](#).

Restart: Early Intervention and Accommodation Pilot

We continue working with the DRIVE partnership to jointly deliver the Restart Programme and provide Strategic Housing Support. Through this project we have provided housing support and advice to lead

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support partner Cranstoun, as well as supporting with the interim evaluation report, led by Social Finance. This project has provided us with vital learnings to inform future perpetrator and housing work.

B. Educating agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic violence

Standing Together carries out a variety of activities to fulfil its educative role, all with the aim of improving practice amongst helping agencies. This in turn benefits survivors in terms of access to services, the improved skills and awareness of the professionals who deal with them, the consistency of the standards applied by agencies and the safe options available to them and to their children.

Events

The Blooming Strong Campaign was created by us in 2014, it is the way we engage with partners to mark November 25th as the UN Day for the elimination of violence against women and as part of our 16 days of activism. We had a new charity partner this year Page and Bloom their ethos of employing domestic abuse survivors to make beautiful flowers from recycled books and sheet music fitted our priorities perfectly. We had 61 nominations this year and each nominated woman was sent a flower made from the sheet music of I am Woman by Helen Reddy. And note saying why we thought she was 'Blooming Strong'

At our event this year we invited our new Charity Partner Page and Bloom to talk about their work and also Meena Kumari who has been working to support agencies with their anti-racism work in the VAWG sector as our inspiring women to chat with over coffee. As always the event was very well attended.



CCR Network and Leaders Course

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Leaders Course aims to increase the skills and expertise of professionals, including statutory commissioners and policy makers, who are responsible for leading and coordinating responses to domestic abuse (DA) and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Currently, job descriptions and levels of skills and influence differ vastly, and there is no standard training that focuses on strengthening competencies and skills to support the role of DA Strategic Coordination. The CCR Leaders course addresses this gap. Crucially this course provides a space for strategic leads, commissioners and policy officers with responsibility for DA/VAWG to connect, share best practice and learning.

Following the successful delivery of this pilot course in 2017/2018 and 2020/21 due to increasing demand from local authorities, STADA our last course through February - April 2022, with the assessment taking place in May 22. Of the 15 learners that took the course 13 submitted their work for assessment and all successfully passed.

We have struggled with capacity this year but managed to maintain the CCR network and shared

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newsletters updating members of emerging practice and opportunities to learn through webinars. Next year we will invest in this team so that we can offer a more comprehensive and responsive service to help extend the CCR Network.

4. Strategic Influence

Standing Together serves on the following boards, panels, working groups and networks, sharing experience and expertise to our mutual benefit with:

- Chair the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group
- External Consultation Group of the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service Scrutiny and Involvement Panel, Crown Prosecution Service
- London Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel, London Areas, Crown Prosecution Service
- The London Mayor's Expert Group on Violence Against Women and Girls
- The Department of Health group developing a domestic violence pathway for Health
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- Home Office VAWG Stakeholders Group
- CBS Coalition Hub
- Victims' Voice Forum
- Local Authority VAWG Boards
- Parliamentary Roundtable sessions and consultations
- Parliamentary events
- Specialist sector networking events
- European partnership groups and forums
- London Councils
- Sector specific groups and forums

Standing together CEO and staff speak at numerous international, national, regional and local conferences about our strategic and operational approach to the coordinated community response and often particular aspects of work. CEO and key staff members work closely with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office and attend parliamentary events to influence and remain up to date with policy developments, contributing to addressing gaps in knowledge and service provision. They also work with local authority partners to disseminate policy thinking, ensure strategic oversight and associated operational practice both informs policy at government level, but also keeps pace with policy changes.

5. Financial Review

Overview

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023, Standing Together reported a deficit of £100k compared to a net surplus of £754k in year ended 31 March 2022. This is due to the delay in expenditure on activities in respect of restricted funding projects in the year ending 31st March 2022.

The Charity's work in Year 2022-2023 continued along the Charity's set objectives and the strategically

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planned paths of making a difference in raising awareness and making changes to the response to domestic violence. This was in view of financial uncertainty, operational and organisational disruption as the effects of rising global inflation and increase in living cost following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. This will require exceptional interventions and measures to protect the organisation's financial position. As a charity, Standing Together have assessed the risks faced by the charity and have formulated plans to protect its current and future operating reserves to mitigate risks and to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Financial Results

Standing Together entered the financial year in a strong position with an increase in general reserves from £989k to £1,185k at the end of year 2022-2023, with a well-diversified funding stream from local authorities, central government, NHS, trust foundations, consultancy work and training. The charity receives most of its funding in the form of restricted grants to support specific projects.

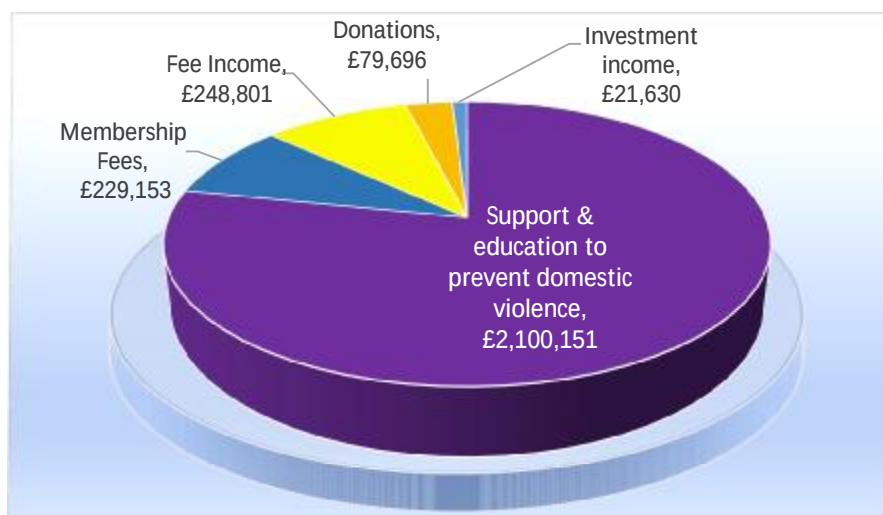
The income and expenditure accounts showed incoming resources for the year of £2.6m (2022: £2.9m) and expenditure of £2.7m (2022: £2.1m). The total reserves at the end of the year was £1.4m (2022: £1.5m) of which £270k (2022: 566K) is restricted for specific purposes and £1,185k (2022: £989k) is unrestricted which is available for general purposes decided by the charity. Of the unrestricted funds, £562k (2022: £559k) has been designated/earmarked for contractual liabilities, leaving a balance of £623k (2022: £430k) as general/free reserves.

The overall financial plans are driven by its financial strategy including assumptions set out in budgets to establish the amount of income required to cover staff and operational costs in fulfilling Standing Together's plans and purpose.

The Chief Executive concentrates on local and national opportunities along with the team through shared visions, goals and policies to strengthen our position with existing contracts and future proposals to extend our work around domestic abuse. The committed Senior Leadership Team and staff collectively work together to ensure the operational existence of the charity for the foreseeable future. We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Principal Funding Sources: £2,679,432

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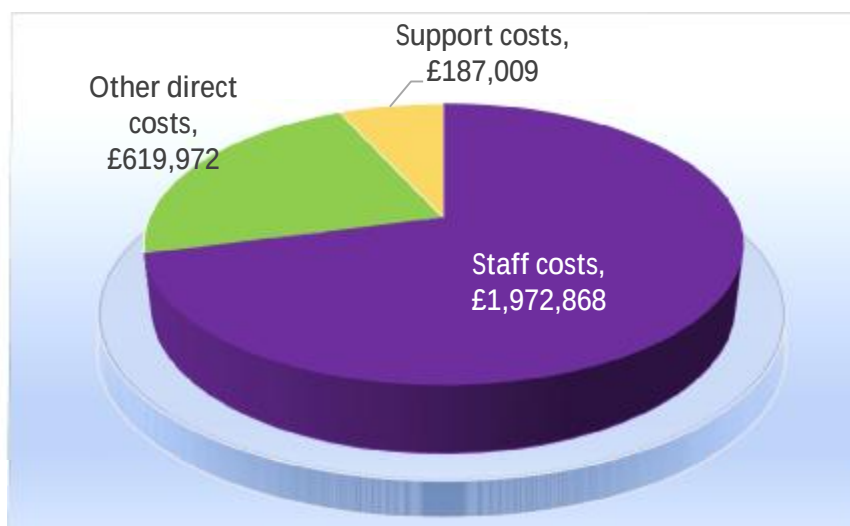
Included in fee income of £248,801 is £162k DAHA assessment fees, £61k training and £26k consultancy fees

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations and support we receive from individuals and organisations. The donations totaling £10k this year are a valuable contribution towards the Charity's objective to alleviate domestic abuse.

Benefits In Kind

We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest and skills. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Charitable Expenditure: £2,779,849



Total charitable expenditure amounted to £2,774,850 which consisted of staff cost of £1,973,079

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accounting for 71% of total costs. Support cost of £187,806, representing 7% includes information technology support (IT), other professional fees, office and premise costs. Other direct costs of £618,965 include expenditure on consultant fees, onward cost to partners and general overheads/operational costs representing 22% of total costs.

Investments

The Finance Committee has considered options to place money in investment funds with the aim of achieving increase in financial returns. Although this would be an opportunity to improve general reserves, after much thought it was deemed that the level of risk involved far outweighed the benefits. Most funds received by the charity are expended in the short term and need to be available at short notice.

In the best interest of the charity and looking at the impact on the running of the organisation, the decision was made to invest funds in fixed short term deposit accounts on the Flagstone Investment Platform online. This provided flexibility whereby funds are spread across several bank accounts offering different terms and rates of interest. To manage the level of risk, the maximum of £85k is deposited in individual banking institution, protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) if a financial institution goes out of business.

The level of funds to invest on the Platform is reviewed by the Finance Committee and governed by investment policies and monitoring of the cashflows on a quarterly basis.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in consideration of the main risks to the organisation, which has identified the need for a robust financial planning and a clearer understanding of the necessity for reserves and liquidity. The Trustees recognise that it must manage its affairs to ensure that the level of reserves and associated cash balances remain sufficient such that Standing Together will continue to operate on a sustainable basis.

Taking into account the overall current grant position, the reserve represents the minimum level of funds required to protect Standing Together from the potential financial impact of known/unknown business risks. In the event of Standing Together facing difficult financial circumstances these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Having assessed the current risks, the Trustees have established a policy to increase the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity. Trustees have decided that, after an allowance for future income expectations, Standing Together should maintain cash and realisable assets sufficient to fund three months of operational expenditure, taking into account the future use of reserves in line with its charitable objectives. This policy allows trustees to meet their obligations under the Companies Act and to comply with Charity Commission guidance.

Total unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2023 was £1.1m (2022: £989k), which includes £562k (2022: £559k) allocated to designated reserve and £623k (2022: £430k) available as free reserve.

Plans for the Future

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Each year, Standing Together Staff and Trustees meet to review our objectives and priorities for achieving our charitable aims.

In 2022-23 Standing Together set out to:

- Develop our work in relation to impact measurement, data capture and building a robust evidence base.
- Develop our reach and impact via all forms of media and IT
- Continue to develop our work in influencing and policy at local and central government levels
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health-based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and influence the DH.
- Roll out the CCR Leaders course along with a more robust training and membership package
- Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work, housing, health, faith and communities program, harmful practices, MARAC and community based settings.
- Review and reinforce governance protocols and financial management processes to ensure ongoing sustainability, financial resilience and effective management of the organisation.

ST has achieved this and more by expanding the scope of our work in relation to community, housing and health based work. We are seeking to set clear benchmarks on the practices and services that should be core to the coordinated community response. We will further all of these aims developing, delivering and evaluating best practice models and toolkits to underpin our strategic aims and strengths within the sector.

6. Conclusion

Standing Together continue to promote the Coordinated Community Response as a framework by which we organise, plan and prioritise our work. Year on year, we build a more robust program of work locally and nationally to both undertake and model the breadth of systemic work that is required to promote safety for survivors of domestic abuse and to hold perpetrators to account. Our challenge has always been to maintain the partnership work that we do in central London while promoting the best of what we are learning to our wider national networks. In spite of economic challenges, Standing Together has remained financially resilient and has strengthened partnership networks to ensure a cohesive framework of support and to ensure our services remain aligned with their needs. The growth of the organisation is based on continual review and assessment of our internal resources and structures that underpin our work but also the strength of our partnerships and external relationships. Our national networks such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, DHRs, Health and Criminal Justice based activities serve to maintain and enhance our opportunities, mitigating risks and challenges. We continue to build on a robust platform of experience and expertise firmly grounded and the principles and components of the coordinated community response which remains the foundation stone for all we do and how we develop.

7. Impact of Coronavirus

The pandemic continues to impact the increase in demand on services and Standing Together continues to monitor the situation. As an organisation, we continually work to ensure strategic and financial resilience, ongoing assessment of potential risks and new ways of working.

8. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law and the law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- o Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- o Observe the methods and principles of The Charities Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- o Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- o State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures
- o Disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- o Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

- The Trustees confirm that, in the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the date of this report, the following applies:
- So far as each Trustee is aware there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- Each Trustee has taken all the steps necessary to make herself/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Relationship with Funders

- No Trustee had any relationship with any of the main funders except as a Trustee of Standing Together

In so far as the Management Committee is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The Management Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2023

information.

This Report is agreed and signed at the AGM by the Chair of Standing Together, on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 20 November 2023



Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Standing Together against Domestic Abuse (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement in the Trustees' Report, 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

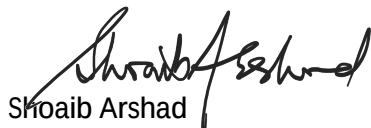
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) applicable to smaller entities and the Companies Act 2006.
- We understood how the charitable company is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the charity's documented policies and procedures. The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override and allocation of costs to charitable activities and restricted funds.
- Our approach was to check that the income from grants, donations and fee were properly identified and accurately disclosed, that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. We also reviewed major journal adjustments along with unusual transactions and considered the identification and disclosure of related party transactions.

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

Use of our report

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



Shoaib Arshad

(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:

Knox Cropper LLP

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors 65 Leadenhall Street
London EC3A 2AD

__ 7 December __ 2023

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total Funds</i>
	Note	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	79,696	-	79,696	165,495	-	165,495
Charitable activities	4	943,641	1,634,465	2,578,106	1,195,234	1,537,826	2,733,060
Investments	3	21,630	-	21,630	1,840	-	1,840
TOTAL INCOME		<u>£ 1,044,967</u>	<u>£ 1,634,465</u>	<u>£ 2,679,432</u>	<u>£ 1,362,569</u>	<u>£ 1,537,826</u>	<u>£ 2,900,395</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable activities	5	(849,659)	(1,930,190)	(2,779,849)	(851,317)	(1,294,806)	(2,146,123)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>(849,659)</u>	<u>(1,930,190)</u>	<u>(2,779,849)</u>	<u>(851,317)</u>	<u>(1,294,806)</u>	<u>(2,146,123)</u>
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		195,308	(295,725)	(100,417)	511,252	243,020	754,272
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 1 APRIL		989,544	565,930	1,555,474	478,292	322,910	801,202
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31 MARCH		<u>£ 1,184,852</u>	<u>£ 270,205</u>	<u>£ 1,455,057</u>	<u>£ 989,544</u>	<u>£ 565,930</u>	<u>£ 1,555,474</u>

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. None of the Charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March 2023 (Registered Company No. 04283131)

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment	10	1,122	2,243
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	424,619	565,839
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,501,189</u>	<u>1,491,307</u>
		1,925,808	2,057,146
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(471,873)	(503,916)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,453,935</u>	<u>1,553,230</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,455,057	1,555,474
NET ASSETS		<u>1,455,057</u>	<u>1,555,474</u>
		£	£
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds	14	562,266	559,060
General fund	14	<u>622,586</u>	<u>430,484</u>
		1,184,852	989,544
Restricted Funds	14	<u>270,205</u>	<u>565,930</u>
		<u>1,455,057</u>	<u>1,555,474</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Board of Trustees on 20 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by: -



Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022	
Cash flows from operating activities	£	£	
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	(100,417)	754,272	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	1,121	1,121	
(Decrease)/increase in Debtors	141,220	(210,986)	
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(32,043)	(110,761)	
Investment income	(21,630)	(1,840)	
	<u>(11,749)</u>	<u>431,806</u>	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Returns on investment – interest receivable	21,630	1,840	
	<u>9,881</u>	<u>433,646</u>	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			
	<u>9,881</u>	<u>433,646</u>	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1st April	1,491,307	1,057,661	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st March	<u>£ 1,501,188</u>	<u>1,491,307</u>	
Components of cash and cash equivalents			
	Balance at 1	Cashflow	Balance at 1
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£ 1,491,307</u>	<u>£ 9,881</u>	<u>£ 1,501,188</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Company status

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements and outlined in the Trustee report. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the note 14.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) which the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the amount will be received, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donation received are deferred when conditions are attached, for example when they relate to a specific future period.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately to the direct staff costs allocated to the activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised and stated at cost less depreciation.

Furniture and equipment

5 years on straight line

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pensions

The company is part of a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations	79,696	-	79,696	165,495	-	165,495
	<u>£ 79,696</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 79,696</u>	<u>£ 165,495</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 165,495</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Interest receivable from Bank interest	21,630	-	21,630	1,840	-	1,840
	<u>£ 21,630</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 21,630</u>	<u>£ 1,840</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 1,840</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Grants & contracts for services:						
Support & education to prevent domestic violence	465,686	1,634,465	2,100,151	700,936	1,537,826	2,238,762
Membership fees	229,153	-	229,153	97,228	-	97,228
Fee income	248,802	-	248,802	397,070	-	397,070
	<u>£ 943,641</u>	<u>£ 1,634,465</u>	<u>£ 2,578,106</u>	<u>£ 1,195,234</u>	<u>£ 1,537,826</u>	<u>£ 2,733,060</u>

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of grants & contracts for services

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Birmingham City Council	-	-	-	-	37,440	37,440
Calypso Browning	4,036	-	4,036	132,571	-	132,571
Chelwest NHS	-	51,500	51,500	-	50,250	50,250
City Bridge Trust	-	65,387	65,387	-	60,000	60,000
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	-	-	-	-	5,380	5,380
Comic Relief - Whole Health	-	-	-	-	62,265	62,265
DCMS - CJ Mentor Courts	-	476,960	476,960	-	442,100	442,100
Domestic Homicide Reviews	131,066	-	131,066	173,333	-	173,333
Ealing Council	55,655	-	55,655	55,655	-	55,655
Erasmus (EU)	-	-	-	-	12,842	12,842
Esmee Fairburn	-	116,030	116,030	-	-	-
Firebird	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
GLA	-	111,513	111,513	-	204,759	204,759
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	66,000	-	66,000	66,000
Haringey Council	49,928	-	49,928	49,855	-	49,855
Home Office - Drive Project	-	25,615	25,615	34,840	-	34,840
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	25,182	25,182	-	25,182	25,182
Home Office - Health Initiative	-	143,658	143,658	-	-	-
Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	4,245	-	4,245
LBoF Hammersmith & Fulham	-	51,000	51,000	-	61,000	61,000
London Councils	-	-	-	-	73,497	73,497
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	89,427	89,427	-	32,490	32,490
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	-	30,000	30,000	-	20,000	20,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	150,309	150,309	-	99,871	99,871
NHS Trust Development	-	-	-	-	64,000	64,000
Oak Foundation	-	115,500	115,500	-	115,500	115,500
Southall Black Sisters Project	-	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
Swiss Philanthropy	-	12,500	12,500	-	-	-
Treebeard Trust	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Tri Borough Funding	205,001	-	205,001	250,437	-	250,437
Vivid Homes	-	-	-	-	43,000	43,000
Westminster City Council	-	103,884	103,884	-	41,250	41,250
£	465,686	£ 1,634,465	£ 2,100,151	£ 700,936	£ 1,537,826	£ 2,238,762

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

5a. Cost of charitable activities (current year as at 31st March 2023)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2023 £
Projects:				
Community	182,287	62,519	14,221	259,027
Criminal Justice	349,509	224,919	42,236	616,664
DHRs	108,070	57,118	4,594	169,782
Health	309,433	44,293	37,558	391,284
Housing & Homelessness	665,891	174,341	41,381	881,613
MARAC	274,744	5,987	8,450	289,181
Training	18,613	17,619	6,753	42,985
Other charitable projects	64,321	33,176	31,816	129,313
Total as at 31 March 2023	<u>£ 1,972,868</u>	<u>£ 619,972</u>	<u>£ 187,009</u>	<u>£ 2,779,849</u>

5b. Cost of charitable activities (prior year as at 31st March 2022)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £
Projects:				
Community	129,336	29,007	13,291	171,634
Criminal Justice	254,458	146,333	34,376	435,167
DHRs	79,301	77,964	1,057	158,322
Health	173,069	34,048	18,352	225,469
Housing & Homelessness	431,137	99,977	26,234	557,348
MARAC	245,095	3,636	7,058	255,789
Training	20,928	32,621	2,516	56,065
Other charitable projects	113,640	143,240	29,449	286,329
Total as at 31 March 2022	<u>£ 1,446,964</u>	<u>£ 566,826</u>	<u>£ 132,333</u>	<u>£ 2,146,123</u>

Resources expended include:

2023

2022

Auditors' remuneration:

£ 5,350

£ 6,000

Details of resources expended are given in notes 6, 7 and 8

6. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Partner and stakeholder costs (see note 6a)	194,549	177,133
Consultancy and Domestic Homicide Review Associate costs	133,319	207,575
Training and learning services	12,250	82,253
External evaluation	8,337	10,000
Other direct costs	271,517	89,864
	<u>£ 619,972</u>	<u>£ 566,825</u>

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

6a. Payments to Partners and Stakeholders:

	2023 £	2022 £
(ii) Homeless Link	-	38,000
(i) Tampon Tax	-	139,133
Total partners and stakeholder costs	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 177,133</u>

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Premises and Office costs	143,987	102,164
Communication & IT	21,058	16,154
Legal & professional fees	16,616	8,015
Auditor's fee	5,350	6,000
	<u>£ 187,011</u>	<u>£ 132,333</u>

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Gross salaries	1,630,265	1,240,267
Social security	160,830	95,791
Pension costs	55,158	43,128
Other staff costs	126,616	67,779
	<u>£ 1,972,869</u>	<u>£ 1,446,965</u>

The average weekly number of employees calculated as full time equivalents during the period was:

	Number	Number
Key Management Team	1.5	2
Communities project	3.7	1.5
Criminal Justice project	5.2	2.6
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	3.9	2
Health	9.6	5.1
Housing & Homelessness	15.7	8.4
MARAC	6.4	8
Other Projects	3	2
	<u>49</u>	<u>31.6</u>

The average number of employees (head counts) during the period was:

<u>49</u>	<u>31.6</u>

One employee (2022: One) received remuneration of more than £60,000; between £60,001 to £70,000.

During the year, key management received an aggregate salary and benefits of £105,768 (2022: £125,674)

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year, no members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration (2022 : £NIL) No members of the Board of Trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2022 : £NIL)

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

10. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	5,607	5,607
At 31 March 2023	5,607	5,607
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	3,365	3,365
Charge for the year	1,121	1,121
At 31 March 2023	4,486	4,486
Net book value		
At 31 March 2022	£ 2,244	£ 2,244
At 31 March 2023	£ 1,121	£ 1,121

11. DEBTORS

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	163,535	237,229
Prepayments	5,493	18,964
Accrued income	239,323	293,160
Other debtors	16,267	16,486
	£ 424,618	£ 565,839

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Due within one year		
Deferred income	137,029	174,035
VAT creditors	63,055	57,339
Social security and other taxes	44,345	7,191
Trade Creditors	353	90,376
Accruals & creditors	227,091	174,975
	£ 471,873	£ 503,916

13. TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and therefore is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available, to registered charities.

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

14a Statement of Funds (current year as at 31 March 2023)

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Transfers and Resources Expended £	Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	557,652	-	-	3,206	560,858
DVCN Funds	1,408	-	-	-	1,408
Total as at 31 March 2023	£ 559,060	£ -	£ -	£ 3,206	£ 562,266

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

RESTRICTED FUNDS	£	£	£	£	£
Birmingham City Council	28,723	-	(28,723)	-	-
Chelwest NHS	1,479	51,500	(50,358)	-	2,621
City Bridge Trust	15,594	65,387	(61,389)	-	19,592
Comic Relief - Whole Health	9,650	-	(9,650)	-	-
DCMS - CJ Mentor Courts	44,411	476,960	(521,371)	-	-
Erasmus (EU)	1,346	-	(1,346)	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	-	116,030	(71,136)	-	44,894
GLA	106,983	111,513	(206,347)	-	12,149
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	5,476	66,000	(61,274)	-	10,202
Home Office - Drive Project	25,922	25,615	(51,537)	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	5,657	25,182	(17,848)	-	12,991
Home Office - Health Initiative	-	143,658	(143,658)	-	-
Inner London Magistrates Courts	4,264	-	(1,153)	-	3,111
LBoF Hammersmith & Fulham	27,429	51,000	(68,478)	-	9,951
London Councils	8,337	-	(8,337)	-	-
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	89,427	(89,427)	-	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	28,078	-	-	-	28,078
GLA – Whole Housing Approach	-	30,000	(13,675)	-	16,325
National Lottery Community Fund	61,113	150,309	(211,422)	-	-
NHS Trust Development	47,926	-	(47,926)	-	-
Oak Foundation	69,905	115,500	(101,808)	-	83,597
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	12,158	-	(12,158)	-	-
Swiss Philanthropy	-	12,500	(3,556)	-	8,944
Treebeard Trust	13,092	-	(13,092)	-	-
Tri Borough Funding	20,068	-	(20,068)	-	-
Vivid Homes	23,795	-	(23,795)	-	-
Westminster City Council	4,524	103,884	(90,658)	-	17,750
Total as at 31 March 2023	£ 565,930	£ 1,634,465	£ (1,930,190)	£ -	£ 270,205

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
Designated Funds	559,060	-	-	3,206	562,266
General Funds	430,484	1,044,967	(849,659)	(3,206)	622,586
	989,544	1,044,967	(849,659)	-	1,184,855
Restricted Funds	565,930	1,634,465	(1,930,190)	-	270,205
Total as at 31 March 2023	£ 1,555,474	£ 2,679,432	£ (2,779,849)	£ -	£ 1,455,060

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

14b Statement of Funds (prior year as at 31 March 2022)

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	350,215	-	-	207,437	557,652
DVCN Funds	1,428	-	(20)	-	1,408
Total as at 31 March 2022	£ 351,643	£ -	£ -	£ 207,437	£ 559,060

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Birmingham City Council	-	37,440	(8,717)	-	28,723
Calypso Browning	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Chelwest NHS	-	50,250	(48,771)	-	1,479
City Bridge Trust	7,436	60,000	(51,842)	-	15,594
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	6,767	5,380	(12,147)	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Health	-	62,265	(52,615)	-	9,650
DCMS - CJ Mentor Courts	-	442,100	(397,689)	-	44,411
Erasmus (EU)	47	12,842	(11,543)	-	1,346
GLA	-	204,759	(97,776)	-	106,983
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	4,580	66,000	(65,104)	-	5,476
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	25,182	(19,525)	-	5,657
Homeless Link	18,616	-	(18,616)	-	-
Inner London Magistrates Courts	4,928	-	(664)	-	4,264
LBoF Hammersmith & Fulham	13,799	61,000	(47,370)	-	27,429
London Councils	3,977	73,497	(69,137)	-	8,337
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	32,490	(32,490)	-	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	28,078	-	-	-	28,078
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	124,424	-	(124,424)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	26,368	99,871	(65,126)	-	61,113
NHS Trust Development	-	64,000	(16,074)	-	47,926
Oak Foundation	54,672	115,500	(100,267)	-	69,905
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	12,158	-	-	-	12,158
Southall Black Sisters Project	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(1,908)	-	13,092
Tri Borough Funding	2,160	-	17,908	-	20,068
Vivid Homes	-	43,000	(19,205)	-	23,795
Westminster City Council	-	41,250	(36,726)	-	4,524
Winston Churchill Memorial	9,900	-	(9,900)	-	-
Total as at 31 March 2022	£ 322,910	£ 1,537,826	£ (1,294,806)	£ -	£ 565,930

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2023

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
Designated Funds	351,643	-	(20)	207,437	559,060
General Funds	126,649	1,362,569	(851,297)	(207,437)	430,484
	478,292	1,362,569	(851,317)	-	989,544
Restricted Funds	322,910	1,537,826	(1,294,806)	-	565,930
Total as at 31 March 2022	<u>£ 801,202</u>	<u>£ 2,900,395</u>	<u>£ (2,146,123)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 1,555,474</u>

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

15a. Analysis of net assets between funds (current year as at 31 March 2023)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	1,122	-	1,122
Net Current assets	562,266	621,464	270,205	1,453,935
Total as at 31 March 2023	<u>£ 562,266</u>	<u>£ 622,586</u>	<u>£ 270,205</u>	<u>£ 1,455,057</u>

15b. Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year as at 31 March 2022)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	2,243	-	2,243
Net Current assets	559,060	428,241	565,930	1,553,231
Total as at 31 March 2022	<u>£ 559,060</u>	<u>£ 430,484</u>	<u>£ 565,930</u>	<u>£ 1,555,474</u>

16. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2023 the Company had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for land and buildings) as set out below:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Operating leases which expire: within one year	45,954	45,403
	<u>£ 45,954</u>	<u>£ 45,403</u>

The cost of operating lease during the year was as follows:
Office lease charges for the year

	<u>£ 45,954</u>	<u>£ 45,403</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

17. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Pension costs in note 8 relate to payments made to a defined contribution scheme. The charitable company's liability is limited to making the payments due to scheme on timely basis. The liability as at 31 March 2023 is £13,512 (2022: £10,240)

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

There were no related party transactions, other than those disclosed in note 8 and 9.

19. SECTION 37 STATEMENT

Grant aid from London Councils ended as at 31st March 2022. The purpose of the grant is to introduce and adopt established set of standards and an accreditation process in response to domestic abuse within the housing sector.

The following table illustrates what money was awarded and that it has been used for these purposes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Grant Awarded	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 78,977</u>
Costs		
Staff Costs	-	51,323
Other Direct Costs	-	12,837
Rent	-	2,000
Running costs	-	2,977
Total Costs	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 69,137</u>
Underspent in the year	-	9,840
Underspent from last year	-	3,977
Total underspend at the year end	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 13,817</u>

There was a total underspend of nil (2022: £9,840 which included underspend on staff costs of £3,677, travel expenses of £3,725 and material development cost of £2,438). A balance of £8,336 was paid to London Councils, after the deduction of £5,481 which was payable once the final reporting was submitted to London Councils.

Accounts



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

**Company limited by guarantee No. 04283131
Registered Charity No. 1088844**

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2022

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY
TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Board of Trustees

K Patel	Chair
E Elkington (resigned 23/02/22)	
F Endersby (resigned 20/10/21)	
C. Griffin	Vice Chair
M Hill (appointed 29/07/21)	
T Miller (nee Joseph) (appointed 29/07/21)	
M Latif (appointed 29/07/21)	
A Patel (appointed 27/07/21)	
L. Payne	
P Price	Treasurer
A Smith (appointed 29/07/21)	
K Vernau (appointed 29/07/21)	

Company Registration No: 04283131

Charity Registration No: 1088844

Registered Office: The Polish Centre
Room 44D, 4th Floor
238 – 246 King Street
London
W6 0RF

Auditors: Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

FOREWORD

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in Standing Together (ST). Our Trustees and staff team are proud of the pioneering work of our organisation does to embed a coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic abuse in the UK. We remain inspired by the ambition of our founders over twenty years ago. Establishing ST as an independent charity makes us unique in the whole of the country. We are proud of the broad, multi level range of work that we do to address and eradicate domestic abuse across so many different specialist areas. We are working in community-based settings, the criminal justice system and in a range of housing and health settings. We are also integral to the strategic and operational response to domestic abuse in five London boroughs, in particular the LB of Hammersmith & Bi-borough of Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. We are increasingly sharing our approach to the coordinated community response in a number of national programmes such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, Health, Faith and Communities, MARACs and in our Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) work. We are very proud of the partnerships in these areas and are privileged to work alongside so many ambitious and talented charities, services and community groups enabling meaningful impact and outcomes.

The organisation continues to face the challenges that so many charities have encountered in re-establishing face-to-face communication and services towards the end of the pandemic. The lockdowns created the perfect storm for those experiencing domestic abuse and services in this sector have worked hard to meet the exponential growth in demand. Standing Together have managed to continue operations to ensure services remain effective and robust enough to maintain provision, which is a reflection on the dedication, commitment and array of skills demonstrated by our staff teams, as well as the support and resilience of our many partners and communities.

We are pleased that our annual audit highlights our sound management of Standing Together. We would very much like to thank the Standing Together trustees, the staff team, our partners and all of those who have supported our work this year.

Sincerely,

 <i>Kruti Patel</i> Signed on 16/12/22 @ 09:03	 <i>A J Kilvington</i> Signed on 16/12/22 @ 09:30

Kruti Patel
Chair of Board of Trustees

Andrea Kilvington
Chief Executive

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, and trustees for charity law purposes, present their combined directors' and trustees' annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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). The Company has taken advantage of the exemptions available to smaller entities.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6th September 2001 and registered as a charity in October 2001. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up trustees are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's articles are known as members of the management committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. On 21st November 2021 Kruti Patel, Cynthia Griffin, Lorna Payne and Pat Price were re-appointed to remain as Trustees.

The Chair along with selected members of the Board and CEO are responsible for recruiting members of the Board of Trustees. Membership of the Board is reviewed annually to ensure that the broadest interests served by Standing Together are represented. Members are sought who have experience and influence in their field and are most appropriate to promote the success of the Charity. They bring great abilities to bear on their role and in the various offices they hold on the Board. Their roles as Trustees include human resources; implementation of equal opportunities; financial management, education and equalities, criminal justice, legal expertise, a strategic overview of fundraising and strategic planning.

Each year a planning and review day is held with trustees. It was recommended that to exercise best practice and in line with Charity Governance Code Commission guidelines, that Trustees with 9 years or more service would be replaced

At the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd November 2021, Fiona Endersby and Elaine Elkington resigned respectively on 20th October 2021 and 23rd February 2022. During the year Michelle Hill, Mohammed Latif, Tracey Miller, Anisha Patel, Anne Smith and Kim Vernau were recruited to the Board of Trustees on 29th July 2021.

All trustees receive letters and contracts confirming appointment, including a pack of key documents containing governing documents and information on the organisation, their role and responsibilities. As part of their induction, Trustees are briefed on their duties and meet with line managers who outlined their specific projects. To support them in their roles each Trustee are offered a "Buddy", an existing board member who can mentor them through the first few months. Information on training for management committee members and trustees of charities is also offered to new trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

All Trustees have signed (a) a Declaration of Eligibility (b) Conflicts of Interest and Register of Interests and (c) a contract between Trustees and Standing Together and this is reviewed at each Trustee meeting. Trustees do not receive remuneration or derive any other personal benefit from the activities of the charity.

Management of the Charity

Standing Together is managed by this highly committed Board of Trustees which meets every quarter. The Board retains a core of founder members and has maintained membership at nine to twelve elected members since registration in 2001. The principle remains that this structure safeguards that there is the appropriate expertise and skills on board to ensure that the charity is run in accordance with standard organisation practice, that ensure that activities undertaken are in line with the charitable objectives and aims of Standing Together.

The Board has fulfilled its role this year in being responsible for the strategic direction and the sound financial health of the company and for ensuring that the activities of the company meet its charitable objectives. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Chief Executive of Standing Together has overall responsibility for the running of the organisation and delivery of Standing Together's strategy, its development and achievements reporting directly to the Board, supported in financial matters by the Finance & Governance Manager and in operational matters by the Partnership Manager and the wider management team. The salary for key management is decided by the Trustees taking into account the skills and experience required, the management responsibilities, the overall budget constraints and a view of what is appropriate as compared to similar roles in the sector in which we work. The level of salary bands was reviewed in the year by an independent human resource consultant, which was presented in a pay policy to the Board and approved on 28th April 2022.

Financial Management

Standing Together has policies and procedures in place to carry out good financial management and clear audit trails to ensure that there is sufficient funds to maintain core services in the short and long term.

The Board of Trustees set up a Finance Committee which consist of Trustees Pat Price and Cynthia Griffin; plus Gudrun Helevuo-Burnet, CEO and Caron Bailey the Finance & Governance Manager. The Committee carries out detailed work on financial matters in connection with the budget, financial performance and funding of the organisation relating its findings at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Committee formally meets four times during the year.

Other policies and procedures include Finance Regulations; quarterly Finance Reports to Trustees; regular review of systems for supporting financial procedures; designated staff with clear roles & responsibilities and an Annual Audit.

In the up-and-coming financial year, the Finance Committee continues to focus on ways to increase the general reserves and monitoring the organisation's performance against contingency plans. There is ongoing dialogue as we progress through and conclude the level of adequate general reserve.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

It has been recommended that by promoting Standing Together's bespoke training and consultancy work, looking at alternative ways of fundraising and engaging in the support of philanthropist and champions these are key opportunities in adding to general reserve. The emphasis is on how the Charity is funded, the development of the overarching organizational strategy, fundraising strategy and business plan to meet challenges, demands and opportunities, a robust management structure to support our ambitions.

Risk Management

Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity. Risks are considered in light of their likelihood and potential impact and the necessary steps to mitigate them. The risks are outlined in a risk register, which is updated at each Trustee meeting. It sets out the process that we use to identify and manage risks in all our activities.

Throughout the year the Trustees completed an overall review of the risk register whereby the Board considered:

- the high and significant risks to which Standing Together is exposed,
- the potential impact and probability associated with each risks,
- existing internal controls and accountability for them, and
- mitigating actions to reduce each risk to a level that is considered to be acceptable.

Securing future funding is the biggest risk for the charity and this challenge has been addressed in the Business Continuity Plan (2018-22). These are monitored by the Chief Executive and the Finance & Governance Manager, with the Finance Committee, and assessed annually by the full Board. Standing Together has succeeded in diversifying its sources of funding by obtaining additional income raised from social enterprise and fundraising events. This undesignated income has assisted the process of forward planning; the management of cash flow and enabled the organisation to maintain and develop its activities to advance its charitable objectives.

Standing Together is satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to possible major risks.

Health and Safety

Standing Together maintains a Health & Safety policy committed to reducing the risks of hazards in the organisation workplace, making sure that premises, resources and working practices meet recognized standards for quality, security and safety. The Finance & Governance Manager is a trained First Aid Officer and our designated Fire Marshals ensure compliance with the company's policy and the landlord's responsibilities towards the organisation, especially regarding fire, safety and security precautions.

To maintain staff well being we continue to offer in addition to monthly supervisions, regular clinical supervisions, which are delivered in a confidential manner to protect individuals' privacy. We have an independent qualified counsellor who acts as a point of contact for both staff and volunteers who are experiencing emotional distress.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2022

Premises

Standing Together has leased its offices from the Polish Centre since its formation and held a succession of leases with Polish Social and Cultural Association Ltd who run the Centre. The lease agreement expires on 31st March 2022 and has been renewed on an annual rolling basis. After reviewing the rent and looking at alternative premises it was decided to end the lease agreement on one of the offices due to staff working from home because of the COVID19 pandemic.

Data

All data protection processes and IT security systems are reviewed regularly for compliance with Standing Together's clear policies on privacy, confidentiality, protocols and procedures. We ensure that our agents, representatives, subcontractors and employees comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), (The Data Protection Act 2018) on processing and protecting personal data.

As a result of the COVID19 pandemic Standing Together has switched to an IT cloud database system. The security of the system is regularly managed by our expert IT provider through the implementation of encryption, password management and daily backups for the system and all devices. Protecting against data theft, leakage, corruption and deletion.

All new employees receive General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) online training as part of their onboarding with Standing Together. Existing employees complete GDPR refresher training at appropriate intervals..

Related Parties

Standing Together is an independent charity. In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, the charity works closely with other organisations and develops partnerships with voluntary and statutory bodies in support of local and national policies.

Standing Together supports the government's strategy to address 'Violence Against Women and Girls' and sits on the Home Office VAWG Stakeholder Group. ST also sits on the London Domestic Violence Coordinators Network at MOPAC and the MOPAC VAWG Expert Group, the ACPO Domestic Abuse Stakeholder meeting, the CPS External Consultation Group and the London Criminal Justice Board subgroup for Domestic Abuse. Standing Together coordinates the Domestic Violence Coordinators Network (DVCN) on behalf of their members.

The charity is a member of Women's Aid (England), a member of NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organisations) and of EVAW (End Violence Against Women Coalition) and benefits from the information and services they provide.

2. Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes

Standing Together's ambition is to promote a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic abuse. To that end, Standing Together has created a Theory of Change. (see Appendix 1 on page 44), to show how ST works to achieve its intermediate and longer-term outcomes. ST did this to:

Generate a shared understanding of aims and plans to achieve them.

Provide a simple and graphical description that will **help to communicate** about the aims of Standing Together.

Provide **clarity about what data and evidence** will be most important to collect as the organisation

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

looks towards setting up its measurement framework.

It serves as a basis for a **more persuasive argument** that Standing Together impacts the lives of survivors, statutory agencies and local communities and it will help prepare Standing Together for further income, resource management and investment modelling.

ST places these objectives at the heart of its work and continues to embed the Coordinated Community Response model within every area of work that the organisation is engaged in, using outcome measurement as clear evidence of its effectiveness.

Coordinated Community Response Defined

The Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse is a local, whole system approach to the issue.

Standing Together's Core Principles underpinning the CCR approach

- The only way to respond to the issue of domestic abuse is to work collaboratively through the CCR.
- Domestic abuse is caused by, and generates, gender inequality.
- Individual experiences of domestic abuse are influenced by gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, race, religion, marital status, immigration, socio-economic position and many other factors: responses must understand the differing needs and potential barriers of the local population and be flexible enough to account for this.
- The CCR enables a whole system response to a whole person, recognising the wellbeing and safety needs of victims and survivors, with communities and organisations working alongside them.
- Responsibility for safety should not rest solely with individual victims but also with the community and services.
- Perpetrators must be held to account for the harm they inflict and offered routes to change their abusive behaviors.
- A CCR supports organisational responses, it does not replace them: organisations remain responsible and accountable (to their own agencies and to the partnership) for their own responses to domestic abuse, within a context of multi-agency working.
- A CCR requires leadership, a shared understanding of domestic abuse and risk, and coordination.

Standing Together's CCR Approach

- We put the safety and needs of survivors (adults and children) at the heart of every CCR.
- We ensure that the voices of survivors and their advocates are integral to every CCR.
- We require CCRs cover the spectrum from primary prevention, to early intervention, to crisis responses, and the long-term recovery of survivors and behavior change of perpetrators.
- Our CCR acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic abuse.
- Our CCR addresses the diverse and intersecting backgrounds, identities and experiences and situations of survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR addresses adults, children and young people; survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR encompasses all organisations operating in an area (statutory, voluntary, community) plus individuals who live / work in the area, and informal groups / networks located there.
- We require that all local organisations have an equal place and voice in the CCR.
- Our CCR requires coordination, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and leadership.
- Our CCR is flexible and will evolve.
- We ensure that local organisations recognise that they are best placed to identify, and

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2022

develop, improvements to practice in developing a CCR - and we provide help to them to do this.

- We are committed to providing a consultative, learning and empowering approach to areas developing CCRs.

Standing Together's CCR Core Components

What every CCR will have, regardless of area or local structures; all components adhere to the principles listed above.

- All organisations have developed and agreed a **common purpose** and approach to domestic abuse including a stated commitment to the CCR.
- **Definitions of domestic abuse and risk** are agreed and shared by all statutory, voluntary and community organisations.
- A defined **structure/mechanism(s)** is in place for the **coordination, governance and monitoring** of the CCR to ensure **accountability** and to enable a flexible and evolving approach.
- An **action plan** is in place.
- Written **policies and procedures** are in place within every **organisation** covering their response to domestic abuse. Regular compulsory **training** at every level of the organisation supports these.
- Written **policies and procedures** are agreed covering **multi-agency** systems and working (including the MARAC and SDVC). Regular compulsory **training** supports these.
- An agreed **dataset** is in place and monitored on a regular basis.
- **Survivors' voices** (and the views of their advocates) are regularly sought, listened to and responded to.
- Adequately resourced **specialist services** are in place to respond to adults, children and young people: survivors and perpetrators.

In 2021-2022 we particularly set out to continue:

- Develop our work in relation to impact measurement.
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health based setting to achieve a coordinated community response which has resulted in the end of Pathfinder, a national programme of work in partnership with AVA, IMKAAN, IRISi and Safelives. The toolkit and evaluation of this project is due in year 2022 – 2023..
- Develop the first national accredited training (CCR Leaders) for those with strategic responsibilities for VAWG. Fundamental to this training curriculum was the concepts of the coordinated community response. This was done in partnership with Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and EU partners.
- We have maintained a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work in courts, housing, health, MARAC and faith and community based settings.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2022

3. Achievements and Performance

We report below on our achievements in meeting the aims of our charitable company.

A. Promoting the development of services to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence

The Coordinated Response in the Three Boroughs

In order to develop our local CCR, ST worked closely with the VAWG Strategic Partnership for the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF), and in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and the City of Westminster (WCC) to develop and implement a strategy for violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Strategy was written after considerable consultation with survivors, service users, stakeholders from a range of statutory and voluntary organisations as well as elected members across the three councils. The Strategy details how the Partnership will deliver a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to VAWG; it keeps survivors and children at the centre of its aims and objectives, whilst also holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. This year as the Boards split into a Hammersmith and Fulham Board and a Bi Borough Board working in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea the development of the strategy was developed together with some specific elements for each board included.



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Our vision is to end violence against women and girls through our coordinated community response approach. Our theory of change shows how we expect to meet this goal through the four outcomes highlighted above. Our theory of change also shows the problem and barriers we want to address in achieving our goal.

The Three Borough VAWG Strategic Partnerships

STADA takes the operational lead in delivering the Strategy and is an integral part of the governance structure of the boards. This year the board split into a Bi Borough board (Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea) and Hammersmith and Fulham became a sovereign board. As many of the services work across the three boroughs and services are still commissioned to work across the three boroughs; the boards while recognizing specific needs of their area work together to end VAWG. The board structure remained broadly similar with operational groups feeding to the Strategic boards but the Specialist Services group now becomes a consultative group and is joined by additional consultative groups (one for each board) with Experts through experience. ST Coordinates the Housing, Harmful Practice and Children and Young People Operational groups and the Specialist Services Consultative group. ST sits on both the Risk and Review and the Whole Health Operational group.



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The VAWG Strategic Boards are tasked to:

- To ensure the voices and experiences of survivors of VAWG are reflected throughout the Strategy and Action Plan via regular consultation and feedback;
- To monitor progress of targets and objectives against the Shared VAWG Action Plan and assess whether actions and activities, including of the 6 VAWG Operational Groups, are achieving the required outcomes;
- To establish the overall impact of the strategy via quality assurance and performance monitoring frameworks;
- To promote effective links with the work other Strategic Partnerships including the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards and Health and Well-Being Boards;
- To incorporate new legislation, policy and guidance alongside ongoing understanding and assessment of local need and recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews and serious case reviews; and
- To report regularly on the progress of the Strategy to each of the three-sovereign borough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, for which VAWG is a priority area of business.

Angelou partnership:

Received 2,936 referrals in total during 21/22.

Headline Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Baseline 2012/13	Achieved 2019/20	Achieved 2020/21	Achieved 2021/22	Rag Status Green Amber Red
Improved safety of victims of VAWG and their children	Women report increased safety and feelings of safety as measured by exit surveys	65%	85%	85%	85%	Green
Work as part of a Co-ordinated Community Response to tackling VAWG in the Tri-B Area	Women report a reduction in abuse due to support and advice received from service as measured by closing assessments.	67%	94%	93%	97%	Green

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Angelou partnership:

Headline Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Baseline 2012/13	Achieved 2019/20	Achieved 2020/21	Achieved 2021/22	Rag Status Green Amber Red
Repeat victimisation is reduced and service users are supported to live free of violence Greater access to justice (both civil and criminal systems) for all service users	Women are at reduced risk at case closure following the support of the service as measured by professional judgement, risk and needs assessment and closing assessments.	62%	92%	89%	86%	Green
Improved long-term outcomes and well being for service users and their families; Empower women and girls who have experienced violence to recover and thrive in a future without violence.	Women and girls report their quality of life has improved as measured by exit surveys.	55%	80%	79%	86%	Green
Increased number of victims of VAWG engaging in services and improved access for BME groups and young people;	Increased number of women and girls engaged in services as measured by the number/ percentage of service users that have been contacted and engaged in services as well as monitoring of demographic data.	70%	84%	80.5%	83% (engaged)	Green

Angelou partnership:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
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Headline Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Baseline 2012/13	Achieved 2019/20	Achieved 2020/21	Achieved 2021/22	Rag Status Green Amber Red
Support for victims is provided at the earliest stage and is for as long as they need to access support						
Young people have the opportunity to explore healthy and unhealthy relationships and deepen understandings of VAWG;	Women and girls report improved confidence in reporting abuse and/or where to access help and support as measured by exit interviews and evaluations.	72%	97%	97%	97%	Green
Community has greater awareness of VAWG, reduced tolerance for VAWG and increased awareness of avenues for support.	Young people report improved confidence in reporting abuse and/or where to access help and support as measured by exit interviews and evaluations.		100%	96%	95%	Green

2021/22 has seen us still recovering and adapting our work as a result of Covid 19 pandemic, meetings have remained mainly virtual. We have benefited from the positive working relationships with our Statutory and Voluntary sector partners and continued to provide a robust response and developed our networks despite the restrictions

Specialist Services Operational Group

The Specialist Services group met quarterly during 21/22. It has been a busy year as the VAWG Strategic group across the three boroughs, not only splitting into Bi-Borough and Sovereign (Hammersmith & Fulham) Strategic groups both also re-wrote their strategies. The SSG was involved in the consultation for the strategies and compiled a SWOT analysis of current work and funding priorities. The group was also consulted in the writing of the new commissioning plan for substance use services in Hammersmith and Fulham and collaborated with mental health service providers to improve the accessibility and provision of services locally. One of the group members MEWSO was instrumental in changing the law to ban both virginity testing and hymenoplasty and another (Sigh Health) in ensuring BSL interpreters were available

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when emergency 999 calls are made. We had a presentation from the Resilience Service which provides sexual health and substance use services to young people and were able to improve the interface between them and VAWG Services, and the groups were very busy during the 16 Days of Activism. The group continues to share information among members (and to the Board) on what services were available in each borough. It is also adapting to its new role in the governance structure as a consultative expert advisory body.

Children and Health Operational Group

The Children and Young People's Operational Group encourages the implementation of the CCR model by improving responses to domestic abuse from statutory, voluntary and health services who come into contact with children and young people. This is achieved through institutional advocacy, coordinating evidence-based interventions, promoting the voice of survivors and their children within meetings and forums and policy development and implementation.

The children and health coordinator engages with a variety of stakeholders including health services, substance misuse services, health visitors, Children's Social Care, Early Years and front-line domestic abuse service providers in the Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

The Children and young people meetings take place on quarterly basis, with four being held in 2021-22. The following themes were explored:

Iris programme for GPs, a whole school approach to domestic abuse; the Domestic Abuse Act, Everyone's Invited; the new VAWG strategies for the Bi Borough and Hammersmith and Fulham and the Check with me first campaign.

The children and health coordinator coordinates the Hammersmith and Fulham co-location project, in partnership with Advance. The steering group met four times in 2021-22, hearing case studies and positive impacts of the project at each meeting. Funding has been secured for this project to continue in 2022-23.

The children and health coordinator has contributed to a range of training sessions and workshops across the Bi Borough and Hammersmith and Fulham to: housing services; GPs, community champions, Social Care staff, MARAC leads and school nurses.

Feedback from training included:

'Thank you for these fantastic sessions, I have learnt so much.'

'Thank you for a very well-presented course on a very serious and important subject.'

'Very good training, as already mentioned this is down to the trainers'

'Extremely well presented and considering it was on- line the presenters managed to keep it interactive and engaging.'

Key achievements 2020/21:

- § Developed a dedicated training package for the H&F Law Enforcement Team under the Safety of Women at Night project.
- § Distributed Safe and Together modules to all of the Bi Borough School health team and delivered three debrief sessions to 27 practitioners
- § Engaged with consultants leading the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel review into multi-agency child safeguarding and domestic abuse to discuss the work of the group

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Acute Trust Project with Chelsea and Westminster HNS Foundation Trust (CWFT)

The Acute Trust Project aims to develop and sustain a Trust-wide response to domestic abuse within CWFT; increasing Trusts' and professionals' capacity to identify, respond and appropriately refer domestic abuse cases through training, development of policy and referral pathways, creation of a network of DA champions and improved multi-agency engagement.

Key Achievements 2021-2022:

- Training has continued in the Trust and numbers are gradually increasing to pre-lockdown levels. There has been a total of 3008 staff attendances at DA training (Levels 1-4) in 2021/22 and 52 staff members have completed Domestic Abuse Link (DAL) training. This is a 24% increase in Levels 1-4 training overall, with a 44% increase in DAL training, compared with 2020/21.
- The number of MARAC and IDVA referrals made by Trust staff have increased. A total of 236 MARAC referrals were made in 2021/22 compared to 185 in 2020/21. This is a 28% increase from 2020/21. A total of 510 IDVA referrals were made in 2021/22, compared to 428 in 2020/21. This is a 19% increase from 2020/21.
- The Trust was successful in gaining funding for a specialist LGBTQ+ Galop IDVA who started in April 2022. He is now working Trust-wide, providing support to both patients and staff who identify as LGBTQ+ and are experiencing domestic abuse.
- The pioneering work of our Domestic Abuse team was the focus of a visit from national leadership on 24th March 2022. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office and an Independent Advisor to the Health Secretary on Violence Against Women and Children from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) attended an event at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to learn more about the model adopted at the Trust. The event was attended by staff from the Domestic Abuse team, Safeguarding Children and Adults, Sexual Health, Burns, Adult and Paediatric A&E, Therapies and Victim Support. The event also showcased the 16 Days of Activism campaign; our team shared the testimonies of 16 survivor voices, their experiences of domestic abuse and the support they received from CWFT staff and IDVA team.

The main aims of the visit were to gain some insight into:

- The history of domestic abuse and sexual violence work at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- How the DA/SV work is led and how partnerships were/are established.
- Information around evaluation and monitoring.
- Barriers that CWFT have encountered and how those barriers have been overcome.
- What leadership/change CWFT staff would like to see from central Government/NHS England/The DA Commissioner.

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Whole Health Project

Building on the learning from our national Pathfinder project, we have worked closely with our digital partner to finalise the health accreditation framework and online portal, the first accreditation for healthcare services responding to domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in England. This work was funded through the Comic Relief "Tech for Good" programme.

Our aim is that it will bring about sustainable systems change in response to DA and VAWG in health services nationally, something the Senior Whole Health Coordinator has been supporting NHS trusts to do in the South East. In addition, the team's health coordination and training delivery continues to have a broad impact locally and nationally.

Key successes from the year include:

- Delivery of a pilot project funded through NHS South East Looking After Our People Team across three NHS Trusts. The work involved conducting robust assessments of the current domestic abuse response, with a focus on the approach to staff affected by domestic abuse. We then supported Trust domestic abuse leads to mobilise steering groups, enabling key stakeholders, including Experts by Experience, to drive the work. To inform this process we conducted staff surveys and focus groups, gathering powerful data on staff views and experiences.
- We have worked in collaboration with a specialist employment lawyer and Respect to develop a staff domestic abuse policy template and training package for Human Resources and Occupational Health. The draft policy has been shared as part of the NHS SE pilot with one Trust hoping to ratify it later this year. We were also able to deliver the new training package to relevant staff at one of our pilot sites, increasing their skills and confidence when responding to staff affected by domestic abuse.
- Building on the success of the NHS South East Pilot, we have partnered with Southampton CCG, University Hospital Southampton and the newly established Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System (ICS). These separate but related projects enable us to share learning and best practice across the ICS.
- As part of the health accreditation development process, we conducted multiple user research and test sessions which informed the next steps of the project, also demonstrating the value health care professionals think accreditation can bring.
- Our participation in Tech for Good programme highlighted the need to engage with the momentum of digital approaches to service provision in order to be competitive and responsible in the sector.
- We continue to co-ordinate the Inter Collegiate and Agency Domestic Violence and Abuse (INCADVA) forum, submitting a briefing which was raised in the House of Lords committee stage of the Health and

Social Care Bill. INCADVA has provided a vital forum for members to express safety concerns over proposed

- changes to electronic patient records. We are also in the process of setting up a sub-group which will prioritise the health response to perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Our work co-chairing the London Clinical Reference Group has enabled us to facilitate discussions around the Domestic Abuse Act, supporting survivors of sexual abuse in health and the impact of domestic abuse on staff.
- We developed training for nursing and midwifery students at King's College London, delivered specialist training commissioned by South East London Clinical Commissioning Group, and four bitesize sessions for North West London Clinical Commissioning Group.

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Feedback from partners and participants in our consultancy and training work this year include:

"I am grateful that the Trust is showing an interest in how this issue may be affecting staff" – Staff Survey respondent

"The training was very detailed, sensitive with a great array of examples. This has been incredibly helpful, thank you so much!" – Training participant

"Overall, very enlightening and useful. I thought both trainers were fantastic, knowledgeable and passionate". – Specialist Human Resources Training Participant

"I have found Standing Together's involvement helpful, positive and collaborative. I don't think we would have achieved nearly as much as we have without their support" – NHS South East Pilot Site DA Project Lead

"They are such a brilliant asset to have onside, with a wealth of knowledge and experience but never come across as "we are the experts". I have really enjoyed working with Standing Together" – NHS South East Pilot Site Employee Relations Manager

"The online health accreditation sums up everything every health service in the country should do to achieve best practice response to DA" - Health Accreditation user research participant

Macmillan cancer and domestic abuse project:

Our Macmillan cancer and domestic project is funded by Macmillan and is coordinated by STADA. The core project group includes STADA, Macmillan and Bristol University representatives, as well as an Expert by Experience.

The overarching aim of our joint work with Macmillan is to: ensure that the cancer setting offers a safe space and time for victim-survivors of domestic abuse to get the support they need, from skilled and confident healthcare workers and other professionals who work in cancer.

Phase 1 of this project ran from October 2021 – April 2022. This was a research phase. Interviews and surveys were conducted with the cancer workforce and victim-survivors of domestic abuse who had a cancer or were abused by someone with cancer.

Twenty victim-survivors of domestic abuse, nineteen of whom had cancer and one of whom experienced domestic abuse from a partner with cancer, responded to our consultation. Over 300 professionals responded, mostly from acute or community healthcare.

Findings included:

- Domestic abuse did not stop and often worsened after a cancer diagnosis.
- Abuse affected cancer treatment, surgery, and recovery in ways that led to pain and suffering.
- Professionals and victim-survivors felt that the cancer setting provided a unique opportunity for domestic abuse to be identified and responded to due to the frequency of contact, length of appointments, continuity of care, and discussion of holistic needs.
- But lack of confidence and knowledge was a barrier to a good response.

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- To improve the cancer workforce response to domestic abuse, victim-survivors wanted professionals to make the setting a clear safe space for disclosure, to recognise the signs, enquire safely, provide first-line support, and to refer them to specialist support options.
- Professionals were eager to improve their response to domestic abuse. They wanted specialist training, education, awareness, and a culture shift wherein all cancer professionals, from surgeons to nurses, see identifying and responding to domestic abuse as their role.

The findings report was launched at a webinar on the 12th of April, speakers included Lynda Thomas (Macmillan CEO), Nicola Jacobs, Dr Sandi Dheensa (Academic Partner) and the projects Expert by Experience. The full report and extracts from the webinar can be found here:

<https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/macmillan-project>

Phase 2 will run from May 2022 – July 2023. It will involve the placement of Domestic Abuse Coordinators within two hospital trusts. The role of these Coordinators will be to work with the trusts in a 'test and learn' exercise to develop and embed safe and effective processes to support people affected by both cancer and domestic abuse. Learning from Phase 1 will form the basis of the work of the Coordinators, who will focus on promoting existing good practice within trusts, as well as supporting training, awareness-raising, network building, and the development and promotion of policies and processes.

With the support of a national project group comprising experts-by-experience and professionals in cancer and domestic abuse, a toolkit will be developed to outline a best practice response to domestic abuse in cancer settings. This work will be evaluated by Bristol University.

Domestic Abuse Courts

Standing Together continue to coordinate the Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDACs) at Westminster Magistrates Court to provide a specialist criminal justice response to the boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Kensington & Chelsea. The SDAC for Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea and the DDAC for Westminster have been running for nineteen and nine years respectively and continue to evolve good practice and improve the service to victims/survivors. The SDAC model ensures that the focus on victim and witness safety is maintained throughout the entire specialist court process which has become more important in this current financial climate where agency resources have been cut.

The Criminal Justice team were successful in securing £1.2 million Tampon Tax funds via the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) last year for a 2-year Mentor Court project, which aims to reinvigorate the

SDAC model nationally and in turn, improve the criminal justice response to domestic abuse. The project aims to enhance the existing SDACs at Westminster, including providing onward funds to ADVANCE IDVA service for 2 dedicated Criminal Justice IDVAs to support the project. The Criminal Justice team are offering stakeholders the opportunity to observe the SDAC in session and partake in learning sessions, so that they can take the SDAC model back to their local area. The Criminal Justice team are also undertaking a mapping activity to create a database of existing SDACs and to explore whether these SDACs are delivering the core principles of an SDAC. The Centre for Justice Innovation are undertaking an independent evaluation for the project and the interim report is due to be published in the coming months.

The Criminal Justice team are half-way through the delivery of the Mentor Court project and have so far engaged stakeholders from across England and Wales, to gather information and offer a capacity building package. This information has been transferred onto a visible map format and the database continues to grow as more stakeholders engage with the project.

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Domestic Abuse Courts

The SDAC at Westminster has continued to benefit from the uplift that the Tampon Tax funding has provided, particularly in relation to the Criminal Justice IDVA provision. Since commencing the specialist Criminal Justice IDVA provision in London, ADVANCE have received a total of 125 referrals into their service, of which 85% were successfully contacted. Of these successfully contacted survivors, 94% of women engaged with ADVANCE's Criminal Justice IDVA provision. Direct referrals from the police have continued to increase throughout the project, further supporting the importance of the Criminal Justice IDVA provision. ADVANCE's Criminal Justice IDVAs are co-located within the police station and deliver regular training to the police, which has led to an increase in referrals as the CJ IDVA provision has become more established.

The Impact Project has continued over the last year and the new Performance & Review Coordinator who joined Standing Together in August 2021 has been focusing on repeat victimisation and those facing multiple disadvantage. The Performance & Review Coordinator, Programme Managers and SDAC Coordinator continue to co-locate at Charing Cross Police Station and foster vital relationships with the police. Inductions are provided to all new police joining the Safeguarding team and the police regularly seek the Criminal Justice team out at the police station for advice and guidance.

The team have delivered training to the police, as well as other criminal justice partners, including attending the CPS IDVA training day in November 2021 and briefing 130 national CPS and IDVA colleagues about SDACs and a CCR to domestic abuse. The Criminal Justice Programme Manager (Mapping and Capacity Building) is due to attend a DA conference in Liverpool in early June 2022 to deliver a similar presentation to DA stakeholders in the North-West of England. Standing Together's Criminal Justice Programme Manager (London Mentor Court) and SDAC Coordinator also supported an SDAC visit from Greek delegates in late March, accompanied by the CPS, to showcase an example of DA best practice within the criminal justice system. The Criminal Justice team have also worked on responses to the DA statutory guidance and the Victims Bill, to ensure that the team's expertise is shared, and recommendations are made in line with a CCR.

The CJ Team continue to be valued members of CPS VAWG Scrutiny Panel, Police NFA Scrutiny Panel, LCJB Delivery Board, CPS External Consultation Group, BTP Public Protection Panel and Regional Stakeholders Meeting. The DA Court Steering Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis where operational feedback is provided to members to ensure consistency between the courts but to also hold the partner agencies to account regarding their commitment to the specialist courts. The DA Focus group also meets every two months and there is also a quarterly meeting where the scrutiny of local data and outcomes is discussed.

The specialist courts at Westminster Magistrates Court continue to be acknowledged as best practice and the team continue to work to their goal of reinvigorating the Specialist DA Court model, improving practice and multi-agency working within the criminal justice system and ultimately, improving victim/survivor's experiences of the criminal justice system.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

In 1999 Standing Together (ST) played a pioneering role in the development and implementation of MARACs. ST founded the MARAC in Hammersmith & Fulham (September 2007) and Kensington & Chelsea (January 2008) then adding Haringey (March 2013), Ealing (June 2013) and Westminster (September 2013). Some of SafeLives MARAC documentation was modelled on paperwork created by ST. Our MARACs have been visited by the Home Office and recommended by SafeLives as among the best in the country and at the forefront of championing survivor safety.

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Aligning with SafeLives best practice guidance and the principles of an effective MARAC, all ST MARACs have run effectively and in line with SafeLives recommended practice in 2021-22. Our work includes close liaison with specialist agencies, bringing their expertise to MARAC meetings, helping

inform practitioners, reducing barriers to support experienced by some communities and individuals with intersectional characteristics and complex needs, ensuring equality of access and inclusive action planning that recognises diversity. Through this process ST is committed to actively increasing MARAC referrals from all sections of the community.

We have a well-developed MARAC training package providing team briefings, representative inductions, and quarterly workshops to frontline staff on domestic abuse awareness, risk identification, SafeLives DASH RIC Checklist, MARAC processes and protocols, referral thresholds, and specialist services.

We pride ourselves on our uniquely robust team capacity consisting of a Team manager, two FT support officers, PT Data officer and four Coordinators meaning we have built in resilience and are able to remain compliant with all contractual obligations in terms of service delivery. At each MARAC meeting we provide two staff; a MARAC Coordinator and a minute-taker which enhances quality and allows for more effective action planning and support for reps and chairs.

ST coordinates and administrates the London MARAC Coordinators Forum bringing together Coordinators to share best practice, learn from each other, discuss challenges and explore innovation in the MARAC field.

Underpinning our MARAC work is the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model. This provides us unrivalled expertise in developing partnerships and multi-agency working. Our Coordinators benefit from organisational learning and best practice knowledge enriching each MARAC we coordinate and ensuring that

our MARAC team has considerable influence and in roads amongst a wide variety of practitioners in the DA field sharing good practice and encouraging appropriate interventions. All MARAC Coordinators at ST bring a background of frontline or other relevant experience.

The following data breakdowns indicate high performance when compared to SafeLives recommended target figures in all areas of provision across April 2021-March 2022.

Hammersmith & Fulham

	SafeLives Recommends	2021-22
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	320	427
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	32.8

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

	SafeLives Recommends	2021-22
% Repeat	28% - 40%	26.5%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	4.0%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	8.7%
% BAME Referrals	55%	48.5%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	19.2%
Number of children	N/A	338

Hammersmith & Fulham MARAC has heard **427** cases during April 2021 to March 2022, **8** cases more than 2020-2021. SafeLives recommends that 320 cases are heard per 12-months period, Hammersmith & Fulham MARAC has heard **133.4%** of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting for 2020-2021 it had been **32.2**, with an average fluctuation of **3.7** cases whereas in 2021-2022, it was **32.8**, with an average fluctuation of **4.96**. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases including the top five referring agencies as Police (**28.2%**), IDVA service (**25.5%**) Secondary Care Acute Trust (**13.4%**), Housing (**8.9%**), %, and Children Social Care (**7.5%**).

Kensington & Chelsea

	SafeLives Recommends	2021-22
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	12
Cases heard (N)	270	331
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	27,6
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	24.8%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	3.3%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	9.7%
% BAME Referrals	55%	52.6%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	26.3%
Number of children in household	N/A	198

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Kensington & Chelsea MARAC has heard **331** cases during April 2021 to March 2022, **2** cases more than 2020-2021 and has met 12 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 270 cases are heard per 12-months period, Kensington & Chelsea MARAC has heard **122.6%** of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting during 2020-2021 was **27.4**, while during 2021-2022 it has been **27.6**, with an average fluctuation of **6 cases**. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top five referring agencies were Police (**28.1%**), IDVA service (**19.2%**), Secondary Care Acute Trust (**13.1%**), Housing (**7.7%**) and Children's Social Care (**7.6%**).

Westminster

	SafeLives Recommends	2021-22
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	370	524
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	40.3
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	25.6%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	5.0%
Male Referrals	5% - 10%	10.3%
% BAME Referrals	55%	58.4%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	18.5%
Number of children in household	N/A	384

Westminster MARAC has heard **524** cases during April 2021 to March 2022, **32** cases less than 2020-2021. Westminster MARAC met 13 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 370 cases are heard per 12-months period, Westminster MARAC has heard **141.6%** of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting for 2020-2021 was **42.8**, while during 2021-2022 it has been **40.3**, with an average fluctuation of **4.9 cases**. Westminster MARAC has held 13 meetings this year, 8 of them heard over 40 cases, which has had a significant impact on the workload of the coordinator and partner agencies. Meetings with cases over 40 were held across two days. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (**29.2%**), IDVA service (**18.9%**), Housing (**12%**), and Secondary Care Acute Trust (**10.8%**).

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Ealing

	SafeLives Recommends	2021-22
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	18
Cases heard (N)	540	710
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	39.4
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	14.4%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	1.8%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	5.6%
% BAME Referrals	55%	60.4%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	15.8%
Number of children in household	N/A	643

Ealing MARAC heard **710** cases during April 2021 to March 2022, **126** more cases than the previous year with 584 cases heard. Ealing MARAC met 18 times this year SafeLives recommends that 540 cases are heard per 12-month period, Ealing MARAC has heard **131.5%** of the expected volume. The average number of cases per meeting was **39.4** between April 2021- March 2022, and **34.4** between April 2020- March 2021.

The average fluctuation of cases between April 2021 – March 2022 was **6.94 cases**. On eight occasions the caseload exceeded 40. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (**24.6%**), IDVA service (**21.2%**), Children Social Care (**17.7%**) and Mental Health Services (**8.1%**).

Haringey

	SafeLives Recommends	2021-22
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	17
Cases heard (N)	410	480
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	28.2
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	25.4%

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Haringey

	SafeLives Recommends	2021-22
BT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	4.0%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	7.5%
% BAME Referrals	55%	54.0%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	19.2%
Number of children in household	N/A	387

Haringey MARAC heard **480 cases** during 2021-2022, 54 less cases than the previous year with 534 cases heard. Haringey MARAC met 17 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 410 cases are heard per 12-month period, Haringey MARAC has heard **117.1%** of the expected volume. The average number of cases per meeting was **28.2** between April 2021- March 2022, and **31.4** between April 2020-March 2021. We have observed an average fluctuation of **3.7 cases** per meeting in April 2021- March 2022. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (**38.1%**), IDVA service (**16.6%**), Children Social Care (**10.3%**) and Voluntary Sector (**8.9%**).

All MARACs performing above SafeLives recommended volume

This indicator of good quality MARAC provision is measured by the volume of referrals (best practice is meeting 80-100% of SafeLives recommended volume.) From the table below, volume in 2021-22 across all five MARACs were above best practice. This is a very positive year on year achievement accomplished

Performance Highlights for the MARAC Team in 2021-22

through our work in raising awareness with MARAC agencies ensuring high risk victim/survivors are not being missed. However, it is important to note that high volumes impact on the resourcing of both the coordinator and the partner agencies. High volume in Ealing and Westminster MARACs have been raised at Steering Groups and with VAWG commissioners directly requesting further resource.

From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 the following volumes have been seen in the Five MARAC Boroughs:

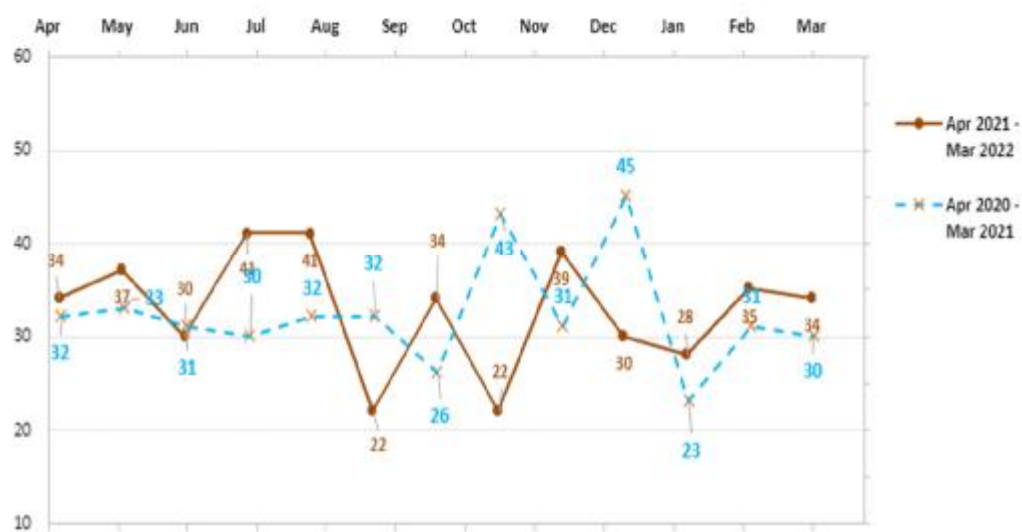
YEAR	LBHF	RBKC	WCC	Ealing	Haringey
SafeLives Recommendation	320	270	370	540	410
Volume 2021-22 (12 months)	427	331	524	710	480

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2022

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (continued)

(MARACs should only see the top 10% of highest risk Victim/Survivors.)

London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham



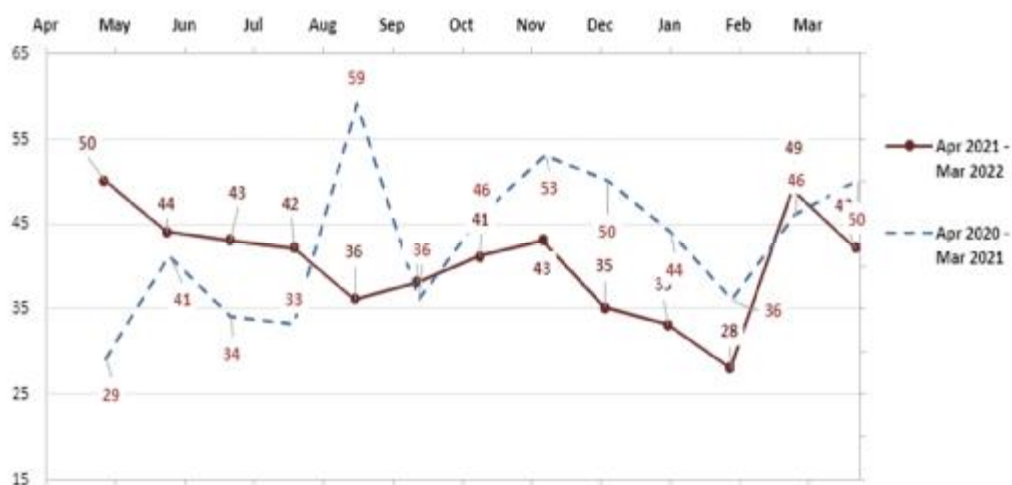
Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea



BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (continued)

WESTMINSTER



EALING



BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2022

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (continued)

HARINGEY



MARAC Health ChelWest & ICHT Referral distribution point

Standing Together has continued to be the centralised referral point for all MARAC referrals originating from Imperial College Health Trust and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Foundation NHS Trust. ICHT and ChelWest have their own MARAC referral form and all staff send this to the secure Health MARAC inbox at Standing Together for distribution onwards to the appropriate MARAC (if not Tri-Borough).

This saves busy medical staff time providing a simplified system increasing the likelihood of professionals referring to MARAC. In 2021-22, the team have processed **193** referrals (ICHT = **128**; ChelWest = **65**) on behalf of these NHS trusts.

MARAC Awareness Raising

Standing Together works closely with partner agencies to ensure that all relevant members of staff are familiar with the MARAC process, and their role and responsibilities within it by providing MARAC briefings, inductions, and workshops. In **2021-22**, MARAC Coordinators in the service area completed **97 sessions** with partner agencies across all boroughs reaching **554 partners**. As a result of Standing Together's MARAC workshops, professionals have improved knowledge and confidence in referring to MARAC as measured by evaluations.

April 2021 -March 2022	Number of sessions	Total attendees
<i>Briefings</i>	13	183
<i>Inductions</i>	68	90
<i>Workshops</i>	16	281
Total	97	554

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (continued)

MARAC Operating and Information Sharing Protocol (MOISP)

MOISPs across all MARAC were refreshed during this financial year. The MOISPs were updated to include security of MARAC information in a virtual setting and clarifying the processes around subject access and data requests.

MOPAC Pan-London Marac Review

The MARAC Team manager successfully bid to carry out a Pan-London Review of MARACs. The review of was commissioned to Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (ST) in collaboration with the Centre for Abuse Research (CARE) at the University of Suffolk (UOS). The project started in July 2021, and research concluded in September 2021 and was led by our MARAC Team Manager. The review sought to consider the SafeLives 10 principles of an effective MARAC across London. The review adopted a mixed-method approach, combining surveys, interviews, observations and desktop reviews of data, information sharing protocols and referral forms. All MARACs we coordinate participated in this review via surveys and interviews, with Haringey having a more in-depth review as part of the project. Twelve recommendations were made in the report that seek to improve the response to survivors of domestic abuse across London. These included consistency around governance and structure; agency participation and training needs; recommendations for commissioning of 'By and For' services and perpetrator options; and survivor feedback. A launch event was held in December 2021 and the report was well received. The final report and executive summary can be found [here](#).

MARAC Team Forward Plan Priorities 2021-2022

MARAC & COVID-19

The impact of the pandemic on the MARAC process continues into the next financial year. Coordinators continue to work remotely as do most of our partner agencies. Due to current guidelines and restrictions, it is not possible to resume to meetings in person currently. Standing Together will continue to ensure a coordinated community response to domestic abuse by internal monitoring and consultation with partners and front-line services working directly with victim/survivors. Our data analysts will provide insight into the process across the previous year and how this will inform out practices moving forward.

Service Continuity

During the next financial year, Haringey and Ealing MARACs contract require renewal. The Team manager will be prioritising these tenders to ensure continuity of service.

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Domestic Homicide Reviews

Standing Together has been involved in the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process from its inception in 2011 and has built a body of knowledge and skills that is invaluable. We offer a complete and inclusive approach that delivers high quality overview reports and independent chairing. Our team consists of a DHR Manager, two dedicated DHR Support Officers as well as our pool of Associates who act as Chairs for the DHR's. Our team of Associates are highly skilled and experienced and are experts in the field of domestic abuse. Our experience of a coordinated community response and domestic abuse partnerships ensures we balance the needs of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), panel agencies with the sensitivities of the victim's and perpetrator's families. We believe in DHRs and feel they can deliver change in an area where change is needed.

Key achievements during the year were:

Recruitment:

- We successfully recruited 2 new DHR Chair associates.
- The new chairs are in the 1st stage of their inductions and will be assigned mentors in the coming financial year.

Active DHRs:

- Standing Together is now chairing/has successfully chaired 122 Domestic Homicide Reviews. 78 of these reviews are now published.
- 3 newly commissioned DHRs: Lambeth x 2, and Vale of Glamorgan,
- 23 DHRs ongoing: Bexley x 3, Buckinghamshire x 3, Central Bedfordshire, Cornwall x 2, Hackney x 2, Hertfordshire, Gloucester x 3, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Leicester x 2, Stroud x 2, North Wales x 2
- 13 awaiting publication: Bath x 2, Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, East Surrey, East Sussex x3, Hackney, Leicester, Wales, Wiltshire

Training & Learning Dissemination

- LearningTheLessons: Have delivered an additional DHR webinar on Local DHR processes. Previous webinars included: International Perspectives, Intersectionality in DHRs, Fatal AFV, and Mental Health Analysis. Each webinar has been attended by 200-350 people with extremely positive feedback
- Leading on the research proposal and contracts with CSPs to produce a report in partnership with Southall Black Sister analysing BME DHRs.

National Work

- Contribute as a panel member for the monthly Home Office OHR Quality Assurance Panel as their specialist DA service.
- Sitting as a panel member for non-Standing Together DHRs as their expert DA service.
- Involved in a range of national projects including sitting on the ESRC Domestic Homicide Advisory Group and the academic roundtable for NPCC Domestic Homicides Project.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Domestic Homicide Reviews (continued)

- Undertook a research project that will consider the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on DHRs and processes.

Internal Developments

- Increased DHR Chair meetings, which is alternated to be a space for case reflection and problem solving and reviewing templates and DHR processes.

The Faith and VAWG Coalition

The Faith and VAWG Coalition has been growing from strength to strength, we were successful in our funding with Oak Foundation and were able to recruit a full time Project Officer, a Membership Coordinator, and a Programme Manager. The Coalition created a space to bring together organisations and activists working at the intersections of faith, race, ethnicity and violence against women and girls. We seek to build on existing work to address VAWG by providing a more strategic, regular, and structural approach to centring the experiences of survivors of faith. Although the present work to end domestic abuse at a grassroots level is rich and diverse, however, many survivors with a faith feel that across society in general, including some specialist ending VAWG services, there is a lack of understanding of their experiences of abuse. There is also a significant knowledge gap around the barriers that many survivors of faith face when seeking support, due to their religious identity, their faith community, and experiences of spiritual abuse. As a team we are learning, building, and strengthening the Faith and VAWG Coalition and aiming to keep the voices of survivors at the core of our strategy and in our work.

We have a website for the Faith and VAWG Coalition which gives information about our work, our founders, and the different strands of work we have been focusing on.

Our Project Officer wrote a policy briefing on Raising the Legal Age of Marriage. In this policy brief the Faith and VAWG Coalition ran an online survey and held one-to-one meetings with some of our members and those who work with faith-based, Black and Minoritized communities to highlight their views about raising the age of marriage from 16 to 18 years old. We also gave recommendations highlighting criminalisation alone will not help and emphasised the need for collaborative work, the engagement of religious and community leaders and the need to be involved as they play a vital role in safeguarding women and girls.

Our "Building Bridges" Online Conference in November 2021 focused on sharing experiences of diverse VAWG and faith communities. The participants shared their experiences and expertise in how they are building bridges and endeavouring to have a positive impact on survivors. We were honoured to have some trailblazing activists from Sikh Women's Aid, Forward, Jewish Women's Aid and Restored. The speakers shared their experiences of activism, expertise, and knowledge, shared their cultural and religious knowledge whilst supporting survivors. We had an interactive question and answer session in the end which also detailed accounts of victim survivors, issue and challenges of pernicious nature that operates within various religious institutions.

With focus on nourishing and strengthening partnerships, the Coalition membership has increased from 5 to 18 organisations and individuals. The categories for our member organisations include Faith & VAWG, VAWG Specialist/by & for, faith based and community specialist organisations. We also have individuals consisting of academics, public and VAWG charity sector workers. Our members are genuinely driven to using the role faith plays to prevent VAWG. We are establishing the membership strategy that enables us to reach out to organisations across the UK with a focus on non-Abrahamic religions. We set out a service delivery strategy for our members to interact, learn as well as share best practices, a good example of this is the creation of 'sister space' monthly coffee meeting. So far, we have delivered four monthly coffee meetings creating a

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

The Faith and VAWG Coalition (continued)

safe space for members to share best practices. The Membership Coordinator also shares partnership and capacity building information through our fortnightly "News Digest".

The Faith and VAWG Coalition coordinated a consultation meeting with MOPAC contributing to the role of faith to prevent VAWG. We also delivered a training session around raising awareness about VAWG to volunteers at Muslim Youth Helpline. The session was interactive and many volunteers mentioned it was useful and helped them in their knowledge, understanding and responses regarding the public health issue of domestic abuse.

Harmful Practices:

The project began in January 2020 as a part-time six-month contract for a Data Co-ordinator to support the work of the local Harmful Practices Operational Group (HPOG). In 2021 – 2022 this role has gone from strength to strength, taking over the co-ordination of the HPOG in April 2021. Data collection and analysis remains a core part of the role, with the Co-ordinator having now collated four years of data from the local MARAC's and two years of agency data. This data is presented to the group in themes to support the work of agencies as well as in presentations outside of the group to promote the centring of harmful practices in agency responses. In the last year this has included multi agency webinars for professionals, presentations to the local VAWG Board and Adult Safeguarding teams and a joint webinar with the DHR team on Faith-based abuse for Bedfordshire Police. The MARAC data was also utilised by the University of Suffolk who produced a briefing paper using our data entitled *Responding to Harmful Practices against Women and Girls in London: the potential of a data-driven and intersectional approach*. The paper rightly highlights the scarcity of research in this area, which we will be building on in a future project (information below).

A core part of the harmful practices work has been to support the local specialist by and for agencies to improve links with other professionals to support their work and improve the Co-ordinated Community Response. Space is given within the HPOG meetings to identify issues these by and for are experiencing and to then address these outside of the meeting. For example, holding a meeting around housing issues with our HOG co-ordinator and local VAWG lead who supported the agencies to address specific issues with housing. We have also supported agencies to access spaces such as Children's Services meetings, an Operational meeting and our MARAC webinar to promote their services.

Over the past year the harmful practices lead has been working closely with VAWG leads, Co-ordinators of other harmful practices groups and by and for to set up the Harmful Practices Strategic Partnership (HPSP), a pan London group aiming to reduce silos and improve co-ordinated working around harmful practices. This was launched in March 2022, and themes for the year have been agreed.

Coaction Hub: AWRC in Partnership with STADA

In order to build on the work already taking place, in partnership with Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) we successfully fundraised for two 3 year roles (one in each agency) to work on expanding the CCR for Black and minoritized survivors and survivors of harmful practices. This will start in late April 2022. It will include producing a toolkit for MARACs on harmful practices, and mentoring Black and minoritized professional women to become DHR chairs. It will also fund us to support and expand the work of the HPSP. We are very excited about this partnership and have commenced significant groundwork, particularly around working to make sure that this is an equitable partnership between ourselves and AWRC, a by and for agency.

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For the year ended 31 March 2022

Housing Team

Our aim

The aim of the Housing Team is to support all survivors to achieve safety and housing security and hold perpetrators to account through a CCR that embeds a housing response to DA and considers the roles of all housing professionals across all tenure types.

We provide a combination of front-line support to survivors and housing providers, while also providing second tier support to housing and domestic abuse organisations to develop their response to domestic abuse through training, accreditation, awareness raising and guidance resources. We also influence national policy and practice through the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group.

We have three main projects through which we achieve the above aim:

- **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)**
- **Housing First and Homelessness Programme**
- **Whole Housing Approach Programme (WHA)**

Senior Housing Manager

In September 2021, the Housing Team took on a Senior Housing Manager to oversee the housing team due to its significant growth, with 15 members of staff across three large programmes.

The role of the SHM is to support the whole housing team to work together to deliver a collaborative and coordinated housing response together with the wider STADA team. The SHM oversees the development, delivery, and funding/sustainability of the team, and offers line management supervision to the team's programme managers.

The SHM reports to the interim-CEO, Andrea Kilvington, and directly line manages the Housing First and Homelessness Programme Manager, the Whole Housing Approach Programme Manager, the DAHA Programme Manager, and the Restart Strategic Housing Lead (a part of the WHA Programme).

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Project

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) was formed in 2014, in partnership with two of the U.K.s leading Housing Associations, Gentoo, based in Sunderland and Peabody based in London. DAHA offers a comprehensive accreditation process for housing providers to improve individual organisation responses and promote engagement in a coordinated community response. A team of DAHA Regional Leads drives this work forward and is comprised of the following team:

DAHA's mission is to improve the Housing Sector's response to domestic abuse and one of the ways it achieves this is through an accreditation process that includes 8 priority areas to ensure that housing providers and services offer a consistent, effective, and appropriate response to anyone experiencing domestic abuse in their homes.

The 8 priority standards provide a framework for housing providers to:

- Ensure staff are well placed and confident to identify signs of domestic abuse.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2022

Housing Team (continued)

- Standardise the process so residents / service users can access and receive the right response every time.
- Reduce costs to public purse and housing providers by implementing early interventions.
- Increase staff skills and engagement with local community partners such as specialist domestic abuse services and multi-agency arrangements.

Team Structure & Growth

This year we brought on a DAHA Programme Manager to oversee the DAHA team, which grew to include 3.5 Regional Leads across England, a Training Lead, DAHA Development Lead for VIVID, and a DAHA Membership and Training Coordinator

- **DAHA Programme Manager:** the DAHA team is led by a full-time DAHA Programme Manager who oversees the effective delivery of the DAHA project and provides support and supervision to the DAHA team. She is supported by the Senior Housing Manager.
- **DAHA Training & Membership Coordinator:** the DAHA team is also supported by a full-time Coordinator, who coordinates or training and membership delivery, as well as administrating the National Group, and supporting with the wider marketing and communications for the wider Housing Team.
- **Regional Leads:** The DAHA team has 3.5 Regional Leads, who cover the areas of London (FT), East Anglia (PT), the Midlands and the North (FT), and the South of England (FT). All Regional Leads are supported and supervised by the DAHA Programme Manager. These roles are currently funded through a combination of membership, assessment and some training fees, and an underspend of GLA funding from the previous year.
- **Training Lead:** DAHA also employs a full-time Training Lead who oversees the development and the delivery of the DAHA training offer to housing providers and professionals. The funding for her role comes through training income including funding received from Birmingham City Council in early 2022 of £37,440 to support, originally, the creation of a new training course for housing professionals. (see below)
- **DAHA Lead for Vivid Homes:** DAHA also has received £43,000 funding for 1 year employment of a DAHA Project Lead, who is overseeing the project management and delivery of Vivid Home's DAHA accreditation and assessment process. For one day per week, she also supports the Training Lead to develop our training packages and learning materials for DAHA members

DAHA Outcomes for 2021/2022 by workstream

DAHA Membership Model Launch, Growth and Funding Sustainability

On 1st April 2021, DAHA launched our Membership Model Through our DAHA membership programme, HPs and LAs are provided with ongoing support through the Regional Leads and online resources to achieve accreditation. HPs and LAs must be members to achieve accreditation and go through the assessment

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Housing Team (continued)

process and must maintain membership to maintain accreditation and seek re-accreditation within 3 years. Regional Leads provide the bulk of support through membership, the DAHA Programme Manager oversees the membership model, and the Training & Membership Coordinator provides the organisational and administrative support. We offer the following three levels of membership:

- o **Affiliated:** for any provider or service that wants to support our work but for whom the accreditation framework would not be suitable.
- o **Accreditation:** for providers and services that are working towards becoming DAHA accredited
- o **Accredited:** for provider and services that have been accredited and are intending to reaccredit when the 3-year renewal comes up

The membership was launched to generate a steady and forecastable funding stream that will make the team less reliant on short term, inconsistent grant funding. This will help sustain the core team and its activities while expanding it to meet growth in demand.

Year 1 of Membership (21-22) focused on building the membership through promotion and increasing visibility, seizing opportunities to raise our profile and encourage commitment to accreditation whenever possible.

By the end of Year one we had 90 Members, which exceeded our expectations (we hoped for 50 in year one). Year 2 will focus on continued growth in membership take up and increasing the benefits for members to include regular workshops, free learning events and additional resources.

DAHA Accreditation & Assessment

The main role of DAHA is to develop, deliver and assess by an accreditation framework which sets out the 8 priority areas, and 43 standards that local authority housing teams and social housing providers must achieve to have a safe, consistent, and effective response to domestic abuse. We provide support for local authorities (LAs) and social housing providers (HPs) to achieve accreditation through the support of our Regional Leads and Membership resources, and we conduct an in-depth assessment which is taken to an assessment panel to determine if HPs and LAs have met the accreditation standards.

As a part of our accreditation work, York University conducted an independent academic evaluation of DAHA. The [final York Evaluation of DAHA Accreditation](#) report was published in September 2021 which built on the interim report published last year and further reiterates that DAHA works, but highlighted some areas for improvement, including increase visibility for survivors.

2021 saw the passing of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 with it bringing increased publicity around domestic abuse and more specifically the role of housing in the coordinated community response to domestic abuse. Part 4 of the DA Act puts a new duty on local authorities to provide safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse. DAHA and Whole Housing Approach are recognized as good practice in the Statutory Guidance that accompanies the Act and this has led to an increased interest in our work – particularly from Local Authorities.

The new duties on local authorities were supported by Government funding allocated to undertake the work on local needs assessments and the Strategies that local authorities were required to submit by 6 January 2022. The DAHA Program Manager and Senior Housing Manager both worked to promote DAHA (and WHA) with commissioners and strategic leads to ensure that recommendations were made to adopt and embed standards of good practice and achieve accreditation in strategies. This has been successful in many areas who are now either committed and have become Members or have expressed an interest to do so.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Housing Team (continued)

The changes in the domestic abuse landscape nationally prompted us to undertake the largest review of the project since its inception in 2014. We have undertaken a full review of the eight priority areas and all standards to ensure the framework of good practice reflects, amongst other things, the changes in legislation. We have introduced values and principles of practice which members must commit to before committing to accreditation and, significantly, we have made the framework more flexible and achievable by local authorities without compromising standards and our integrity as a project with an ever-increasing profile and reputation in the sector. This work took several months and involved a huge amount of collaboration with members and critical friends. We are extremely proud of the new framework which has been very well received by our members. We held a launch in early March 2022 attended by nearly 300 people and the new framework has been endorsed by the DA Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs.

Accompanying the new framework, we have created and developed new resources aimed to further support housing providers and local authorities through the accreditation process. These resources include a full [Membership Pack](#), an Accreditation Manual & a new Portfolio for the collation and submission of evidence.

We have begun work on improving and updating the assessment process, previously designed for smaller organizations and for completion on a site visit. This is a big piece of work that remains ongoing as is the work to create an external accreditation panel. Resource development is ongoing and led by what our members tell us they need.

Accreditation for Contractors

DAHA worked in partnership with Morgan Sindall on a project to create new standards of good practice to be adopted by contractors. This was a large and challenging piece of work for the team supported by the CEO. We created an accreditation framework that enabled us to award Morgan Sindall the first accreditation for a contractor.

In 2022/2023, we plan to use this learning to promote a set of accreditation standards more widely for contractors, however first need to establish our Membership model and the resources that accompany our updated accreditation framework before moving forward with other areas of accreditation.

DAHA Regional Groups

DAHA led regional groups were developed to connect DA services, HPs and LAs together locally and to share practice and influence policy and practice nationally giving them a voice and feeding into them.

We currently run 9 regional groups, which includes 400 registered members. They meet every 8 weeks (2 months), chaired by a member or the Regional Lead. We continue to facilitate and host nine Regional Groups with a total membership of well over 400 across England. These Groups link with the DA Commissioner's Office, the National Housing Policy & Practice Group and with the National Housing Federation.

DAHA-Led National Housing & Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group

In November 2017 the first [National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group](#) was convened, led by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA). This was the first-time representatives from major Homelessness, Housing and Domestic Abuse organisations formally met to discuss how to work together nationally to tackle domestic abuse and better connect these policy areas. The main aims of this group are to ensure that:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Housing Team (continued)

- The experience of survivors of domestic abuse is more prominent in the housing sector and helps shape improved and enhanced service delivery.
- Women and children can access secure housing and good quality services when experiencing domestic abuse; and
- Co-ordination exists between the housing and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sectors with regards to domestic abuse.

The group seeks to find consensus, share best practice, and influence policy and practice on domestic abuse and housing in England and devolved authorities. We recognise that those who have experienced domestic abuse or violence and other forms of abuse, have insight and knowledge that service providers can learn from to improve joined up multiagency working. It is for this reason that we aim to ensure survivors' perspectives are embedded in the effective planning, delivery, and monitoring of partnership initiatives.

The group has representatives from the domestic abuse, LGBT+, housing and homelessness sectors. It includes:

• Against Violence & Abuse (AVA)	• National Housing Federation (NHF)
• Agenda	• National Federation of ALMO's
• Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	• Peabody Housing Association
• Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)	• Refuge
• Crisis	• Resolve ASB
• Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England	• Respect
• Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)	• SafeLives
• The DRIVE Partnership	• Shelter
• Galop	• Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse
• Gentoo Housing Association	• St Mungo's
• Homes England	• Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA)
• Homeless Link	• Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)
• Imkaan	

National Group has meet monthly to influence national policy and practice and to draft join government consultations, briefings and discussion papers.

Our joint work this year

Over the last year, the

- **Joint tenancies and domestic abuse:** one of our main campaigns have been around influencing government to understand the housing barriers faced by women who share a joint tenancy with their perpetrator. We used the DA Act during its Bill stages to propose an amendment to the bill which would provide a simplified legal mechanism for survivors to remove a perpetrator from a secure or assured joint

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
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Housing Team (continued)

social tenancy. This campaign led to the Government publishing a consultation in February 2022, which the National Group jointly responded to, and can be found here, alongside our joint briefing and question & answer document.

- **Local connections consultation:** we've jointly worked with the national group to influence the removal of the local connection test for the allocations of social properties for survivors of domestic abuse. You can find our joint consultation response here.
- **Exempt accommodation:** we've also submitted a joint consultation response on the issue of exempt accommodation and the impact on safe domestic abuse emergency and temporary accommodation, which you can find here.
- **Part 4 of the DA Act 2021:** we also jointly responded to the draft statutory guidance for local authority implementation of Part 4 of the DA Act, which you can find here: Since then, we've met regularly with a subgroup of partners that regularly discusses the implementation of Part 4 on local authorities.
- **Perpetrators & housing subgroup:** within this last year we also set up the perpetrator and housing subgroup, which brings housing providers, local authorities and specialist domestic abuse and perpetrator programmes together to consider the role of housing in holding perpetrators to account, and more widely,
- to provide accommodation alternatives for perpetrators. The group has met around 8 times, and has jointly created the Perpetrator Accommodation Discussion Paper, looking at the underlying principles of a perpetrator accommodation initiative. We've also met through two task and finishing groups, one focusing on the role of social housing providers working with perpetrators as tenants, and home group focusing on homelessness settings.

DAHA Training

We offer a suite of training programmes for housing professions to respond to domestic abuse effectively, safely, and consistently within their capacity as a housing professional. HPs and LAs pay for the training over, which is managed by the Training Lead, administrated by the Training & Membership Coordinator, and delivered by associate trainers.

In 2021-22 we delivered 74 training sessions virtually for many different housing providers and local authorities. This has been a significant increase from the previous year and has enabled us to develop and evolve our training offer building a reputation of high-quality training delivery and the sector lead training organization for DA in housing.

In early 2022 we secured funding from Birmingham City Council to work with them to create a new housing qualification – the first of its kind in the UK. This enabled us to recruit our Training Lead in the Housing Team who began in January and has been working on this project, creating new training and re developing existing offers. The new qualification has been a collaborative project involving our critical friends in the housing and DA sectors. The course is shaping well now and will be ready for its first delivery from September 2022. This is an important development in our work as we look to support the Government's drive to professionalize the housing sector (Social Housing Bill).

Vivid Housing

We entered into a 12-month pilot partnership with Vivid Homes, a 35,000-property housing association on the south coast in September 2021 to recruit and second a DAHA Project Lead to them to lead on the work to adopt & embed the standards of good practice. The role sits with Vivid 4 days a week and with us one day a week but is fully funded by Vivid. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the importance of a dedicated DAHA Project Lead role and understanding what that role is and can achieve in 12 months. This project is due to end in September 2022 and much has been achieved by our lead to change the culture and drive change in a

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Housing Team (continued)

challenging environment where domestic abuse had not been a priority area for the housing provider.

Surrey County Councils

We have worked with Surrey County Council and its 11 boroughs and districts to undertake a fully funded project to do a "health check". We worked across all areas to understand where they are at against the DAHA standards and supported the commissioners to encourage the Tier 2 authorities to adopt and embed standards of good practice. We have completed the project and working now with each authority individually to come on board as members and continue the work they have begun. This has been a great learning opportunity for us in terms of working with whole counties including Tier 1's and Tier 2s and enabled us to develop and improve our approach with local authorities generally. We created several new tools to support members to do their own "health checks" and these are now available to members only so an additional benefit of membership.

Housing First & Homelessness Team

The Housing First and Homelessness project works with local authorities, homelessness support providers, specialist women's services and a range of other agencies to ensure that survivors of domestic abuse and women experiencing homelessness and other forms of multiple disadvantage (whether they are sleeping rough, living in supported accommodation, or in any other unsafe and informal housing situation) have better access to safe accommodation, and support that meets their needs.

The project provides training and workshops and engages in partnership projects that work to change systems and attitudes around survivors and women experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantage. We are also a key partner in an innovative Housing First service for women experiencing any form of violence against women and girls, as well as working to strengthen and build partnerships across the homelessness and VAWG sectors pan London and nationally.

Team Resourcing & Structure

- **Housing First Programme Manager:** The HFPM oversees the delivery of the HF & Homelessness Programme and supports the team.
- **Housing First Coordinator:** The HFC supports the HFPM by providing the coordination of the HF project, delivers training and capacity builds for the Changing Futures Project outlined below
- **DAHA Development Lead for Homelessness Settings:** this role was developed to lead the piloting of a DAHA accreditation framework for homelessness settings. The work is outlined below.

Housing Coordination and Evaluation for the Westminster VAWG Housing First project

"They said 'we've got a house for you'. I couldn't believe it." – woman supported by the Westminster VAWG Housing First project.

The role of the Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator at Standing Together is to build and maintain relationships with support provider Solace Women's Aid and housing associations Peabody, L&Q, Southern, Octavia and Women's Pioneer Housing, who offer the housing for the Westminster VAWG Housing First project. Funding for the Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator post ended in August 2021 and we were successful in obtaining continuation funding from the GLA to fund this post until the end of March 2022.

The Housing First and Homelessness Manager line managed the Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator role and led on the evaluation of the service.

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Housing Team (continued)

Key outcomes/highlights of the year include:

- The coordinator led on the update of the original service level agreement and achieved sign off from all housing partners.
- The service received funding from Westminster Council to expand the support element of the project, enabling it to increase capacity to support 30 women. The Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator rose to the challenge and recruited Guinness Housing who joined the partnership in Oct 2021. Guinness have signed the SLA and have expanded the project capacity by three flats per year.
- The coordinator is in discussions with Salvation Army Housing Association and Sanctuary Housing about joining the partnership.
- The coordinator facilitated 4 monthly-partnership meetings attended by all project partners, as well as one to one meeting with housing providers, review meetings linking the Housing First team with relevant housing officers, and 'What to Expect from Housing First briefings' for housing provider staff involved with the project.
- The coordinator and project manager worked together to produce the Westminster VAWG Housing First Year 2 evaluation which evidenced the importance of the housing coordination role:

***“I would not be doing this job, and I said this tonight as well, but will not be doing this job if it wasn't for
[Coordinator's name] and the coordination role.”***

– Westminster VAWG Housing First team manager – Solace Women's Aid.

- The Westminster VAWG Housing First project received a commendation at the [London Homelessness Awards](#).
- ST publicized the project at a range of forums, speaking at the Housing First national conference and a FEANTSA Women and Housing First webinar, as well as contributing to their publication [Housing First & Women – Case Studies from across Europe](#)

Safety by Experience Project

The Housing First and Homelessness project worked in partnership with homelessness organization St Mungo's to deliver the 'Safety by Experience' project from November 2019 to June 2021. The Safety by Experience project aimed to:

- Provide the homelessness sector and specialist women's sector with guidance on VAWG risk assessment and safety planning in homelessness settings
- Ensure that survivors of VAWG accessing St Mungo's services are (and report feeling) safer and better supported.
- Make sure that St Mungo's staff are better equipped to recognise and respond to VAWG

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Housing Team (continued)

Key outcomes/highlights include:

- Produced [Keeping Us Safer: An approach for supporting homeless women experiencing multiple disadvantage](#) and evidence report '[Safety by Experience: Women's experiences](#)'. Launched the approach at a virtual event held in June 2021.
- Staff fed back that they felt the guidance and accompanying training had increased their knowledge and understanding of women's needs, enabling them to build better relationships with women, and ultimately helping them to stay safer.

Developing the DAHA standards for homelessness organizations

The Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator led on the development of DAHA accreditation for homelessness support organisations, which began in October 2020 and was funded by Homeless Link's Ending

Women's Homelessness Fund until the end of June 2021. We were then successful in obtaining GLA funding (as outlined above) which funded the Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator to work part time on the Housing First project and part time on developing the DAHA standards for homelessness organisations.

Key outcomes/highlights include:

- Organised and chaired 3 roundtables with partner agencies to focus on areas where the homelessness DAHA accreditation would be different from the original DAHA accreditation.
- Developed and drafted the final framework – this included expanding the framework from 8 priority areas to 10.
- Organised and chaired a sense check meeting to ensure partner agencies who fed into the roundtables knew their contributions were heard. This was done by the 30th June, in line with the end of the Ending Women's Homelessness Fund.
- From July 2021, the Coordinator focused on creating the infrastructure needed to pilot the framework. This involved maintaining relationships with partner organisations who supported with the development of the draft framework.
- We successfully recruited 2 organisations, [Society of St James](#) and the [Outside Project](#), to pilot the new framework and developed a partnership agreement.
- Reviewed existing DAHA resources including the current DAHA toolkit and documents, in preparation for the adaptation of these resources for homelessness organisations.

Perpetrator and housing/homelessness work

Fulfilling Lives Partnership

The Housing First and Homelessness Project manager worked with [SHP](#) service Fulfilling Lives Islington and Camden to pilot the practical guidance launched last year on '[Working Effectively with Perpetrators and Survivors of Domestic Abuse in Homelessness Settings](#)'.

The project manager and partners developed training to support professionals to use the guidance - this was piloted by five different services for homeless people, across a range of organizations including Connections at St Martins, St Mungo's and SHP.

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Housing Team (continued)

Three online training sessions were held with 28 delegates between November 2021 and January 2022

- 100% of delegates would recommend the training to others.
- Evidence of positive impact was demonstrated across 100% of learning outcomes.
- Training participants valued the opportunity to increase their knowledge, skills, and confidence to respond to DA, and all delegates reported that the training would enable them to change their future practice.

Task & Finishing Group on Perpetrator Responses in Sheltered/Supported Accommodation

The Housing First and Homelessness Project Manager set up and chaired a task and finish group tasked with mapping out what a perpetrator response in sheltered/supported accommodation should look like. The group met on three occasions and was attended by representatives from across homelessness, women's specialist, and perpetrator specialist organizations. This Task and Finish group is part of a piece of work being conducted by the Perpetrator subgroup of the National Domestic Abuse and policy group, which is chaired by STADA and administrated by Drive. The group have produced a mission statement which will be published in summer 2022.

VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage capacity building in Westminster

The Housing First and Homelessness Project Manager was funded by Westminster council from July 21 to March 21 to develop and implement a framework of support for homelessness professionals supporting women experiencing homelessness, VAWG and multiple disadvantage in the borough. The idea behind this work was to lay the foundations for a future project funded by the [Changing Futures programme](#). Happily, Westminster council were successful in their Changing Futures bid, and included this work in their portfolio; The Housing First and Homelessness Project Manager will lead on this work, which is funded from April 22-April 24. Key outcomes/highlights from this initial capacity building work include:

Training courses and workshops were delivered on:

- o Domestic abuse, VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage -
- o Women's Experiences of Homelessness,
- o Women and Trauma and
- o An Introduction to MARAC for housing and homelessness providers
- **The facilitation of Monthly VAWG and Multiple Disadvantage forums.** The forums provided frontline professionals supporting women with a space to discuss complex cases, reflect on issues and move forward. The forum is chaired by Standing Together and a clinical psychologist from the South London and Maudsley's Psychology in hostels team and attended by representatives from the police, adult social care, women's specialist and homelessness services.
- **Piloting new approaches to enable frontline workers to better support women experiencing VAWG and multiple disadvantage** e.g. The [Keeping Us Safer](#) approach pilot.
- **Oversight for the Westminster Multiple Disadvantage MARAC rep role:** covering the role from September – December 2021 and working with external evaluators to coordinate evaluation activities.

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Whole Housing Approach Project

The [Whole Housing Approach](#) (WHA) was first conceptualised in 2018 by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) in collaboration with the DAHA-led National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group. The WHA endeavours to improve the housing options and outcomes for people experiencing domestic abuse so that they can achieve stable housing, live safely, and overcome their experiences of abuse. The Whole Housing Approach is a framework to meaningfully address the safety and housing needs of victim/survivors, ensuring they can maintain or access safe and stable housing as quickly as possible.

The Whole Housing projects key aims are to:

- Create earlier identification and intervention for domestic abuse through mobilising social and private landlords and key institutions involved in private ownership.
- Reduce the number of people who are made homeless due to domestic abuse.
- Increase tenancy sustainment options so that people experiencing domestic abuse can remain safely in their home or do not lose their tenancy status if they relocate. This includes social housing landlords taking action to remove perpetrators from properties through enforcement where appropriate and safe to do so.
- Bring together the housing and domestic abuse sectors through a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to keep victim/survivors safe and hold abusers to account

A WHA currently includes 14 components that can be categorised into two parts as demonstrated in the following diagram:



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Housing Team (continued)

The purple circles represent the main tenure types: social housing, the private rented sector, privately owned, supported/sheltered accommodation. Refuge Services are included in this as they offer a form of emergency accommodation accompanied support from a dedicated or specialist domestic abuse service.

The beige circles represent the housing options, initiatives and domestic abuse support offered to victim/survivors across the main tenure types, including Co-Located Advocacy, Mobile Advocacy, Flexible Funding, WHA Coordination, Sanctuary Scheme, Managed Reciprocals, Move On Accommodation, Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation and Perpetrator Management.

Standing Together has been awarded funding by The National Lottery (TNL), which includes delivering the WHA model with one local authority pilot site. We will work alongside Cheshire East Council to develop all 14 components of the WHA over a three-year period.

Team Structure

- **WHA Programme Manager:** As part of The National Lottery (TNL) funded 30 month WHA pilot programme, the WHA Programme Manager oversees the various strands of work within the Whole Housing Approach Team which includes line managing the team (not including the Strategic Housing Lead for Perpetrator Early Intervention and Accommodation Pilot). The WHA Programme Manager leads on the development of the Whole Housing Approach as well as focusing on influencing local and national government on policy which encourages the adoption of a Whole Housing Approach. The WHA Programme Manager also coordinates and chairs our Part 4 and part 7 subgroup.
- **WHA Coordinator:** With funding from Hammersmith and Fulham, RBKC and the GLA, WHA Coordinator ensures the following initiatives are delivered in a safe, consistent, and coordinated way within the bi-borough and Hammersmith and Fulham:
 - Flexible funding
 - Sanctuary Scheme
 - Housing Operational Group (HOG)
 - Sanctuary Scheme Working Group

The WHA Coordinator is the main point of contact for our work in these area with the bi-borough and Hammersmith and Fulham, as well as overseeing sanctuary scheme and flexible funding referrals from partners. This includes associated activities including monitoring and report writing. They are responsible for developing partnerships with leads from the bi-borough and Hammersmith and Fulham housing services and other stakeholders involved in the local housing response to domestic abuse. From 2022/23 this role will be funded by the GLA and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

- **Private Rented Sector (PRS) Lead:** This role focuses on developing effective housing solutions for survivors living in the private rented sector, so that they can achieve safety and housing security. Through GLA funding The PRS Lead focuses on:
 - Development of frameworks for how key PRS stakeholders can respond effectively to domestic abuse
 - Creation of accompanying guidance, training, and other resources
 - Developing accreditation standards for PRS stakeholders.

The PRS Lead works alongside domestic abuse and housing partners to influence policy that will impact survivors living in the PRS, particularly the new Domestic Abuse Act and the upcoming Renters Reform Bill. They work closely alongside the WHA Programme Manager and the WHA Team to support WHA pilot partners to develop WHA responses that meet the needs of survivors living in the PRS. Currently this role is funded through the GLA, but from January 2023 to December 2024 will be funded by the National Lottery.

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Housing Team (continued)

- **WHA Capacity Builder:** Funded by the Nation Lottery the WHA Capacity Builder will lead our work with the selected local authority pilot site to deliver all elements of the WHA. They will also support the WHA Programme Manager to continue our work with national partners to develop and evolve the WHA model and offer support local authorities implementing a WHA through their new Part 4 duty to provide support within safe accommodation under the new Domestic Abuse Act. Their role focuses on working with the WHA project team at Standing Together and the pilot site to project manage and coordinate the implementation and evaluation of the WHA. They also support the continued development of the WHA toolkit and supporting resources and facilitate engagement with all local authorities implementing a WHA. We hope to fill this post in Summer 2022.
- **WHA Research & Evaluation Analyst:** Funded by the National Lottery this post supports the WHA team as well as pilot partners to create an effective evaluation framework. This includes:
 - Working with the WHA project team to create a theory of change for the Whole Housing Approach.
 - Establishing an evaluation framework, including the creation of monitoring tools. This will be added to the WHA toolkit.
 - Engaging with WHA team and pilot partners to ensure data is collected in a timely manner. Ensure timeframes and deadlines for data are communicated to pilot partners.
 - Collecting, collating, analysing, and cleaning monitoring data from pilot partners.
 - Preparing and creating reports using findings from monitoring data and ensuring reports are distributed and communicated to relevant contacts

Workstreams

Our workstreams can be divided into our local work to deliver Sanctuary, Flexible Funding and the Housing Operational Group in the Three Boroughs, and our national work to promote implementation of a WHA across LA areas.

Local work in the Three Boroughs

The WHA Coordinator leads our WHA work in the three boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Kensington and Chelsea. This includes chairing and coordinating the Housing Operational Group, the Sanctuary Project, and Flexible Funding Project

Three Boroughs Housing Operational Group

The role of the Housing Operational Group is to ensure that victim/survivors (with or without children) receive consistent, appropriate, and professional support when approaching housing services and housing providers in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster. Effective interventions will include early identification and intervention and crisis and emergency assistance that increase safety and reduce risk as well as improved access to resettlement services, on-going or long-term and housing options that enable survivors to access safe and secure housing.

It also encourages housing providers to consider the delivering of their services within a Whole Housing Approach framework that brings together under one umbrella all of the main tenure types, housing options and initiatives and specialist domestic abuse services needed in a local area to help survivors of domestic abuse access safe and stable housing. The Whole Housing Approach currently includes 14 components, which applied concurrently will enhance collaborative working, that will in turn create earlier intervention, reduce homelessness, and enable tenancy sustainment.

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Housing Team (continued)

The HOG meetings take place on quarterly basis, with four being held in 2021-22. The following areas were explored:

- Domestic Homicide Reviews and taking on key learnings
- Part 4 of the domestic abuse act and how housing providers are implementing this
- The role of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) in the coordinated community response to domestic abuse
- Implementing the VAWG/Housing Operational Group Action Plan across the three boroughs.

The group is now chaired by Standing Together to ensure consistency.

All meetings in 2021-22 were held via video conference with an average of 10 members attending each meeting. We have been working on expanding the housing operational group beyond the current membership and have been pleased to see attendance from more housing associations and by and for services.

The Whole Housing Coordinator facilitates the Housing Operational Group and offers coordination support for the Sanctuary Scheme for LBHF and Flexible Funding pot (part of Whole Housing) for the three boroughs.

Sanctuary Scheme

In 2021/22, we spent £16,261 to secure 34 homes in LBHF through the Sanctuary Scheme with Safe Partnership, at an average cost of £478.26 per household. We have worked closely with Safe Partnerships as well as Crawford to ensure survivors are able to have a range of sanctuary options available to them, which helps them feel safer to remain in their home.

In 2021/22, the Whole Housing Coordinator continued facilitating a working group with Sanctuary leads from the three boroughs to address operational issues with the scheme. This group was initially set up to create more consistency across the three schemes. The group provides a good opportunity to share data as well as best practice and challenges around sanctuary delivery.

At the beginning of the 2022/23 financial year our lead Sanctuary provider changed from Safe Partnerships to J H Crawford Security Ltd t/a. Our experience with Crawford has been extremely positive with works being completed within a timely manner, as well as Crawford's offering a more extensive package of sanctuary works. Furthermore, Crawford's consistently have provided a high quality service with effective communication. We look forward to continue working with Crawford's.

Flexible Funding

The Whole Housing Coordinator continues to administer the Flexible Funding pot, which was introduced as part of the Whole Housing project. It is a designated pot that survivors can access easily and quickly to retain or secure safe and stable housing. There is no set list of what will be funded. It exists to fund whatever will help survivors access the best housing outcome possible for them in the short and long term.

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Housing Team (continued)

The following table shows the number of survivors supported by the scheme in the London boroughs of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith over the last three years:

	Number of survivors	Number of dependent children
2019/2020	48	39
2020/2021	18	24
2021/2022	32	43
2019 – 2022: total of past three years	98	106

Flexible funding supports victim/survivors to achieve or maintain safe and secure housing. It is low-barrier and does not require victim/survivors to provide evidence of abuse. Unlike most other funding sources, there is no set list of what will be funded, and victim/survivors are encouraged to ask for whatever will make the most difference to their housing situation and their lives. The below highlights how the flexible funding grant was utilized by victim/survivors:

How flexible funding was used:	Total for 2021/22
Rental assistance	1
Utility assistance	2
Debt assistance	1
Move in costs	0
Moving costs	1
Documentation fees	0
Legal assistance	0
Employment assistance	0
Essential furnishings	23
Basic needs	1
Children's needs	0
Physical/mental health needs	1
Safety enhancement	2
Relocation services	0
Other	0
Total	32

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Housing Team (continued)

The following quotes are from survivors accessing the fund:

'Client 1: "I am thankful and just being able to buy the bunk bed for the kids and other things they need to be comfortable makes a lot of difference and the children are so happy and feeling safe in their new home. Thank you so much."

Client 2: "If not for this grant, I would have stayed at my mum's place with my new baby as I was not able to buy anything for the new flat. I have been able to get the basic for my new baby and get a bed for my daughter and that is a huge relieve. The additional funds just arrived this afternoon and I'm over the moon and that means that the white goods for the kitchen can be bought. I am absolutely grateful and speechless"

Whole Housing Approach pilot funded by the National Lottery

We successfully put in a bid to the National Lottery to fund a three-year pilot project to implement all the components of the Whole Housing Approach in one local authority area. The funding for this commenced in January 2022 and will be until December 2024.

Local areas interested in the pilot were encouraged to submit an expression of interest which we used as part of our selection process.

Cheshire East have been selected as the pilot site for the Whole Housing Approach following this as they demonstrated a strong commitment to the pilot, as well as having the key foundations in place for the project to start smoothly. Cheshire East showed enthusiasm toward the pilot and have accepted our offer to be the pilot site.

We will be working with Cheshire East to scope out how we will deliver all fourteen components of the Whole Housing Approach over the course of the three-year pilot. This will consist of detailed project planning, meetings with various stakeholders, embedding the relevant governance structures for the project, including forming and meeting with the WHA partnership board. We look forward to working with Cheshire East.

In order to effectively support Cheshire East and show our commitment during this pilot, the National Lottery have funded the following roles:

- **Whole Housing Approach Programme Manager:** employed by Standing Together to oversee the delivery of the WHA project, including both the local pilot and the national WHA work. This position is already filled, and they are already managing the project.
- **Whole Housing Approach Capacity Builder:** a full-time role employed by Standing Together, to oversee the coordination and delivery of the WHA pilot, acting as the main point of contact, advice and support with all delivery partners and the pilot site. This individual will be in post from the middle of Quarter 2, after the pilot site has been selected and mobilised. We put out this post for advert in May 2022 and hope to have someone in post by July 2022.
- **Whole Housing Approach Research and Evaluation Analyst:** employed by Standing Together, they will be dedicated to evaluating the three-year pilot, including working with the pilot sites to collect data to evaluate the effectiveness of all aspects of the approach, and influence continual development and improvement of the project, while also feeding into the external evaluation of the pilot.

We envisaged this position being in post from May 2022 however following an unsuccessful recruitment period in late 2021 we went out for recruitment for this post again on numerous occasions. Due to this we ensured the expression of interest sent to interest local authority pilot sites captured baseline information that would be

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Housing Team (continued)

helpful when monitoring and evaluating.

We have changed this role to Research and Evaluation Analyst (initially Monitoring and Evaluation Officer) and kept the job description more concise. We have worked with a recruitment consultant who has enabled us to reach out to more candidates with a background in research and evaluation. We hope to have this position filled by the end of July 2022.

- **Private Rented Sector Lead:** Standing Together also employs a Private Rented Sector (PRS) Lead who will work closely with the pilot site to understand their local PRS context and the experiences of victims/survivors in their area who access the PRS. They will use this information to support the local area to improve access to safety and housing security for survivors in the PRS. This will include providing training, guidance, and strategic support. The PRS Lead came into post within the first quarter of the pilot to develop the necessary guidance and resources that will support the WHA pilot site to work within the PRS sectors as a part of their local approach. We successfully recruited for this post and the PRS lead started in January 2022. Please see further detail about their role and achievements below.

During this pilot we will work in partnership with Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) and Safer London. Using the funding from the National Lottery both organisations will be supporting Cheshire East to deliver the following components of the Whole Housing Approach:

- **Private Ownership and Economic Abuse:** Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) will support Cheshire East Council to respond to the needs of victims/survivors who privately own their home. This includes create vital links between the needs of survivors in this tenure type to wider experiences of economic abuse and the role of local and national financial institutions in responding to economic abuse. They will develop and deliver training, guidance, and strategic level support.
- **Managed Reciprocal Support:** Standing Together will be partnering with Safer London, who founded the Pan London Domestic Abuse Housing Reciprocal, to offer the Cheshire East Council support to set up their own managed reciprocals arrangements. Crucially, this will take into consideration how to create sustainable resources that any local authority can pick up and use to develop their own Managed Reciprocals, particularly in the context of local authorities working outside of London.

Private Rented Sector Lead

We recruited for a new Private Rented Sector Lead who started in post at the beginning of January 2022. For this post, the first year of this role will be funded by other sources, and The National Lottery funding will be used for years two and three of the Whole Housing Approach pilot (see above).

The guidance aims to provide information on the private rented sector (PRS) for front-line domestic abuse practitioners so they can advise and support their clients who live in the PRS or are placed in the PRS after fleeing abuse. The guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Key activities delivered in include:

PRS Guidance & Webinar launch

On March 10th, 2022, we launched our PRS Guidance for domestic abuse practitioners at an online webinar.

The webinar was chaired by the Whole Housing Programme Manager, and included a range of speakers:

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Housing Team (continued)

- An IDVA at Advance (women's charity in West London) and the VAWG Manager at Hopscotch ('by and for' charity that supports minoritised ethnic women and their families), both presented a case study of a survivor they supported who lived in the PRS.
- The VAWG Manager at Hopscotch also presented on barriers that her clients face with the PRS.
- The Housing Barrister from Garden Court Chambers who helped us draft the guidance presented on the rights of private tenants, and how these impact domestic abuse survivors.
- The PRS Lead at Standing Together presented on how to access and use the guidance.
- The Chair facilitated a Q&A session at the end with all the speakers.

133 people booked onto the webinar, and 89 people joined the live event. The webinar was recorded and shared with everyone who booked for the event, along with the guidance.

PRS training for domestic abuse services

Following the PRS Guidance launch, we offered training to front-line domestic abuse services to help them implement the guidance in practice. The PRS Lead worked with the DA & Housing Training Lead at Standing Together to design a half-day interactive training session for front-line domestic abuse practitioners.

The aims of the training are for domestic abuse practitioners to understand the basic rights of private tenants, including how these impact survivors of domestic abuse, and how to support the housing needs of their clients who live in the PRS.

There is a first pilot session scheduled early April with IDVAs at the charity Advance to test the training and adjust the content to make it most relevant and useful for front-line practitioners.

There have also been three requests for training already once it is ready to roll-out, including domestic abuse services My CWA (Cheshire), Solace (London) and Berkshire Women's Aid.

PRS Stakeholders

Outside these main activities, the PRS Lead started to contact key stakeholders including local authority PRS teams. The local authority PRS teams will enable us to further understand the current gaps in the PRS domestic abuse response, as well as inform the development of a domestic abuse accreditation for PRS professionals. We have also been contacting a range of domestic abuse services who want to do more influencing work on private renting nationally. This will better inform our policy work, such as future government consultations and enable us to create guidance and resources on domestic abuse and the PRS.

Training for Environmental Health

We have developed the training for Environmental Health Professionals to respond to domestic abuse, which we have piloted with Environment Health Professionals via the Greater London Authority (GLA). We will be using this training with Cheshire East to better inform professionals and implement new ways of working to better the survivor response. We will work with Cheshire East to develop a delivery plan to implement the PRS element of the WHA with the pilot site.

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Housing Team (continued)

Support to the Whole Housing Approach pilot site

Now the pilot site has been selected, the PRS Lead will be working closely with the WHA Coordinator to understand the PRS provision and stakeholders within Cheshire East and devising a delivery plan of our training, guidance, and consultation resources.

Part 4 Whole Housing Approach Needs Assessments and Strategy

With the passing of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, local authorities are required to fulfill a statutory duty to provide support within safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse. Through campaigning through the DAHA-led National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice group, Government including DAHA accreditation and a Whole Housing Approach as a part of fulfilling this duty.

As a result, we've been approached by numerous local authority areas to conduct their Part 4 Needs Assessments and draft their Part 4 Strategies. This was a significant area of development for our team, to learn how to conduct local needs assessments and write strategies, and to work closely with STADA associates to complete this work. As a result, we conducted needs assessments and strategies for 9 local authority areas, and developed a [Part 4 Needs Assessment Template](#) for other LAs to follow who wish to fulfil their duty through a Whole Housing Approach. Our work with local authority areas led to the formation of the Part 4 Subgroup, that brings together local authority areas implementing a WHA to share best practice and address shared issues.

Restart: Early Intervention and Accommodation Pilot

As a result of the work of our National Group and our Perpetrator and Housing Subgroup, we were approached by the DRIVE partnership to jointly deliver a perpetrator early intervention and accommodation pilot with five London local authorities, and the support of MOPAC and funding by the Home Office. This is a 2-year funded project with the possibility of extension for an additional year.

The Restart Programme aims to improve responses to families experiencing domestic abuse that are being supported by Children's Social Care (CSC) via a multi-agency response that holds perpetrator responsible for their behaviour and change. This is centred on increased safety and space for action for child and adult survivors of domestic abuse and enabling their short- and long-term housing security. The pilot is one of the first of its kind to develop and deliver a perpetrator accommodation intervention as a part of a wider Whole Housing Approach to ensuring survivor safety and housing security.

In practice, the Restart Programme receives referrals from Children's Social Care to offer early intervention support to perpetrators of domestic abuse to access behaviour change programmes alongside support to access alternative accommodation pathways in a way that enables survivors, including children, to stay in the family home, if it is safe and their choice to do so. Survivors of domestic abuse are offered one-to-one support, to ensure that all interventions are survivor-led and responsive to their expressed needs and wishes at every stage.

Through the Restart Pilot, the Strategic Housing Lead (Lead) will work closely with strategic housing partners across the five London local authority pilot areas to consider how they actively utilise current housing legislation and local pathways to provide accommodation interventions for perpetrators in a safe, sustainable and survivor centred way. The Lead plays a critical role in translating strategic level decision making into practical implementation delivered by the Cranstoun Restart practice team, who work with families supported through the pilot on a day-to-day basis.

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As the critical link between strategic level decision making and operational implementation, the Lead has a firm understanding of the day to day running of the pilot, the role of the Accommodation Support Worker, and monitor how the accommodation initiatives work to support families and address their housing needs. The Lead uses this learning to further influence strategic level decision making regarding the housing pathways and options used, and how to continually improve these options and interventions.

Through a combination of desk-based research, active involvement in the develop and the delivery of the pilot, and through building relationships with stakeholders across the country, the Lead will also influence wider policy in response to perpetrators of domestic abuse, and to develop what a 'best practice approach' to perpetrator accommodation initiatives looks like.

In February 2022, we successfully recruited a Restart Strategic Housing Lead, however the individual moved on from this position in April 2022, and we've had to re-recruit for this position. In the meantime, the Senior Housing Manager has been closely overseeing the work.

B. Educating agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic violence

Standing Together carries out a variety of activities to fulfil its educative role, all with the aim of improving practice amongst helping agencies. This in turn benefits survivors in terms of access to services, the improved skills and awareness of the professionals who deal with them, the consistency of the standards applied by agencies and the safe options available to them and to their children.

Events

The Blooming Strong Campaign was created by us in 2014, it is the way we engage with partners to mark November 25th as the UN Day for the elimination of violence against women and as part of our 16 days of activism. At our event this year we invited the Artist Amja Unabashedly (Let Art Be Your Becoming) and Huda Jawad from Musawah as our inspiring women to chat with over coffee.

The event was very well attended. As we were still being affected by the pandemic and lockdown we didn't give or send out individual flowers this year. We created an e-card that colleagues could send to those they wish to nominate as 'Blooming Strong' women



CCR Leaders Course

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Leaders Course aims to increase the skills and expertise of professionals, including statutory commissioners and policy makers, who are responsible for leading and coordinating responses to domestic abuse (DA) and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The course was developed following a 24 month European project between Standing Together, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and European partners. The Domestic Violence: Coordinating the Intervention (DVCi) project developed, tested and implemented innovative, work-based Continuing Education and Training (CVET) to support the crucial role of DA Strategic Coordination.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

CCR Leaders Course (continued)

Currently, job descriptions and levels of skills and influence differ vastly, and there is no standard training that focuses on strengthening competencies and skills to support the role of DA Strategic Coordination. The CCR

Leaders course addresses this gap. Crucially this course provides a space for strategic leads, commissioners and policy officers with responsibility for DA/VAWG to connect, share best practice and learning.

Following the successful delivery of this pilot course in 2017/2018 and 2020/21 due to increasing demand from local authorities, Standing together decided to run it in February - April 2022. The course comprises of 6 days of training delivered over 3 months. The critical need for this course was highlighted by the fact that within a couple of weeks of promoting new rates for the course, all places were fully booked up.

At the time of writing, all participants have submitted their work with an expectation of a pass. We are awaiting confirmation from the OCN moderators. We have already received bookings for our next course

European Project: CQ4 DVCI

This year saw the final part of our involvement in this European project, sharing the CCR standards across Europe.

This second phase of the "Certificate and Qualification: Coordinators for Domestic Violence Strategic Intervention" project involves the following partners – Apostoli Katharsis (Romania), Dimitra (Greece), Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (UK), Aristoteleies Katartiseis (Greece) and Diakonija (Latvia) and Standing Together (UK).

This work commenced in January 2020 and although interrupted by the Pandemic, we were able to complete two learning visits, one to Riga Latvia, and one to Athens Greece. We also met virtually with partners throughout the year and finalised an e- learning course curriculum and materials, to be delivered completely online. We also developed the assessment criteria and exam questions. This consisted of over 200 different types of multiple-choice questions at varying levels of complexity that could randomly be selected with a balance of difficulty in an hour-long exam. Students were required to score over 70% to pass. Of the 13 UK students to take the exam 11 passed.

4. Strategic Influence

Standing Together serves on the following boards, panels, working groups and networks, sharing experience and expertise to our mutual benefit with:

- Chair the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group
- External Consultation Group of the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service Scrutiny and Involvement Panel, Crown Prosecution Service
- London Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel, London Areas, Crown Prosecution Service
- The London Mayor's Expert Group on Violence Against Women and Girls
- The Department of Health group developing a domestic violence pathway for Health
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- Home Office VAWG Stakeholders Group
- CBS Coalition Hub
- Victims' Voice Forum
- Local Authority VAWG Boards

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Strategic Influence

- London Councils
- Sector specific groups and forums

The ST CEO and staff speak at numerous international, national, regional and local conferences about our strategic and operational approach to the coordinated community response and often particular aspects of work.

5. Financial Review

Overview

The Charity's work in Year 2021 - 2022 continued along the strategically planned paths of making a difference in raising awareness and making changes to the response to domestic violence.

Standing Together entered the financial year in a cautious position with a well-diversified funding stream from local authorities, central government, NHS, trust foundations, consultancy work and training.

Periodically the financial position of fundings is investigated based on assumptions set out in budgets to establish the amount of income required to pay for staff salaries, operational and overhead costs in delivering Standing Together's objectives in eliminating domestic abuse.

The charity is successful in recruiting experienced staff against this background in maintaining skilled and qualified staff to new posts created this year. The Chief Executive concentrates on local and national opportunities along with the team via shared goals, policies to strengthen our position with existing contracts and future proposals to extend our work around domestic violence.

The work is supported by the finance and administration team ensuring that good financial management continues to be the key to achieving stability and ensuring the sound future for the organisation.

At the year ended 31st March 2022 total incoming resources increased by 36% from £2.1m to £2.9m. The increase was due to new funding for the following projects:

- £442k – DCMS, Domestic Abuse Mentor Courts
- £204k - GLA, Whole Housing Approach
- £154k – LBHF & Bi Borough, COVID 19 Emergency Funds

This was partially matched by an increase in charitable expenditure of 25% from £1.7m to £2.1m. At the year end the net increase in funds was £754k (2021: £411k). A prudent approach of management of reserves will continue to be taken in the next financial year with the aim of strengthening Standing Together's financial position in obtaining our main objectives.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

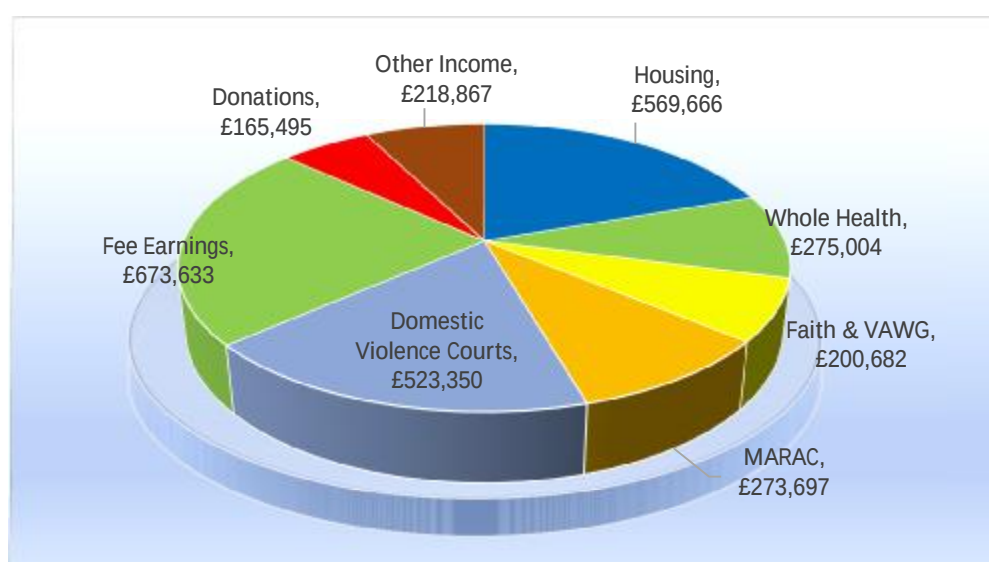
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Principal Funding Sources in Year 2021 – 2022

The Charity's principal source of funds was £992k received from local authorities, which provided 44% of total income. Standing Together made good progress in growing income from a diversified group of funders primarily securing funding from charitable trusts and foundations, philanthropists and increasing contribution from Peabody and Gentoo, Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Partners.

The growth in income reflects the growing recognition of the organisation's work and its impact in alleviating the effect of domestic abuse. Standing Together's response to the coronavirus pandemic was well received overall by attracting new resources from funders to support the charities objectives. Additional income secured by European Commission, training and consultancy work was crucial in the year. Standing Together is very grateful for the support of grant making bodies and individual donations from the public.

Income Resources: £2,900,395



Income from charitable activities include:

- **Housing**

£569k - Funding included £73k from London Councils for the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) to establish a set of housing standards through DAHA accreditation process; £284k to support the Whole Housing Approach project; £41k to tackle unrelated issues of homelessness and improve housing pathways for women with multiple needs, a total of £56k from LB of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF) and GLA to coordinate the sanctuary and flexi fund scheme to provide provision for improved home security and essential needs; £43k received from VIVID Homes to cover the cost of a Project Lead to manage Vivid Homes through the DAHA accreditation; £35k backing from MOPAC to support a pilot which aims to improve responses to perpetrators of domestic abuse in families that are being supported by Children's Social Care and £37k from Birmingham City Council to recruit an expert trainer to develop training packages in housing settings.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

· Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

£274k - Bi Borough (includes Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea) and LBHF collectively awarded £168k, LB of Haringey £50k and Ealing Council £55k to support the work around information sharing on the highest risk domestic abuse cases to ensure that all parties put in place a risk management plan for the safety of domestic violence survivors.

· Domestic Abuse Courts

£523k - In the first year of a 2-year project, DCMS (through the Tampon Tax) awarded £467k to develop the project of the existing Special Domestic Abuse Courts at Westminster Magistrates Court into Mentor Courts. Funding of £41k from Bi Borough and LBHF was used to fund the Senior CJ Manager to facilitate the delivery of the Mentor Court project. Contribution of £15k granted from Treebeard to assist in the court process of domestic abuse cases within the criminal system with the aim of increasing the proportion of successful outcomes.

LBHF via the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund allocated £25k to the role of the Performance & Review Coordinator who worked in partnership with the police, the Impact Project lead and the IDVAs to contribute to the delivery of the Project's workstreams.

· Whole Health

£275k - Inclusive of £66k from Public Health to continue the support of the Children & Health Coordinator role reflecting the view we share of the essential role which health professionals have in identifying and supporting survivors of domestic violence. Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation awarded £50k to fund the significant Domestic Abuse Coordinator post in developing and embedding a Trust wide holistic domestic abuse training package. £62k from Comic Relief for funding a whole health response to domestic abuse. NHS England provided £64k along with Portsmouth Hospital University NHS Trust and University Hospital of Southampton NHS Trust to support an HNS approach to tackling domestic abuse. Macmillan extended funding of £33k to develop and embed best practice for responding to domestic abuse within cancer support services, including the development and delivery of training, and the coordination of sustainable domestic abuse intervention.

· Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities

£200k - The SAFE Communities project brought together leaders, pooled expertise and people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and faith communities with the aim to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women. As part of a 3 year funding, Oak Foundation and City Bridge funded £115k and £60k respectively in the year. The Bi Borough and LB of Hammersmith & Fulham awarded £25k to extend the role of Harmful Practice role in ensuring that the response to harmful practices is coordinated effectively.

· Fee Earning Income

£674k - This included £173k from Domestic Homicide Reviews; £126k from educative consultancy and training courses; £276k consultancy work and £99k from Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and Coordinated Community Response (CCR) membership fees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

· Other Income:

£219k – consisted of the following:

i.Shared VAWG Operations Management

LBHF, Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea granted £40k for the role of Partnership Operational Manager to oversee and support the development of the Shared VAWG strategy services operational groups

ii.LB of Hammersmith & Fulham and Bi Borough

Rewarded £133k COVID 19 emergency funding to provide financial support during a period of market change because of the pandemic.

iii.DVCI (EU)

The aim of this project, in partnership with EU member states was to develop a Certification Scheme and Qualification Profile that focuses on certifying common competencies and skills to support for the role of Domestic Violence Coordinator, of which £13k was given to Standing Together.

iv.National Lottery Community Fund

Received £26k as part of funding to support core cost and strategic learning partnership between Aafda, Chayn, Galop, Imkaan, Respect, Rights of Women, SafeLives, Social Finance, Surviving Economic Abuse and Women's Aid. The partnership aims to pool collective expertise and knowledge to find new and collaborative approaches to better support victims and survivors of domestic abuse

v.Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

£4k grant was claimed from the CJRS for staff on furlough because of the COVID19 pandemic.

vi.Other income

Bank interest of £2k earned from fixed term deposit accounts.

vii.Angelou

Advance pays Standing Together £1k to oversee the Angelou website, a partnership of 10 specialist organisations that provide free advice and support to women and girls experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

· Donations

£166k - We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations and support we receive from individuals and organisations. The donations totaling £22k this year are a valuable contribution to our objective to alleviate domestic abuse. Housing Associations Peabody and Gentoo, partners of the DAHA national partnership contributed £144k to support the mission to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.

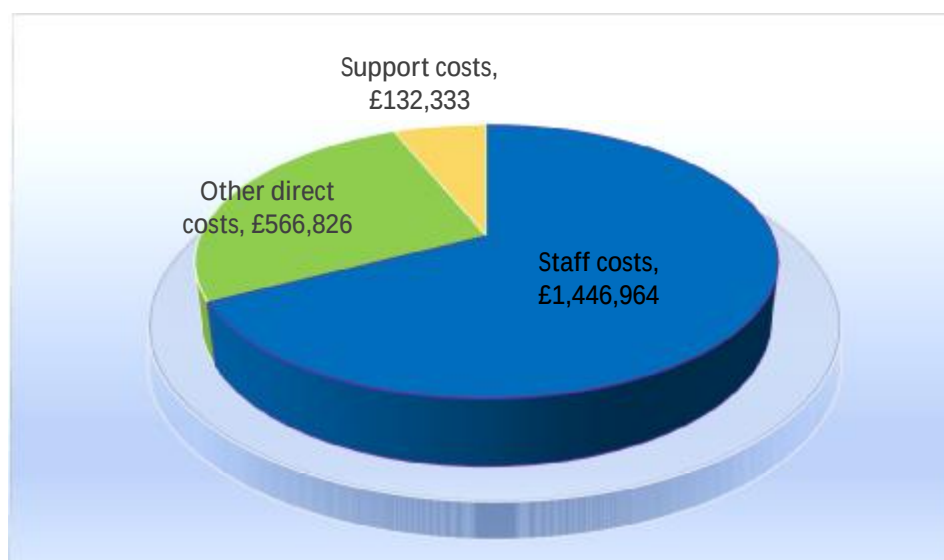
· In Kind

We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Charitable Expenditure: £2,146,123



Total charitable expenditure amounted to £2,146,123, which consisted of staff cost of £1,446,964 accounted for 67% of total costs. Support cost, £132,333 included costs for information technology (IT), other professional fees, office and premise costs. Other direct costs of £566,826 were for consultant fees, onward cost to partners and general overhead costs (insurance, telephone/video communications, membership fees, travel and depreciation).

Financial Results

The Income and Expenditure Accounts showed incoming resources for the year of £2.9m (2021: £2.1m) and expenditure of £2.1m (2021: £1.7m). The total reserves stand at £1,555k (2021: £802k) of which £566k (2021: 323K) is restricted and £989k (2021: £479k) is unrestricted. Of the unrestricted fund, £559k (2021: £352k) has been designated for contractual liabilities, leaving a balance of £430k (2021: £127k) as unrestricted free reserves.

Standing Together receives most of its funding in the form of grants directly in support for specific projects. We have increased our core funding by attracting flexible and diverse sources within our mission and expertise, ensuring that when submitting funding proposals full recovery cost is included in total costs. During the year our core funding was boosted by the increase in demand for consultancy services from local authorities utilising government money to prepare them to meet statutory standards of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which was passed on 30th April 2021.

Investments

Apart from maintaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are spent in the short term leaving less funds for long term investment. We maintain our good management of funds between the current and deposit accounts which has seen the rate of interest proportionately increase in this year. The opportunity of earning extra interest was achieved by prudently investing money in fixed term deposit accounts of various banks on the Flagstone Investment Platform online. Managing the level of risk by investing a maximum of £85k per deposit, protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) in the event that a financial institution goes out of business.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

The level of funds to invest on the Platform is monitored by the Finance Committee by reviewing cashflow statements reported by the Finance & Governance Manager.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation, which has identified the need for a robust financial planning and a clearer understanding of the necessity for reserves and liquidity. The Trustees recognise that it must manage its affairs to ensure that the level of reserves and associated cash balances remain sufficient such that Standing Together will continue to operate on a sustainable basis. It is the Trustees objective that in the event that Standing together faces difficult financial circumstances, these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Having assessed the current risks, the Trustees have established a policy to increase the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity. Trustees have decided that, after an allowance for future income expectations, Standing Together should maintain cash and realisable assets sufficient to fund three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

Taking into consideration the overall current grant position, the reserve represents the minimum level of funds required to protect Standing Together from the potential financial impact of known business risks. In the event of Standing Together facing difficult financial circumstances these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Based on the current position the reserve policy sets out that £559k in liquid and realisable assets will be held in designated reserves. The Trustees will monitor and review the level of reserves annually, in line with Charity Commission guidance. This allows £430k remaining for charity's free reserve which can be spent on any plans of the organisation.

6. Plans for the Future

Each year, Standing Together Staff and Trustees meet to review our objectives and priorities for achieving our charitable aims and to refresh our Theory of Change.

In 2021-2022 Standing Together set out to:

- Develop our work in relation to impact measurement
- Develop our reach and impact via all forms of media and IT
- Develop our work in influencing and policy
- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health-based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and influence the DH.
- Roll out the CCR Leaders course along with a more robust training package
- Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work, housing, health, faith and communities programme, harmful practices, MARAC and community based settings.

ST has achieved this and more by expanding the scope of our work in relation to community, housing and health based work. We are seeking to set clear benchmarks on the practices and services that should be core to the coordinated community response.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

7. Plans for the Future (continued)

We will further all of these aims developing, delivering and evaluating best practice models and toolkits to underpin our strategic aims and strengths within the sector.

8. Conclusion

Standing Together continue to promote the Coordinated Community Response as a framework by which we organise, plan and prioritise our work. Year on year, we build a more robust programme of work locally and nationally to both undertake and model the breadth of systemic work that is required to promote safety for survivors of domestic abuse and to hold perpetrators to account. Our challenge has always been to maintain the partnership work that we do in central London while promoting the best of what we are learning to our wider national networks. Our DVCN network has traditionally provided us with that opportunity however this year we have embraced other ways to do this through our national networks like the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, DHRs, Health and Criminal Justice based activities. The growth of the organisation is based on continual review and assessment of our internal resources and structures that underpin our work but also the strength of our partnerships and external relationships. We continue to build on a robust platform of experience and expertise firmly grounded and the principles and components of the coordinated community response which remains the foundation stone for all we do and how we develop.

9. Impact of Coronavirus

During the year despite the scale and spread of Covid 19 (Coronavirus) virus worldwide and the actions taken by governments affected, the pandemic did not have a significant impact on the financial position of the charity. We were able to secure additional COVID19 emergency funding and saw an increase in demand for our consultancy services. Through regular meetings the CEO and management team reporting back to the Trustee. Although the country appears to be emerging from the pandemic, the organisation continues to monitor the situation and adjust to the changing environment in an effective way so as to ensure resilient strategic and operational direction.

10. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law and the law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- o Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- o Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- o Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- o State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures
- o Disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- o Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue to operate.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

- The Trustees confirm that, in the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the date of this report, the following applies:
- So far as each Trustee is aware there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- Each Trustee has taken all the steps necessary to make herself/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Relationship with Funders

- No Trustee had any relationship with any of the main funders except as a Trustee of Standing Together

In so far as the Management Committee is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The Management Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

This Report is agreed and signed at the AGM by the Chair of Standing Together, on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2022.



Kruti Patel
Signed on 16/12/22 @ 09:03

Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Standing Together against Domestic Abuse (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement in the Trustees' Report, 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER
AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
(registered company no. 04283131)**

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:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) applicable to smaller entities and the Companies Act 2006.
- We understood how the charitable company is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the charity's documented policies and procedures. The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override and allocation of costs to charitable activities and restricted funds.
- Our approach was to check that the income from grants, donations and fee were properly identified and accurately disclosed, that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. We also reviewed major journal adjustments along with unusual transactions and considered the identification and disclosure of related party transactions.

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

Use of our report

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



Shoaib Arshad (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:

Knox Cropper LLP

Chartered Accountants & Statutory

Auditors 65 Leadenhall Street

London EC3A 2AD

16 December 2022

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2022

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note		2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	165,495	-	165,495	131,727	-	131,727
Charitable activities	4	1,195,234	1,537,826	2,733,060	834,593	1,166,675	2,001,268
Investments	3	1,840	-	1,840	249	-	249
TOTAL INCOME		£ 1,362,569	£ 1,537,826	£ 2,900,395	£ 966,569	£ 1,166,675	£ 2,133,244
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable activities	5	(851,317)	(1,294,806)	(2,146,123)	(741,627)	(980,865)	(1,722,492)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£ (851,317)	£ (1,294,806)	£ (2,146,123)	£ (741,627)	£ (980,865)	£ (1,722,492)
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		511,252	243,020	754,272	224,942	185,810	410,752
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 1 APRIL		478,292	322,910	801,202	253,350	137,100	390,450
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31 MARCH		£ 989,544	£ 565,930	£ 1,555,474	£ 478,292	£ 322,910	£ 801,202

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. None of the Charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2022

(Registered Company No. 04283131)

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment	10	2,244	3,365
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	565,839	354,853
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,491,307</u>	<u>1,057,661</u>
		2,057,146	1,412,514
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(503,916)	(614,677)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,553,230</u>	<u>797,837</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,555,474	801,202
NET ASSETS		<u>1,555,474</u>	<u>801,202</u>
		£	£
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds	14	559,060	351,643
General fund	14	<u>430,484</u>	<u>126,649</u>
		989,544	478,292
Restricted Funds	14	<u>565,930</u>	<u>322,910</u>
		<u>1,555,474</u>	<u>801,202</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by: -



Kruti Patel
Signed on 16/12/22 @ 09:03

Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021	
	£	£	
Cash flows from operating activities			
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	754,272	410,752	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	1,121	1,121	
(Decrease)/increase in Debtors	(210,986)	(79,389)	
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(110,761)	108,713	
Investment income	(1,840)	(249)	
	<u>431,806</u>	<u>440,948</u>	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Returns on investment – interest receivable	1,840	249	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	-	
	<u>433,646</u>	<u>441,197</u>	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	433,646	441,197	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1st April	1,057,661	616,464	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st March	<u><u>1,491,307</u></u>	<u><u>1,057,661</u></u>	
Components of cash and cash equivalents			
	April 2021	Cashflow	April 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£ 1,057,661</u>	<u>433,646</u>	<u>1,491,307</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Company status

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the note 14.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) which the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the amount will be received, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donation received are deferred when conditions are attached, for example when they relate to a specific future period.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately to the direct staff costs allocated to the activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised and stated at cost less depreciation.

Furniture and equipment	5 years on straight line

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pensions

The company is part of a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations	165,495	-	165,495	131,727	-	131,727
	<u>£ 165,495</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 165,495</u>	<u>£ 131,727</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 131,727</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Interest receivable from Bank interest	1,840	-	1,840	249	-	249
	<u>£ 1,840</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 1,840</u>	<u>£ 249</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 249</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Grants & contracts for services:						
Support & education to prevent domestic violence	700,936	1,537,826	2,238,762	605,893	1,166,675	1,772,568
Membership fees	97,228	-	97,228	-	-	-
Fee income	397,070	-	397,070	228,700	-	228,700
	<u>£ 1,195,234</u>	<u>£ 1,537,826</u>	<u>£ 2,733,060</u>	<u>£ 834,593</u>	<u>£ 1,166,675</u>	<u>£ 2,001,268</u>

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of grants & contracts for services

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Birmingham City Council	-	37,440	37,440	-	-	-
COVID Emergency Funding & Calypso	132,571	-	132,571	-	5,000	5,000
Chelwest NHS	-	50,250	50,250	-	49,000	49,000
City Bridge Trust	-	60,000	60,000	-	68,490	68,490
City of Westminster Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	12,690	12,690
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	-	5,380	5,380	-	35,000	35,000
Comic Relief - Recovery Fund	-	-	-	-	38,200	38,200
Comic Relief - Whole Health	-	62,265	62,265	-	-	-
DCMS - CJ Mentor Courts	-	442,100	442,100	-	-	-
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	-	-	-	58,664	58,664
Domestic Homicide Reviews	173,333	-	173,333	146,372	-	146,372
Ealing Council	55,655	-	55,655	55,655	-	55,655
Erasmus (EU)	-	12,842	12,842	-	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
GLA	-	204,759	204,759	-	-	-
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	66,000	-	66,000	66,000
Haringey Council	49,855	-	49,855	49,855	-	49,855
Home Office - Drive Project	34,840	-	34,840	-	-	-
Home Office - Emergency Fund	-	-	-	112,134	-	112,134
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	25,182	25,182	-	-	-
Homeless Link	-	-	-	-	48,375	48,375
Inner London Magistrates Courts	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Job Retention Scheme	4,245	-	4,245	33,600	-	33,600
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	-	61,000	61,000	-	51,000	51,000
London Councils	-	73,497	73,497	-	80,565	80,565
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	32,490	32,490	-	-	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	-	20,000	20,000	-	245,000	245,000
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	-	-	-	69,711	69,711
MOJ/MOPAC - Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	51,418	51,418
National Lottery Community Fund	-	99,871	99,871	-	120,329	120,329
NHS Trust Development	-	64,000	64,000	-	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	115,500	115,500	-	77,000	77,000
Southall Black Sisters Project	-	6,000	6,000	-	-	-
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Tri Borough Funding	250,437	-	250,437	208,277	2,160	210,437
Vivid Homes	-	43,000	43,000	-	-	-
Westminster City Council	-	41,250	41,250	-	3,173	3,173
Winston Churchill Memorial	-	-	-	-	9,900	9,900
£	700,936	£ 1,537,826	£ 2,238,762	£ 605,893	£ 1,166,675	£ 1,772,568

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

5a. Cost of charitable activities (current year as at 31st March 2022)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £
Projects:				
Community	129,336	29,007	13,291	171,634
Criminal Justice	254,458	146,333	34,376	435,167
DHRs	79,301	77,964	1,057	158,322
Health	173,069	34,048	18,352	225,469
Housing & Homelessness	431,137	99,977	26,234	557,348
MARAC	245,095	3,636	7,058	255,789
Training	20,928	32,621	2,516	56,065
Other charitable projects	113,640	143,240	29,449	286,329
Total as at 31 March 2022	£ 1,446,964	£ 566,826	£ 132,333	£ 2,146,123

5b. Cost of charitable activities (prior year as at 31st March 2021)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £
Projects:				
Community	62,493	3,114	6,208	71,815
Criminal Justice	104,439	760	2,076	107,275
DHRs	107,462	56,809	4,694	168,965
Health	236,860	5,381	22,033	264,274
Housing & Homelessness	348,418	175,850	35,028	559,296
MARAC	261,957	1,063	19,668	282,688
Training	1,507	11,156	1,854	14,517
Other charitable projects	168,492	50,677	34,493	253,662
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 1,291,628	£ 304,810	£ 126,054	£ 1,722,492

Resources expended include:

	2022	2021
Auditors' remuneration:	£ 6,000	£ 5,000

Details of resources expended are given in notes 6, 7 and 8

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

6. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Partner and stakeholder costs (see note 6a)	177,133	122,589
Consultancy and Domestic Homicide Review Associate costs	207,575	103,295
Training and learning services	82,253	33,573
External evaluation	10,000	24,983
Other direct costs	89,864	20,370
	<u>£ 566,825</u>	<u>£ 304,810</u>

Included in other direct costs is expenditure of £Nil (2020: £129,861) incurred on data collection, sharing learning and national good practice and dissemination relating to the Pathfinder Heath Project.

6a. Payments to Partners and Stakeholders:

	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
(i) Domestic Abuse Housing Association				
Partners:				
Peabody	-		37,500	
Gentoo	-		37,500	
	<u>-</u>	-	<u>75,000</u>	75,000
(ii) Homeless Link		-		15,877
(iii) Solace Women's Aid		38,000		31,711
(iv) Tampon Tax Project		139,133		-
Total partners and stakeholder costs		<u>£ 177,133</u>		<u>£ 122,588</u>

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Premises and Office costs	102,164	91,063
Communication & IT	16,154	17,726
Legal & professional fees	8,015	12,267
Auditor's fee	6,000	5,000
	<u>£ 132,333</u>	<u>£ 126,056</u>

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Gross salaries	1,240,267	1,117,123
Social security	95,791	108,292
Pension costs	43,128	44,615
Other staff costs	67,779	21,599
	<u>£ 1,446,965</u>	<u>£ 1,291,629</u>

The average weekly number of employees calculated as full time equivalents during the period was:

	Number	Number
Key Management Team	1	2
Faith & VAWG Communities	2.8	1.5
Criminal Justice project	5.1	2.6
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	3.9	2
Health	8.6	5.1
Housing	9.5	8.4
MARAC	6.7	8
Other Projects	2.8	2
	<u>40.4</u>	<u>31.6</u>

The average number of employees (head counts) during the period was:

<u>40</u>	<u>34.6</u>

One employee (2021: One) received remuneration of more than £60,000; between £60,001 to £70,000.

During the year, key management received an aggregate salary and benefits of £75,879 (2021: £125,674)

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year, no members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration (2021 : £NIL) No members of the Board of Trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2021 : £NIL)

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

10. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2021	5,607	5,607
At 31 March 2022	5,607	5,607
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2021	2,242	2,242
Charge for the year	1,121	1,121
At 31 March 2022	3,363	3,363
Net book value		
At 31 March 2022	£ 2,244	£ 2,244
At 31 March 2021	£ 3,365	£ 3,365

11. DEBTORS

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	237,229	246,653
Prepayments	18,964	4,088
Accrued income	293,160	90,531
Other debtors	16,486	13,581
	£ 565,839	£ 354,853

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Due within one year		
Deferred income	174,035	286,586
VAT creditors	57,339	93,303
Social security and other taxes	7,191	26,200
Trade Creditors	90,376	-
Accruals & creditors	174,975	208,588
	£ 503,916	£ 614,677

13. TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and therefore is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available, to registered charities.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

14a Statement of Funds (current year as at 31 March 2022)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Transfers and Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	350,215	-	-	207,437	557,652
DVCN Funds	1,428	-	(20)	-	1,408
Total as at 31 March 2022	£ 351,643	£ -	£(20)	£ 207,437	£ 559,060

	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Birmingham City Council	-	37,440	(8,717)	-	28,723
Calypso Browning	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Chelwest NHS	-	50,250	(48,771)	-	1,479
City Bridge Trust	7,436	60,000	(51,842)	-	15,594
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	6,767	5,380	(12,147)	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Health	-	62,265	(52,615)	-	9,650
DCMS - CJ Mentor Courts	-	442,100	(397,689)	-	44,411
Erasmus (EU)	47	12,842	(11,543)	-	1,346
GLA	-	204,759	(97,776)	-	106,983
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	4,580	66,000	(65,104)	-	5,476
Home Office - Drive Project	-	-	25,922	-	25,922
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	25,182	(19,525)	-	5,657
Homeless Link	18,616	-	(18,616)	-	-
Inner London Magistrates Courts	4,928	-	(664)	-	4,264
LBoF Hammersmith & Fulham	13,799	61,000	(47,370)	-	27,429
London Councils	3,977	73,497	(69,137)	-	8,337
MacMillan Cancer Support	-	32,490	(32,490)	-	-
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	28,078	-	-	-	28,078
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	124,424	-	(124,424)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	26,368	99,871	(65,126)	-	61,113
NHS Trust Development	-	64,000	(16,074)	-	47,926
Oak Foundation	54,672	115,500	(100,267)	-	69,905
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	12,158	-	-	-	12,158
Southall Black Sisters Project	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(1,908)	-	13,092
Tri Borough Funding	2,160	-	17,908	-	20,068
Vivid Homes	-	43,000	(19,205)	-	23,795
Westminster City Council	-	41,250	(36,726)	-	4,524
Winston Churchill Memorial	9,900	-	(9,900)	-	-
Total as at 31 March 2022	322,910	1,537,826	(1,294,806)	-	565,930

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Transfers and Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	351,643	-	(20)	207,437	559,060
General Funds	126,649	1,362,569	(851,297)	(207,437)	430,484
	478,292	1,362,569	(851,317)	-	989,544
Restricted Funds	322,910	1,537,826	(1,294,806)	-	565,930
Total as at 31 March 2022	801,202	2,900,395	(2,146,123)	-	1,555,474

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

14b Statement of Funds (prior year as at 31 March 2021)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	200,000	-	-	150,215	350,215
DVCN Funds	1,448	-	(20)	-	1,428
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 201,448	£ -	£(20)	£ 150,215	£ 351,643

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Calyso Browning	-	5,000.00	-	-	5,000
Chelwest NHS	-	49,000.00	(49,000)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	68,490.00	(61,054)	-	7,436
City of Westminster Charitable Trust	-	12,690.00	(12,690)	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	12,551.00	35,000.00	(40,784)	-	6,767
Comic Relief - Recovery Fund	-	38,200.00	(38,200)	-	-
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	58,664.00	(58,664)	-	-
Erasmus (EU)	12,062.00	-	(12,015)	-	47
Esmee Fairburn	-	25,000.00	(25,000)	-	-
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000.00	(61,420)	-	4,580
Home Office - Harmful Practice	20,438.00	-	(20,438)	-	-
Homeless Link	32,241.00	48,375.00	(62,000)	-	18,616
Inner London Magistrates Courts	-	5,000.00	(72)	-	4,928
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	11,869.00	51,000.00	(49,070)	-	13,799
London Councils	3,412.00	80,565.00	(80,000)	-	3,977
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	-	30,000.00	(1,922)	-	28,078
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	33,307.00	245,000.00	(153,883)	-	124,424
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	69,711.00	(69,711)	-	-
MOJ/MOPAC - Emergency Fund	-	51,418.00	(51,418)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	120,329.00	(93,961)	-	26,368
Oak Foundation	-	77,000.00	(22,328)	-	54,672
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	11,220.00	-	938	-	12,158
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000.00	(15,000)	-	-
Tri Borough Funding	-	2,160.00	-	-	2,160
Westminster City Council	-	3,173.00	(3,173)	-	-
Winston Churchill Memorial	-	9,900.00	-	-	9,900
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 137,100	£ 1,166,675	£ (980,865)	£ -	£ 322,910

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

14b Statement of Funds (prior year as at 31 March 2021)

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses) £	Carried Forward £
Designated Funds	201,448	-	(20)	150,215	351,643
General Funds	51,902	966,569	(741,607)	(150,215)	126,649
	253,350	966,569	(741,627)	-	478,292
Restricted Funds	137,100	1,166,675	(980,865)	-	322,910
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 390,450	£ 2,133,244	£(1,722,492)	£ -	£ 801,202

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

15a. Analysis of net assets between funds (current year as at 31 March 2022)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	2,244	-	2,244
Net Current assets	559,060	428,240	565,930	1,553,230
Total as at 31 March 2022	£ 559,060	£ 430,484	£ 565,930	£ 1,555,474

15b. Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year as at 31 March 2021)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	3,365	-	3,365
Net Current assets	351,643	123,284	322,913	797,840
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 351,643	£ 126,649	£ 322,913	£ 801,205

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 March 2022

16. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2021 the Company had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for land and buildings) as set out below:

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Operating leases which expired:		
within one year	45,403	44,631
within two to five years	-	44,631
	<u>£ 45,403</u>	<u>£ 89,262</u>

The cost of operating lease during the year was as follows:

Office lease charges for the year	<u>£ 45,403</u>	<u>£ 44,631</u>

17. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Pension costs in note 8 relate to payments made to a defined contribution scheme. The charitable company's liability is limited to making the payments due to scheme on timely basis. The liability as at 31 March 2022 is £10,240 (2021: £7,784)

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

There were no related party transactions, other than those disclosed in note 8 and 9.

19. SECTION 37 STATEMENT

Grant aid of £78,977 was received from London Councils in the financial year ended 31st March 2022. The purpose of the grant is to introduce and adopt established set of standards and an accreditation process in response to domestic abuse within the housing sector.

The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Grant Awarded	<u>£ 78,977</u>	<u>£ 80,565</u>
Costs		
Staff Costs	51,323	55,000
Other Direct Costs	12,837	20,023
Rent	2,000	2,000
Running costs	2,977	2,977
Total Costs	<u>£ 69,137</u>	<u>£ 80,000</u>
Underspent in the year	9,840	565
Underspent from last year	3,977	3,412
Total underspend at the year end	<u>£ 13,817</u>	<u>£ 3,977</u>

The sum of £5,479.75 was withheld in respect of monitoring information not submitted at year end. There was a total underspend of £9,840 which included underspend on staff costs of £3,677, travel expenses of £3,725 and material development cost of £2,438. (2021: £3,977)

Accounts



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**Company limited by guarantee No. 04283131
Registered Charity No. 1088844**

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

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Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS For the year ended 31 March 2021

Board of Trustees

K Patel	Chair
A Corbett (resigned 20/10/20)	
E Elkington	
F Endersby (appointed 28/04/20)	
R. Farrar (resigned 20/10/20)	
C. Griffin	Vice Chair
M Hill (appointed 29/07/21)	
T Joseph (appointed 29/07/21)	
S.Letchford (QPM) (resigned 20/10/20)	
A. Macalpine (resigned 20/10/20)	
M Latif (appointed 29/07/21)	
A Patel (appointed 29/07/21)	
L. Payne	
P Price	Treasurer
A Smith (appointed 29/07/21)	
K Vernau (appointed 29/07/21)	
A Wilkinson (resigned 20/10/20)	

Company Registration No: 04283131

Charity Registration No: 1088844

Registered Office: The Polish Centre
Room 44D, 4th Floor
238 – 246 King Street
London
W6 0RF

Auditors: Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

FOREWORD

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in Standing Together (ST). Our Trustees and staff team are extremely proud of the pioneering work of our organisation does to embed a coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic abuse in the UK. We remain inspired by the ambition of our founders over twenty years ago. We are proud of the depth and breadth of work to address and eradicate domestic abuse in such a range of areas. We are working in community-based settings, the criminal justice system and in a range of housing, health and faith settings. We are also integral to the strategic and operational response to domestic abuse in five London boroughs and in particular the bi-borough of Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham. We are increasingly sharing our approach to the coordinated community response in a number of national programmes such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, Pathfinder (health), Faith and Communities and in our Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) work. We are very proud of the partnerships in these areas and are privileged to work alongside so many ambitious and talented charities, services and community groups.

2020 -2021 has been an extraordinary year with unprecedented challenges due to coronavirus pandemic. Despite these challenges the team has worked tirelessly to deliver our services, bring in additional funding and to continue to meet ST's objectives.

We are pleased that our annual audit highlights our sound management of Standing Together. We would very much like to thank the Standing Together trustees, the staff team, our partners and all of those who have supported our work this year.

Sincerely,



Kruti Patel
Chair of Board of Trustees



Gudrun Burnet
Chief Executive

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT **For the year ended 31 March 2021**

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing documents, the Charities Act 2011 and 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).

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6th September 2001 and registered as a charity in October 2001. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10. The Members of the Company comprise all and only the current serving Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of trustees retire after which they may be re-elected if they agree.

The Chair along with selected members of the Board and CEO are responsible for recruiting members of the Board of Trustees. Membership of the Board is reviewed annually to ensure that the broadest interests served by Standing Together are represented. Trustees are sought who have experience and influence in their field and are most appropriate to promote the success of the Charity. They bring great abilities to bear on their role and in the various offices they hold on the Board. Their roles as Trustees include human resources; implementation of equal opportunities; financial management, education and equalities, criminal justice, legal expertise, a strategic overview of fundraising and strategic planning.

Each year a planning and review day is held with trustees. During the year a Board evaluation assessment was carried out. This included a review of the Board composition, skills, knowledge, experience, diversity and culture. It was recommended that to exercise best practice and in line with Charity Governance Code Commission guidelines, that Trustees with 9 years or more service would be replaced. In February 2021 a recruitment drive was carried out which resulted in the appointment of 6 new Trustees on 29th July 2021.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 20th October 2020, Ann Corbett, Rosemary Farrar, Simon Letchford and Anne Wilkinson resigned. During the year Fiona Endersby was appointed on 28th April 2020. On 29th July 2021 Michelle Hill, Tracey Joseph, Rizwan Latif, Anisha Patel, Anne Smith and Kim Vernau were recruited to the Board of Trustees.

All trustees receive letters and an agreement confirming appointment, including a pack of key documents containing governing documents and information on the organisation, their role and responsibilities.

As part of their induction, Trustees are briefed on their duties and meet with line managers who outlined their specific projects. To support them in their roles each Trustee are offered a "Buddy", an existing board member who can mentor them through the first few months.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Information on training for trustees of charities is offered to new trustees.

All Trustees have signed (a) a Declaration of Eligibility (b) Conflicts of Interest and Register of Interests and (c) a contract between Trustees and Standing Together and this is reviewed at each Trustee meeting. Trustees do not receive remuneration or derive any other personal benefit from the activities of the charity.

Management of the Charity

Standing Together is managed by this highly committed Board of Trustees which meets every quarter. The Board has maintained membership of nine to twelve trustees since registration in 2001 and makes every effort to ensure it is comprised of a mix of new and experience trustees who collectively provide the appropriate expertise and skills on the board. The principle remains that this structure safeguards that there is the appropriate expertise and skills on board to ensure that the charity is run in accordance with standard organisation practice, that ensure that activities undertaken are in line with the charitable objectives and aims of Standing Together.

The Board has fulfilled its role this year in being responsible for the strategic direction and the sound financial health of the company and for ensuring that the activities of the company meet its charitable objectives. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Chief Executive of Standing Together has overall responsibility for the running of the organisation and delivery of Standing Together's strategy, its development and achievements reporting directly to the Board, supported in financial matters by the Finance & HR Manager and in operational matters by the Partnership Manager and the wider management team. The salary for key management is decided by the Trustees taking into account the skills and experience required, the management responsibilities, the overall budget constraints and a view of what is appropriate as compared to similar roles in the sector in which we work. The level of salary bands is currently been reviewed by an independent human resource consultant, which will be presented in a pay policy to the Board for approval.

Financial Management

Standing Together has policies and procedures in place to carry out good financial management and clear audit trails to ensure that there are sufficient funds to maintain core services in the short and long term.

The Board of Trustees set up a Finance Committee which consists of Trustees Pat Price and Cynthia Griffin; plus Gudrun -Burnet, CEO and Caron Bailey the Finance & HR Manager. The Committee carries out detailed work on financial matters in connection with the budget, financial performance and funding of the organisation relating its findings at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Committee formally meets four times during the year.

Other policies and procedures include Finance Regulations; quarterly Finance Reports to Trustees; regular review of systems for supporting financial procedures; designated staff with clear roles & responsibilities and an Annual Audit.

In the up-and-coming financial year, the Finance Committee continues to focus on ways to increase the general reserves and monitor the organisation's performance against contingency plans. There is ongoing dialogue as we progress through and conclude the level of adequate general reserve. It has been recommended that by promoting Standing Together's bespoke training and consultancy work, looking at alternative ways of fundraising and engaging in the support of philanthropists and champions these are key opportunities in adding to general reserve. The emphasis is on how the Charity is funded,

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

how the Trustee seeks to continue to make progress, the fundraising strategy and its management. As part of this, the Business Continuity Plan was reviewed and updated in the year.

Risk Management

Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity. Risks are considered in light of their likelihood and potential impact and the necessary steps to mitigate them. The risks are outlined in a risk register which is updated for each Trustee meeting. It sets out the process that we use to identify and manage risks in all our activities.

Throughout the year the Trustees completed an overall review of the risk register whereby the Board considered:

- the high and significant risks to which Standing Together is exposed,
- the potential impact and probability associated with each risk,
- existing internal controls and accountability for them, and
- mitigating actions to reduce each risk to a level that is considered to be acceptable.

Securing future funding is the biggest risk for the charity and this challenge has been addressed in the Business Continuity Plan (2018-22). These are monitored by the Chief Executive and the Finance & HR Manager, with the Finance Committee, and assessed annually by the full Board. Standing Together has succeeded in diversifying its sources of funding by obtaining additional income raised from social enterprise and fundraising events. This undesignated income has assisted the process of forward planning; the management of cash flow and enabled the organisation to maintain and develop its activities to advance its charitable objectives.

Standing Together is satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to possible major risks.

Health and Safety

Standing Together maintains a Health & Safety policy committed to reducing the risks of hazards in the organisation workplace, making sure that premises, resources and working practices meet recognized standards for quality, security and safety. The Finance & HR Manager and Office Manager are trained First Aid Officer and Fire Marshals who are designated to ensure compliance with the company's policy and the landlord's responsibilities towards the organisation, especially regarding fire, safety and security precautions.

To maintain staff well being we continue to offer in addition to monthly supervisions, regular clinical supervisions which are delivered in a confidential manner to protect individuals' privacy. We have an independent qualified counsellor who acts as a point of contact for both staff and volunteers who are experiencing emotional distress.

Premises

Standing Together has leased its offices from the Polish Centre since its formation and held a succession of leases with Polish Social and Cultural Association Ltd who run the Centre. The lease agreement expires on 31st March 2022. The rent is under review and work is being done on looking at alternative premises which may be more suitable considering staff mainly working from home due to COVID19 pandemic.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Data

All data and I.T. security systems are reviewed regularly for compliance with Standing Together policy, protocols and procedures, as data sharing is an important function of the organisation and the partnerships we facilitate. All systems are fully backed up and copies are kept separately and securely. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Confidentiality Agreement and Information Sharing Agreement, which governs all our MARACs, have been used as good practice models by other partnerships. Passwords are renewed regularly and revised. All staff have undertaken 'Methods of Protecting Sensitive Data' training including General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) online training which was implemented on 25th May 2018.

Partners & Stakeholders

Standing Together is an independent charity. In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, the charity works closely with other organisations and develops partnerships with voluntary and statutory bodies in support of local and national policies.

Standing Together supports the government's strategy to address 'Violence Against Women and Girls' and sits on the Home Office VAWG Stakeholder Group. ST also sits on the London Domestic Violence Coordinators Network at MOPAC and the MOPAC VAWG Expert Group, the ACPO Domestic Abuse Stakeholder meeting, the CPS External Consultation Group and the London Criminal Justice Board subgroup for Domestic Abuse. Standing Together coordinates the Domestic Violence Coordinators Network (DVCN) on behalf of their members.

The charity is a member of Women's Aid (England), a member of NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organisations) and of EVAW (End Violence Against Women Coalition) and benefits from the information and services they provide.

2. Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes

Standing Together's ambition is to promote a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic abuse. To that end, Standing Together has created a Theory of Change to show how ST works to achieve its intermediate and longer-term outcomes. ST did this to:

Generate a shared understanding of aims and plans to achieve them.

Provide a simple and graphical description that will **help to communicate** about the aims of Standing Together.

Provide **clarity about what data and evidence** will be most important to collect as the organisation looks towards setting up its measurement framework.

It serves as a basis for a **more persuasive argument** that Standing Together impacts the lives of survivors, statutory agencies and local communities and it will help prepare Standing Together for further investment.

Following this work ST and with a final goal in mind that a coordinated community response model is embedded in the UK, ST set out to clarify and update our definition of the Coordinated Community Response and to set a new outcome measurement framework.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Coordinated Community Response Defined

The Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse is a local, whole system approach to the issue.

Standing Together's Core Principles underpinning the CCR approach

- The only way to respond to the issue of domestic abuse is to work collaboratively through the CCR.
- Domestic abuse is caused by, and generates, gender inequality.
- Individual experiences of domestic abuse are influenced by gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, race, religion, marital status, immigration, socio-economic position and many other factors: responses must understand the differing needs and potential barriers of the local population and be flexible enough to account for this.
- The CCR enables a whole system response to a whole person, recognising the wellbeing and safety needs of victims and survivors, with communities and organisations working alongside them.
- Responsibility for safety should not rest solely with individual victims but also with the community and services.
- Perpetrators must be held to account for the harm they inflict and offered routes to change their abusive behaviours.
- A CCR supports organisational responses, it does not replace them: organisations remain responsible and accountable (to their own agencies and to the partnership) for their own responses to domestic abuse, within a context of multi-agency working.
- A CCR requires leadership, a shared understanding of domestic abuse and risk, and coordination.

Standing Together's CCR Approach

- We put the safety and needs of survivors (adults and children) at the heart of every CCR.
- We ensure that the voices of survivors and their advocates are integral to every CCR.
- We require CCRs to cover the spectrum from primary prevention, to early intervention, to crisis responses, and the long-term recovery of survivors and behaviour change of perpetrators.
- Our CCR acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic abuse.
- Our CCR addresses the diverse and intersecting backgrounds, identities and experiences and situations of survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR addresses adults, children and young people; survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR encompasses all organisations operating in an area (statutory, voluntary, community) plus individuals who live / work in the area, and informal groups / networks located there.
- We require that all local organisations have an equal place and voice in the CCR.
- Our CCR requires coordination, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and leadership.
- Our CCR is flexible and will evolve.
- We ensure that local organisations recognise that they are best placed to identify, and develop, improvements to practice in developing a CCR - and we provide help to them to do this.
- We are committed to providing a consultative, learning and empowering approach to areas developing CCR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Standing Together' s CCR Core Components

What every CCR will have, regardless of area or local structures; all components adhere to the principles listed above.

- All organisations have developed and agreed a **common purpose** and approach to domestic abuse including a stated commitment to the CCR.
- **Definitions of domestic abuse and risk** are agreed and shared by all statutory, voluntary and community organisations.
- A defined **structure/mechanism(s)** is in place for the **coordination, governance and monitoring** of the CCR to ensure **accountability** and to enable a flexible and evolving approach.
- An **action plan** is in place.
- Written **policies and procedures** are in place within every **organisation** covering their response to domestic abuse. Regular compulsory **training** at every level of the organisation supports these.
- Written **policies and procedures** are agreed covering **multi-agency** systems and working (including the MARAC and SDVC). Regular compulsory **training** supports these.
- An agreed **dataset** is in place and monitored on a regular basis.
- **Survivors' voices** (and the views of their advocates) are regularly sought, listened to and responded to.
- Adequately resourced **specialist services** are in place to respond to adults, children and young people: survivors and perpetrators.
- In 2020-21 we particularly set out to:
- Maintain service delivery during COVID 19 and ensure staff well being remained a priority throughout the pandemic.
- Launch the Pathfinder toolkit in partnership with AVA, IMKAAN, IRISi and Safelives.
- Successfully fundraise for our Faith and Communities, Whole Housing, Mentor Court and Health work
- Run our nationally accredited training (CCR Leaders) for those with strategic responsibilities for VAWG.
- Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work, housing, health, MARAC and community-based settings.
- Apply and be awarded the contract for existing Court and MARAC work in bi-borough and Hammersmith and Fulham.

3. Achievements and Performance

We report below on our achievements in meeting the aims of our charitable company.

- We have successfully sustained services during COVID 19 and protected the well being of our staff
- Refreshed In Search of Excellence and launched this at a public event
- Expanded and continued our offer for health professionals
- Launched our DAHA membership model to ensure this is self-sustaining
- Sustained our work in Faith and Communities.
- We have been awarded the contract for MARAC and Court in the bi-borough and Hammersmith and Fulham

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

- We have played an instrumental role at policy level in terms of responding to and consulting on the Domestic Abuse Act
- We have improved our communications via social media and campaigning for example Blooming Strong and Running Together

A. Promoting the development of services to meet the needs of survivors of domestic abuse

The Coordinated Response in the Three Boroughs

In order to develop our local CCR, ST worked closely with the VAWG Strategic Partnership for the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF), the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and the City of Westminster (WCC) to develop and implement a strategy for violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Strategy was written after considerable consultation with survivors, service users, stakeholders from a range of statutory and voluntary organisations as well as elected members across the three councils. The Strategy details how the Partnership will deliver a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to VAWG; it keeps survivors and children at the centre of its aims and objectives, whilst also holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. The Strategy is focused around the following seven strategic priorities:

1. Access
2. Response
3. Community
4. Practitioners
5. Children and Young People
6. Perpetrators
7. Justice and Protection

It includes a 43-point action plan which provides the framework for the VAWG Partnership to deliver against its agreed objectives.

As of 27th March 2017, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster announced that they would withdraw from service sharing arrangements in Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Public Health. With effect from 1st April 2018

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham was no longer be part of the shared services for these named services. However, all three boroughs have confirmed their commitment to work together and maintain a three borough VAWG Board. From April 2019, it was decided for 1 year to maintain the current strategy with a refresh that identified the following priorities:

The Partnership model and service delivery was due to be remodelled and recommissioned in 20/21 but due to the Covid 19 Pandemic it was decided to postpone that for 12 months as services were already stretched beyond capacity in working within the restrictions of lockdown. The commissioning process opened again in February 2021 with contracts extended until the end of September 2021 to allow for transition to the new contracts.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Three Borough VAWG Strategic Partnership

ST takes the operational lead in delivering the Strategy and is an integral part of the governance structure of the board. The VAWG Strategic Board is tasked to:

- To ensure the voices and experiences of survivors of VAWG are reflected throughout the Strategy and Action Plan via regular consultation and feedback;
- To monitor progress of targets and objectives against the Shared VAWG Action Plan and assess whether actions and activities, including of the 6 VAWG Operational Groups, are achieving the required outcomes;
- To establish the overall impact of the strategy via quality assurance and performance monitoring frameworks;
- To promote effective links with the work other Strategic Partnerships including the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards and Health and Well-Being Boards;
- To incorporate new legislation, policy and guidance alongside ongoing understanding and assessment of local need and recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews and serious case reviews; and
- To report regularly on the progress of the Strategy to each of the three-sovereign borough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, for which VAWG is a priority area of business.

The Board is informed and influenced by six Operational Groups that each have a coordinator and a chair and work to detailed action plans based on the seven strategic commitments. The groups are:

- Housing
- Specialist Services
- Children and Health
- Risk and Review (which includes the Specialist Court and MARACs)
- Harmful Practices
- Modern Slavery and Exploitation

These groups provide detailed feedback via coordinators to an Executive group, which meets regularly to monitor the action plans, share information across the Partnership and raise issues and trends to the Strategic Board which have developed in the three boroughs. Standing Together coordinate the first four of those operational groups.

2020/21 has been an exceptional year due to the pandemic and the oversight of the VAWG Partnership Board has been essential to maintain positive communication between agencies and ensure all partners are supported and held to account in providing for survivors, their children and perpetrators during such unprecedented times. The positive working relationships and mutual respect that has been built within our three Borough partnership has assisted in ensuring high quality provision was maintained.

As a result of COVID 19 Standing Together have been heavily involved in the response and ensure our services have remained business as usual. This has entailed meeting regularly with the strategic leads and our work in MARACs, courts, health, harmful practices, housing and of course our specialist services.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Angelou partnership:

Received 3,158 referrals in total during 20/21.

Headline Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Baseline 2012/13	Achieved 2019/20	Achieved 2020/21	Rag Status Green Amber Red
Improved safety of victims of VAWG and their children	Women report increased safety and feelings of safety as measured by exit surveys	65%	85%	85%	Green
Work as part of a Co-ordinated Community Response to tackling VAWG in the Tri-B Area	Women report a reduction in abuse due to support and advice received from service as measured by closing assessments.	67%	94%	93%	Green
Repeat victimisation is reduced and service users are supported to live free of violence	Women are at reduced risk at case closure following the support of the service as measured by professional judgement, risk and needs assessment and closing assessments.	62%	92%	89%	Green
Greater access to justice (both civil and criminal systems) for all service users					
Improved long-term outcomes and well being for service users and their families;	Women and girls report their quality of life has improved as measured by exit surveys.	55%	80%	79%	Green
Empower women and girls who have experienced violence to recover and thrive in a future without violence.					

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Angelou partnership:

Headline Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Baseline 2012/13	Achieved 2019/20	Achieved 2020/21	Rag Status Green Amber Red
Increased number of victims of VAWG engaging in services and improved access for BME groups and young people; Support for victims is provided at the earliest stage and is for as long as they need to access support	Increased number of women and girls engaged in services as measured by the number/ percentage of service users that have been contacted and engaged in services as well as monitoring of demographic data.	70%	84%	80.5%	Green
Young people have the opportunity to explore healthy and unhealthy relationships and deepen understandings of VAWG; Community has greater awareness of VAWG, reduced tolerance for VAWG and increased awareness of avenues for support.	Women and girls report improved confidence in reporting abuse and/or where to access help and support as measured by exit interviews and evaluations. Young people report improved confidence in reporting abuse and/or where to access help and support as measured by exit interviews and evaluations.	72%	97% 100%	97% 96%	Green Green

Standing Together maintains the Angelou partnership website over the year which helped facilitate access to the variety of services it provides.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Specialist Services Operational Group

The Specialist Services group only met twice during 20/21. Because of lockdown specialist services were at capacity in responding remotely to the increase of cases across the 3 boroughs. It met in November and surveyed the members as to how it could be most useful. Communication between services scored highly as did continuing an activist agenda. The group has a good representation of 'by and for' services so it was felt essential that their voices should be and how they could be accessed. amplified to the strategic group. The group continues to share information amongst members (and to the Board) on what services were available in each borough

Children and Health Operational Group

The Children and Health Operational Group (CHOG) encourages the implementation of the CCR model by improving responses to domestic abuse from health, statutory and non-statutory services who come into contact with children and young people. This is achieved through institutional advocacy, coordinating evidence-based interventions, promoting the voice of survivors and their children within meetings and forums and policy development and implementation.

The Children and Health Team Leader engages with a variety of stakeholders including GP practices, sexual health services, substance misuse services, health visitors, Children's Social Care, Early Years and front-line domestic abuse service providers in the Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

The CHOG meetings take place on quarterly basis, with four being held in 2020-21. The following themes were explored:

Domestic Abuse in the Family Courts; Operation Encompass, Stalking and Domestic Abuse; Iris programme for GPs and findings from a local Domestic Homicide Review.

The Children and Health Team Leader coordinates the Hammersmith and Fulham co-location project, in partnership with Advance and DVIP. The steering group met four times in 2020-21, hearing case studies and positive impacts of the project at each meeting. Funding has been secured for this project to continue in 2021-22.

The Children and Health Team Leader has contributed to a range of training sessions and workshops across the Tri Borough to: Housing services; GPs, Community champions, Covid-19 helpline workers, Social Care staff and GPs.

Delivered training to 55 practitioners in health settings, from GPs to reception staff. She also trained 251 colleagues from social care, including Social Workers, CAFCASS officers, housing and support workers.

Feedback from training included:

"It was just really engaging. I think the Safe Together model was great and really got me thinking about best practice. Also the information about domestic homicide reviews and the 8 step domestic homicide model. I am fired up to advocate for clients in MARAC meetings and beyond"

"It was a very informative and enlightening session. Loved it"

"Nicola and Sarah you did a fantastic job today. Thank you so much"

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Children and Health Operational Group (continued)

Key achievements 2020-21:

- We coordinated a project with the Early Intervention Foundation this quarter which mapped services across H&F and Westminster. The final product will be produced in the next quarter
- Created guidance for health and social care staff in light of Covid-19, disseminated to a range of local and national partners
- Wrote training for the Covid-19 CAN and Shield helplines
- Promoted the local CCR through the update of In Search of Excellence

Safe and Together

Following the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership endorsing the Safe and Together model, work progressed significantly in 2020-21. We provided 15 Social Work managers with two 2 hour modules plus a 90 minute de-brief on the model. We also delivered the four day CORE training to 18 Social Workers from across the Three Boroughs and the feedback we received via the Safe and Together Institute was excellent;



The models we were introduced to will be useful in day to day case planning. The trainer did very well in ensuring the training remained engaging despite all being conducted over video.

CORE TRAINING ATTENDEE, Live Remote

We have a project group who are working on a delivery plan for the next financial year.

Acute Trust Project

The Acute Trust Project aims to develop and sustain a Trust-wide response to domestic abuse within CWFT; increasing Trusts' and professionals' capacity to identify, respond and appropriately refer domestic abuse cases through training, development of policy and referral pathways, creation of a network of DA champions and improved multi-agency engagement.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Acute Trust Project (*continued*)

- **The key achievements 2020-2021:**
- Training has continued in the Trust wherever possible, although training and meetings freezes for health staff have taken places during periods in lockdown. There have been a total of 2425 staff attendances at DA training (Levels 1-4) this year. 36 staff members have completed Domestic Abuse Link (DAL) training
- The numbers of MARAC and IDVA referrals made by the Trust has increased. 185 MARAC referrals were made compared to 146 in 2019/20. This is a 27% increase from 2019/20 and a 176% increase from 2018/19 when 67 MARAC referrals were made. 428 IDVA referrals were made in 2020/21, compared to 373 in 2019/20. This is a 15% increase from 2019/20 and a 23% increase from 2018/19 when 347 IDVA referrals were made
- CWFT participated in the 'You Are Not Alone' campaign, which was publicised to patients and the public. Trust staff were eager to show that, although this year has been incredibly busy for hospital staff, they were still committed to providing support to survivors.



A core focus of the project this year has been to develop policy/processes to support CWFT staff who are experiencing domestic abuse.

- A survey was sent to all CWFT staff asking about their experiences of DA and accessing support from the Trust
- This will be utilised, along with the results of focus groups conducted with CWFT HR, Occupational Health and Legal staff, to create a dedicated policy
- In response to the immediate needs identified in the survey, processes have been created to provide staff access to emergency accommodation, financial support, food/clothing/toiletries, and emotional support from the Trust.

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Whole Health Project

As a legacy of the national health work undertaken by the Pathfinder Project, the Mental Health Coordinator is now the Whole Health Coordinator working with a range of healthcare services across numerous locations. Funding in the year 2020-2021 focussed on using the learning and resources from the Pathfinder Project to embed the 'Whole Health Model' across NHS Trusts in England.

As part of this work the Coordinator has:

- Mapped out a new online forum aimed at health professionals working to improve the health service response to domestic abuse. The forum will provide a space where health workers can connect, ask questions, problem solve and download resources to aid in implementation of the Whole Health Model. The Coordinator surveyed existing health contacts to gauge demand for this concept and worked with a digital consultant to begin the creation of the forum itself. We have been successful in a bid to Comic Relief to continue this work and launch the forum in 2021-2022
- Created an accreditation framework for health Trusts based on the elements of best practice outlined in the Pathfinder toolkit. The framework will help guide health Trusts through systems change and will be accessed through an online portal which will allow Trusts to track their progress and will encourage them to make continued improvements. The Comic Relief funding listed above will facilitate the creation of the online portal.
- Supported the Domestic Abuse Coordinators in place at Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust/West London NHS Trust and Camden and Islington NHS Trust through the provision of resources to be used in their work
- Coordinated the INCADVA (INter-Collegiate and national Agency Domestic Violence and Abuse) forum which brings together a range of health and VAWG organisations to tackle domestic abuse/VAWG at a policy and strategic level. The coordinator maintains and updates the member list, arranges the bi-annual meetings (including agendas, chair and minutes) and coordinates two additional subgroups focussing on the VAWG content in the medical curriculum and joint health/VAWG policy responses. This year the latter group created a joint response to the Domestic Abuse Bill consultation and accompanying statutory guidance, worked with Peers in the House of Lords during the 2nd and 3rd readings of the Bill and submitted a joint forum response to the NHS Standard Contract consultation outlining the need for the Whole Health Model in tackling VAWG
- Worked with the health team and the Violence and Abuse Mental Health Network Advisory group to create a briefing with recommendations to the Home Office Health Subgroup
- Co-delivered a range of training sessions including; domestic abuse simulation training for mental health professionals (in partnership with the Maudsley Simulation Team), domestic abuse, trauma and self-care training to two health Trusts, domestic abuse and child safeguarding training, multi-agency domestic abuse training and 'train the trainer' training for a group of health Trusts in the South West of England. Feedback from training included the following:

"I thought the training was really insightful and allowed us to have a greater understanding of how the system works and what we need to keep an eye out on. I enjoyed being able to see things from a different perspective this really helped me to enhance my own perspectives."

"I was able to have an open and honest discussion with both of the meeting hosts as well as my colleagues. It was a really informative session"

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Whole Health Project (*continued*)

"It will really influence how I think about domestic abuse in a broader context"

"It is one of the best I have been to"

Domestic Abuse Courts

Standing Together continue to coordinate the Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDACs) at Westminster Magistrates Court to provide a specialist court facility to the boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea. The SDAC for Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea and the DDAC for Westminster have been running for nineteen and nine years respectively and continue to evolve good practice and improve the service to victims/survivors. The SDAC model ensures that the focus on victim/witness safety is maintained throughout the entire specialist court process which has become more important in this current financial climate where agency resources have been cut.

In late 2020, the CJ team secured Tampon Tax funding via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for a 2-year Mentor Court project starting in April 2021, which aims to reinvigorate the SDAC model nationally and in turn, improve the criminal justice response to domestic abuse. The project will enhance the existing SDAC's at Westminster (London Mentor Court), recruit an Outer London court, and expand on the mapping work already being carried out within the team on a much wider scale. The London and Outer London Mentor Courts will offer stakeholders the opportunity to observe the SDAC in session and partake in learning sessions, so that they can take the SDAC model back to their local area.

This funding will allow the CJ team at STADA to grow by recruiting for additional posts including for the outer London court who will also form part of the wider CJ Team at STADA.

The anticipated large-scale review of SDACs on a national level is unprecedented and will build upon the work that has been carried out more recently funded by Treebeard. The Programme Manager who will be responsible for this element of the project, had previously started work to map and observe SDACs across the country, and this will continue via the Mentor Court project work on a much larger scale. Treebeard continues to support the CJ team with funding to support with the reinvigoration of the SDACs nationally.

During the pandemic, the CJ team adapted to the crisis by increasing their support to stakeholders and developing new processes to provide support for victims. The team maintained a presence in the police station where they continued to support officers in the CSU. The Impact Project continues to run in partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham, working closely with ADVANCE. The funding from the Tampon Tax will enable us to recruit a part-time Impact Officer as the Programme Manager moves to focus on the Mentor Court project in April 2021.

The CJ Team continues to work with key stakeholders whilst we navigate the ever-changing terrain of remote working during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Programme Managers have furthered relationships with the CPS and the Police, which has enabled the CCR to continue working in the tri-borough, making sure that other agencies are able to provide and receive information allowing the safety and needs of victims to be maintained. The CJ team continue to provide subject matter expertise across many forums related to domestic abuse and the criminal justice system, and the CJ Programme Managers recently provided feedback on the Domestic Abuse Act whilst it was going through Parliament, drawing on this expertise.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Domestic Abuse Courts (*continued*)

The CJ Team remain valued members of CPS VAWG Scrutiny Panel, Police NFA Scrutiny Panel, LCJB Delivery Board, CPS External Consultation Group, BTP Public Protection Panel and Regional Stakeholders Meeting. The DA Court Management Groups to meet on a quarterly basis where operational feedback is provided to members to ensure consistency between the courts but to also hold the partner agencies to account regarding their commitment to the specialist courts. The DA Focus group also meets following the CMG meetings and the Court Led Meetings where the scrutiny of local data and outcomes is discussed.

The specialist courts at Westminster Magistrates Court continue to be acknowledged as best practice and the CJ team hope that the Mentor Court project will allow for this practice to be recognised and rolled out on a national basis.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC}

In 1999 Standing Together (ST) played a pioneering role in the development and implementation of MARACs. ST founded the MARAC in Hammersmith & Fulham (September 2007) and Kensington & Chelsea (January 2008) then adding Haringey (March 2013), Ealing (June 2013) and Westminster (September 2013). Some of SafeLives MARAC documentation was modelled on paperwork created by ST. Our MARACs have been visited by the Home Office and recommended by SafeLives as among the best in the country and at the forefront of championing survivor safety.

Aligning with SafeLives best practice guidance and the principles of an effective MARAC, all ST MARACs have run effectively and in line with SafeLives recommended practice in 2020-21. Our work includes close liaison with specialist agencies, bringing their expertise to MARAC meetings, helping inform practitioners, reducing barriers to support experienced by some communities and individuals with intersectional characteristics and complex needs, ensuring equality of access and inclusive action planning that recognises diversity. Through this process ST is committed to actively increasing MARAC referrals from all sections of the community.

We have a well-developed MARAC training package providing team briefings, representative inductions, and quarterly workshops to frontline staff on domestic abuse awareness, risk identification, SafeLives DASH RIC Checklist, MARAC processes and protocols, referral thresholds, and specialist services. At the start COVID-19 Pandemic, the MARAC team adapted their training packages to be delivered virtually.

We pride ourselves on our uniquely robust team capacity consisting of a Team manager, FT support officer, PT Data officer and four Coordinators meaning we have built in resilience and are able to remain compliant with all contractual obligations in terms of service delivery. At each MARAC meeting we provide two staff; a MARAC Coordinator and a minute-taker which enhances quality and allows for more effective action planning and support for reps and chairs.

ST coordinates and administrates the London MARAC Coordinators Forum bringing together Coordinators to share best practice, learn from each other, discuss challenges and explore innovation in the MARAC field. Throughout the year we held three meetings.

Underpinning our MARAC work is the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model. This provides us unrivalled expertise in developing partnerships and multi-agency working. Our Coordinators benefit from organisational learning and best practice knowledge enriching each MARAC we coordinate and ensuring that

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

our MARAC team has considerable influence and in roads amongst a wide variety of practitioners in the DA field sharing good practice and encouraging appropriate interventions. All MARAC Coordinators at ST bring a background of frontline or other relevant experience.

The following data breakdowns indicate high performance when compared to SafeLives recommended target figures in all areas of provision and particularly in comparison to other London region MARACs.

Hammersmith & Fulham

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	320	419
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	32.2
% Repeat	28% - 40%	30.3%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	2.6%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	9.1%
% BME Referrals	55%	47.7%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	17.9%
Number of children	N/A	320

Hammersmith & Fulham MARAC has heard 419 cases during 2020-2021, 10 cases less than 2019-2020. SafeLives recommends that 320 cases are heard per 12-months period, Hammersmith & Fulham MARAC has heard 130.9% of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting for 2019-2020 was 35.8, while during 2020-2021 it has been 32.2, with an average fluctuation of 3.7 cases. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases including the top four referring agencies as Police (27.3%), IDVA service (23.3%), Children Social Care (10.6%) and Secondary Care Acute Trust (10.3%).

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

Kensington & Chelsea

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	12
Cases heard (N)	270	329
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	27.4
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	28.0%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	3.6%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	6.1%
% BME Referrals	55%	49.2%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	18.8%
Number of children in household	N/A	215

Kensington & Chelsea MARAC has heard 329 cases during 2020-2021, 4 cases more than 2019-2020 and has met 12 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 270 cases are heard per 12-months period, Kensington & Chelsea MARAC has heard 121.9% of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting during 2019-2020 was 27.1, while during 2020-2021 it has been 27.4, with an average fluctuation of 5.6 cases. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (30.2%), IDVA service (21.3%), Secondary Care Acute Trust (11.1%), and MARAC transfers (10.7%).

Westminster

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	370	557
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	42.8
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	22.6%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	6.6%

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

Westminster

% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	8.4%
% BME Referrals	55%	58.2%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	16%
Number of children in household	N/A	384

Westminster MARAC has heard 557 cases during 2020-2021, 111 cases more than 2019-2020. Westminster MARAC met 13 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 370 cases are heard per 12-months period, Westminster MARAC has heard 150.5% of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting for 2019-2020 was 31.9, while during 2020-2021 it has been 42.8, with an average fluctuation of 7.4 cases. Westminster MARAC has seen the biggest increase from all the MARACs Standing Together coordinates; out of 13 meetings held this year, 8 of them heard over 40 cases, which has had a significant impact on the workload of the coordinator and partner agencies. Three meetings in Quarter 4 had to be held across two days due to the caseload exceeding 40 cases. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (24.2%), IDVA service (18.0%), Housing (13%) and Voluntary.

Ealing

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	17
Cases heard (N)	540	584
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	34.4
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	17.5%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	1.2%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	5.1%
% BME Referrals	55%	64.2%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	11.3%
Number of children in household	N/A	592

Ealing MARAC heard 584 cases during 2020-2021, 132 more cases than the previous year with 452 cases heard. Ealing MARAC met 17 times this year SafeLives recommends that 540 cases are heard per 12 month period, Ealing MARAC has heard 108.1% of the expected volume The average number of cases per meeting was 34.4 between April 2020- March 2021, and 26.6 between April 2019-March 2020.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (*continued*)

The average fluctuation of cases between April 2020 – March 2021 was 6.6 cases. On four occasions the caseload exceeded 40. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (31.3%), IDVA service (20.5%), Children Social Care (10.4%) and Other/MARAC transfers (9.1%).

Haringey

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	17
Cases heard (N)	410	534
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	32
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	22.6%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	5.0%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	6.9%
% BME Referrals	55%	67.9%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	12.6%
Number of children in household	N/A	410

Haringey MARAC heard 534 cases during 2020-2021, 27 more cases than the previous year with 507 cases heard. Haringey MARAC met 17 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 410 cases are heard per 12 month period, Haringey MARAC has heard 130.2% of the expected volume. The average number of cases per meeting was 32 between April 2020- March 2021, and 28 between April 2019-March 2020. We have observed an average fluctuation of 4 cases per meeting, same as the last year. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (30%), IDVA service (19%), Children Social Care (17%) and Voluntary Sector (10%).

Performance Highlights for the MARAC Team in 2019-20

All MARACs performing above SafeLives recommended volume

This indicator of good quality MARAC provision is measured by the volume of referrals (best practice is meeting 80-100% of SafeLives recommended volume.) From the table below, volume in 2020-21 across all five MARACs were above best practice. This is a very positive year on year achievement accomplished through our work in raising awareness with MARAC agencies ensuring high risk victim/survivors are not being missed.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 the following volumes have been seen in the Five MARAC Boroughs:

YEAR	LBHF	RBKC	WCC	Ealing	Haringey
SafeLives Recommendation	320	270	370	540	410
Volume 2020-21 (12 months)	419	329	557	584	534

(MARACs should only see the top 10% of highest risk Victim/ Survivors going forward those Boroughs where over-referring might be occurring more targeted training and development work on thresholds will be required.)



 National lockdown

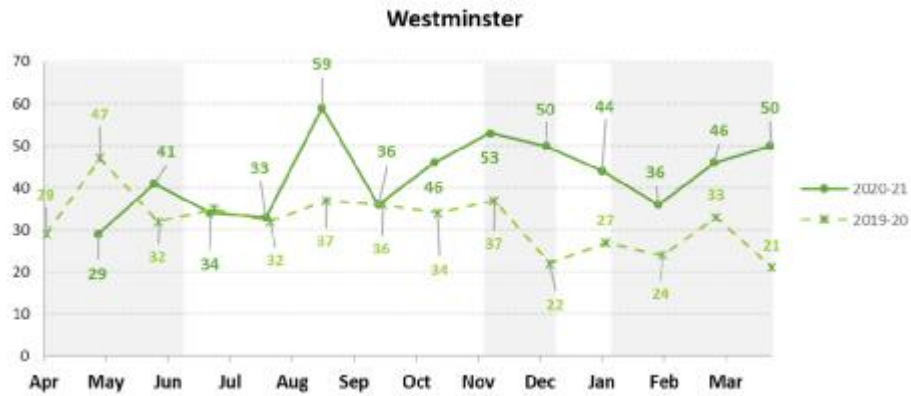


 National lockdown

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)



National lockdown



Haringey



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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (*continued*)

COVID-19 & MARAC

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic, MARAC meetings were adapted to be held online. As the months progressed, it became clear that the landscape of MARACs had changed for the foreseeable and it was unlikely that face to face meetings could resume within this financial year. Standing Together introduced an interim plan in March 2020 to ensure MARACs continued at the beginning of the pandemic. Agencies sent in their research ahead of the meetings and reviewed and the virtual call focused on action planning. Standing Together monitored and reviewed the interim process both in steering group and within the organisation and proposed changes in commence in Quarter 4. The proposal was to resume MARAC meetings for full case discussion and action planning via Microsoft Teams. All MARAC reps core and non-core are required to attend and proactively engage in the meeting including preparing with research, focusing on what is being shared and sharing only what is relevant and proportionate information, avoiding repetition. These changes were agreed with commissioners and partners at the interim steering groups in December 2020. Coordinators held briefings with all MARAC representatives on this change in process in January 2021. By adjusting the approach, Standing Together hope that this will continue to ensure that the victim/survivor's voice is heard throughout, thorough action planning and ensure a coordinated community response to domestic abuse. This process is being monitored at interim steering groups, Risk and Review and internally at Standing Together. Observations have seen more thorough case discussion and action planning with the victim/survivors voice being heard.

Across 2020-21, the MARAC team have been working tirelessly during the pandemic to ensure there was minimal disruption to the MARAC process and all deadlines were met without fail. This is a huge achievement given the high volume of cases and associated increased workload, particularly in Westminster and Ealing boroughs when compared to the previous financial year. To cope with the demand, Standing Together was successful in obtaining two FT posts (x 1 administrator and x 1 data analyst) via the Home Office and London Community Fund COVID Relief in January 2021 until 31st March 2021. The support from these two roles within a short space of time made a huge impact to the team and bolstered the resources to cope with the increased demand. We were able to demonstrate the need for these posts and were granted an extension of this funding until 30th September 2021 from Westminster City Council.

London MARACs and COVID-19 Review Paper

Due to our established strong partnership created across London with the MARAC Coordinators Forum, our MARAC team manager was able to utilise this and gain valuable feedback across London for a solid understanding of MARAC's response to COVID-19. We consolidated the feedback efficiently and effectively on trends, approaches and apply our own knowledge delivering best practice MARACs and relevant research to produce a [review paper](#) in August 2020. This paper not only highlighted different approaches across London, but

platformed best practice, complimented by practical tools MARACs could use to improve their practice. We presented this paper at the Risk and Review meeting in October 2020.

London MARAC Coordinators Forum

Standing Together continues to host, chair, and administrate the London wide MARAC Coordinators forum every quarter. The meetings have covered a range of topics with guest speakers from a variety of specialist DA organisations. We held three meeting virtually across the year to share best practice, discuss challenges, and explore innovation in the MARAC field. There was a particular focus on how MARACs have adapted and

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (*continued*)

responded to the pandemic. Other topics included harmful practices and MARAC responses and MOPACs pilot for GPS monitoring of domestic abuse perpetrators.

MARAC Health ChelWest & ICHT Referral distribution point

Standing Together has continued to be the centralised referral point for all MARAC referrals originating from Imperial College Health Trust and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Foundation NHS Trust. ICHT and ChelWest have their own MARAC referral form and all staff send this to the secure Health MARAC inbox at Standing Together for distribution onwards to the appropriate MARAC (if not Tri-Borough). This saves busy medical staff time providing a simplified system increasing the likelihood of professionals referring to MARAC. In 2020-21, the team have processed 179 referrals (ICHT = 87; ChelWest = 92) on behalf of these NHS trusts.

MARAC Awareness Raising

Standing Together works closely with partner agencies to ensure that all relevant members of staff are familiar with the MARAC process, and their role and responsibilities within it by providing MARAC briefings, inductions, and workshops. In 2020-21, MARAC Coordinators in the service area completed 130 sessions with partner agencies across all boroughs reaching 808 partners. As a result of Standing Together's MARAC workshops, professionals have improved knowledge and confidence in referring to MARAC as measured by evaluations.

April 2020 -March 2021	Number of sessions	Total attendees
Briefings	25	443
Inductions	93	122
Workshops	12	243
Total	130	808

Best Practice For Immigration Matters

Ealing MARAC has been recognised by SafeLives as having best practices when dealing with victim/survivors who have insecure immigration status. The Ealing coordinator has been working with SafeLives on their best practice guidance and Ealing MARAC will be recognised within that guidance. This will be shared with stakeholders when published.

MARAC Team Forward Plan Priorities 2021-2022

MARAC & COVID-19

The impact of the pandemic on the MARAC process continues into the next financial year. Coordinators continue to work remotely as do most of our partner agencies. Due to current guidelines and restrictions, it is not possible to resume to meetings in person currently. Standing Together will continue to ensure a coordinated community response to domestic abuse by internal monitoring and consultation with partners and front-line services working directly with victim/survivors. Our data analysts will provide insight into the process across the previous year and how this will inform our practices moving forward.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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MARAC Training Packages

The Team manager will focus on refining the MARAC representatives training package that Standing Together offers to other areas to raise the profile of Standing Together. Sessions have been delivered to Kingston MARAC and Camden MARAC in recent months which have been well received. The aim will be to advertise this package on our website to increase funds for the MARAC team.

MARAC Operating and Information Sharing Protocol (MOISP)

MOISPs across all MARAC will be requiring review during this financial year. The MOISPs will be updated to include security of MARAC information in a virtual setting.

Service Continuity

During the next financial year, all MARAC contracts will be requiring renewal. The Team manager will be prioritising these tenders to ensure continuity of service.

MOPAC London MARAC Review

ST bid for the MOPAC London MARAC Review and have been successful. The objectives of the review are to provide an overview of the performance of London MARACs and the partner agencies involved in the MARAC to understand their effectiveness; how MARACs are resourced; effective communication; an overview of victim/survivors experiences of MARAC and highlight examples of best practice including recommendations for embedding this across London.

Housing Operational Group

The role of the Housing Operational Group is to ensure that victim/survivors (with or without children) receive consistent, appropriate, and professional support when approaching housing services and housing providers in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster. Effective interventions will include early identification and intervention and crisis and emergency assistance that increase safety and reduce risk as well as improved access to resettlement services, on-going or long-term and housing options that enable survivors to access safe and secure housing.

It also encourages housing providers to consider the delivering of their services within a Whole Housing Approach framework that brings together under one umbrella all of the main tenure types, housing options and initiatives and specialist domestic abuse services needed in a local area to help survivors of domestic abuse access safe and stable housing. The Whole Housing Approach currently includes 12 components, which applied concurrently will enhance collaborative working, that will in turn create earlier intervention, reduce homelessness, and enable tenancy sustainment.

The HOG meetings take place on quarterly basis, with four being held in 2020-21.

The following themes were explored:

- Stalking with a guest speaker from Suzi Lamplugh
- Child Contact in the context of COVID-19 with a guest speaker from the Child Law Advice Service
- Effective case management with guest speakers from Peabody

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Housing Operational Group (*continued*)

- Domestic Abuse Bill and relevance to housing

The group is chaired by a member of the National Housing Federation (NHF).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings in 2020-21 were held via video conference with an average of 15 members attending each meeting. We also now have representatives from all three local authority Housing Solution Services attending and sharing best practice.

The Whole Housing Coordinator facilitates the Housing Operational Group and offers coordination support for the Sanctuary Scheme for LBHF and Flexible Funding pot (part of Whole Housing) for the three boroughs.

Sanctuary Scheme

In 2020/21, we spent £17,658 to secure 50 homes in LBHF through the Sanctuary scheme with Safe Partnership, at an average cost of £353 per household. This is an increase by 10 from the previous year. Continuous improvements to the scheme were made based on survivor feedback and requests for additional security measures, which Safe Partnership do not provide. The Whole Housing Coordinator met with partners / funders from LBHF Council who agreed to expand the offer. As a result, a survivor at high risk of harm from their perpetrator had CCTV installed and another had fencing installed, which helped them feel safer to remain in their home.

In April 2020, Safe Partnership closed their service due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Whole Housing Programme Lead was able to quickly establish an arrangement with a new provider Crawfords through a contact shared by the Sanctuary Scheme lead at RBKC, who also use Crawfords as a Sanctuary provider. This resulted in only a 3-week gap in service delivery. A partnership agreement was drawn up. The Sanctuary Scheme referral form was updated to include considerations on COVID-19 and safe access to people's homes. Crawfords covered a three-month period while Safe Partnership's services were ceased and our relationship with them continues as they installed the fencing mentioned above for a survivor.

In 2020/21, the Whole Housing Coordinator continued facilitating a working group with Sanctuary leads from the three boroughs to address operational issues with the scheme. This group was initially set up to create more consistency across the three schemes. The working group met every 2 months and reviewed local data and shared challenges encountered as a result of COVID-19. Despite the pandemic, all three schemes were able to maintain operations and offer this vital service to survivors, enabling them to be safe at home. discussed how to remove barriers. Improvements were noted across the three schemes. Since Westminster appointed a Sanctuary Coordinator, they installed 50 schemes whereas the year before it had only been 8. RBKC continued to offer examples of best practice and also increased the number of Sanctuary referrals installed, with an increase of 16 from the previous year. Improved coordination and networking resulted in LBHF being able to identify a new provider so their service could remain operational during the pandemic.

Flexible Funding

The Whole Housing Coordinator also administered the Flexible Funding pot, which was introduced as part of the Whole Housing project. It is a designated pot that survivors can access easily and quickly to retain or secure safe and stable housing. There is no set list of what will be funded. It exists to fund whatever will help survivors access the best housing outcome possible for them in the short and long term.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Flexible Funding (*continued*)

The following table shows the number of survivors supported by the scheme in the last two years:

	2019 – 2020	2020 - 2021	Total
London boroughs of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith	48 survivors and 39 dependent children Total amount issued: £26,186	18 survivors and 24 dependent children Total allocated: £10,596	66 survivors and 63 dependent children. Total allocated: £36,782 Average sized grant was £560 (range £13 to £2,123)

Of the grants issued,

- 4% were for educational costs
- 17% were for rental assistance and deposits
- 46% were for home essentials
- 33% were for basic needs including food vouchers and children's clothing

The following quotes are from survivors accessing the fund:

'I had been with my husband for years, just putting up with the abuse. My Mobile Advocate found me a house to move to. I had nothing. With Flexible Funding I was able to buy beds for my children, a cooker and a sofa. Without this fund, I may not be here now.'

'I really didn't want to leave my home. I was so scared he would turn up at my door. Flexible Funding paid for a ring doorbell. Now at least I can see who is there. I feel much safer now'.

'My Mobile Advocate had found me a flat to rent privately. I had all my things and I was ready to go but I just didn't have the money for a deposit. Flexible Funding allowed me to put a deposit down and I moved into my new flat with my new baby. I am so happy'.

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) was formed in 2014, in partnership with two of the U.K.s leading Housing Associations, Gentoo, based in Sunderland and Peabody based in London. DAHA offers a comprehensive accreditation process for housing providers to improve individual organisation responses and promote engagement in a coordinated community response. A team of DAHA Development Managers drives this work forward and is comprised of the following team:

- a Pan –London role which is funded by London Councils.
- a national role which is funded by Comic Relief.
- a Cambridgeshire-wide role, funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of the Whole Housing Approach project.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (*continued*)

- a DAHA Project and Training Coordinator.

DAHA's mission is to improve the Housing Sector's response to domestic abuse and one of the ways it achieves this is through an accreditation process that includes 8 priority areas to ensure that housing providers and services offer a consistent, effective and appropriate response to anyone experiencing domestic abuse in their homes.

The 8 priority standards provide a framework for housing providers to:

- Ensure staff are well placed and confident to identify signs of domestic abuse.
- Standardise the process so residents / service users can access and receive the right response every time.
- Reduce costs to public purse and housing providers by implementing early interventions.
- Increase staff skills and engagement with local community partners such as specialist domestic abuse services and MARAC.

Key achievements and developments of the year 20120/21

We adapted services at record speed in April in response to lockdown to be delivered virtually in order to keep DAHA's core services going – this included online workshop deliveries, steering group attendance and accreditation assessments.

In recognition that lockdown meant that many survivors were now trapped at home with their perpetrator and that housing offered a key point of access, we published guidance for housing providers that assisted them in creating a plan of action for reaching out to known survivors and procedures for how to respond to new cases. We hosted this on a COVID-19 resource page on our website. This page was visited 4000 times in the first 6 weeks of lockdown. We received a lot of positive feedback from numerous providers indicating that they had used this to develop and adapt their protocols and procedures. The team worked tirelessly to respond to numerous enquiries from providers asking for advice on what they could do to help.

We recruited and inducted a team of 10 associate trainers and 8 accreditation assessors to support the team in carrying out these activities and meet an increase in demand for training.

We were successful in a Comic relief COVID-19 fund, which enabled us to revise our existing Safe at Home awareness course and develop new courses including a Safe at Home Skills course, DAHA Champions Course and DAHA Accreditation Leads course. The latter will be delivered for the first time to a cohort of DAHA leads in May 2021.

The 'National Domestic Abuse and Housing Policy and Practice Group' continued to meet despite COVID-19, bringing together all key stakeholders from homelessness and VAWG sectors with an aim to ensure coordination exists. This year, the group responded to the following government consultations, which mainly lobbied government ministers to offer better protections to survivors in light of COVID-19:

- National group letter to Robert Jenrick requesting better support for survivors fleeing domestic abuse during the pandemic.

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (*continued*)

- A national group letter to Dame Louise Casey requesting a tailored approach to women's move on post lockdown
- National group submission of written evidence to the domestic abuse bill committee. This lobbied for items included as amendments to the DA Act, including the extension of priority need for all survivors. It also advocated for a Whole Housing Approach to be delivered in every locality, which was included in the MHCLG's draft statutory guidance for Part 4 / Safe Accommodation duty.

The DAHA team set up 9 regional groups; 8 in England and 1 in Wales which brings together local housing providers and services to share national policy and practice updates, consider implementation implications and focus on the implementation of DAHA, the Whole Housing Approach and the CCR. These groups are connected to the national group, sharing updates and issues between them.

DAHA chairs the Perpetrator sub-group, another offshoot of the national group that brings together a range of leading services to look at effective responses for perpetrators and options for housing them where this will benefit the survivor including any children's safety.

The Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator with input from the DAHA Team initiated work to adapt our accreditation assessment standards and criteria for homelessness provider services. They held a series of round tables with a handful of stakeholders and providers. By March 2021, they were in the process of producing a draft to present to the DAHA team. A further round table will be held in 2021/22 to help finalise these standards.

DAHA launched as a membership body on 1st April 2021. The DAHA founders met regularly to update the business plan in line with this new part of the service and offered a strategic steer to the DAHA team who led on the development of this work. We now offer the following three levels of membership:

- Affiliated – for any provider or service that wants to support our work.
- Accreditation – for providers and services that are working towards becoming DAHA accredited and would like to benefit from the support of a Development Manager and other benefits.
- Accredited – for provider and services that have been accredited and are intending to reaccredit when the 3 year renewal comes up

The membership was launched to generate a steady and forecastable funding stream that will make the team less reliant on short term, inconsistent grant funding. This will help sustain the core team and its activities while expanding it to meet growth in demand. The team's priorities for 2021/22 is to secure funds to support our start up. This would include a Membership Officer and Comms Officer posts to help with managing members and

with marketing and branding Funds are also needed for a CRM to provide a robust database to manage contacts, relationships, and track provider behaviour.

An [interim evaluation report by York University](#) was published and launched at a virtual webinar in January 2020. The findings show that DAHA works. Our accreditation process enables housing providers to respond more effectively. It produces positive benefits for tenants/customers, for staff supporting and for the overall operations of the organisation while also yielding cost savings. The final report will be published in July 2021.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (*continued*)

Accreditations and Supporting Work

This year, we accredited 7 new providers, including the following:

- Orbit: 15/03/2021
- BPHA: 18/12/2020
- Homes for Haringey: 21/10/2020
- Brent Council Housing Options: 06/10/2020
- Bolton at Home: 23/09/2020
- Guinness: 14/09/2020
- Stonewater: 30/07/2020

This now brings us to a total of 26 providers accredited.

We received commitments from 69 providers who signed up for accreditation, representing an increase of 48 from last year's 21 providers who signed up. We now have approximately 120 providers working towards accreditation or reaccreditation.

In London, 66% of local authorities are working towards accreditation. The London Development Manager is working towards a 100% sign up, which would make London the first city with all boroughs DAHA Accredited.

Nationally, the DAHA Development Manager has worked with Leicestershire to sign up their 11 district councils, which is the first time that a full county has signed up for accreditation.

We delivered 30 virtual workshops nationally with approx. 700 participants attending. Virtual delivery resulted in reaching our biggest audience yet.

We initiated a new project with Morgan Sindall, a property management company and this year saw us preparing for this and recruiting a seconded post that will base with Morgan Sindall 2 days a week. The post holder is our very own DAHA Project and Training Officer who has taken the role as part of her continuing professional development. This project will include working with Morgan Sindall to adapt the existing DAHA accreditation standards for this type of service. Through this process, we will support the organisation to become the first property management company to be accredited.

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) - Private Rented Sector (PRS)

Our new DAHA PRS Lead started in August 2020, following a gap in post since December 2019. Our new postholder has made significant advancements with this project. The aim of this project is for survivors of domestic abuse living in the private rented sector to be able to achieve safety and secure housing and to receive a safe and consistent response from landlords and letting agents, local authorities and specialist domestic abuse services.

The PRS Lead has mapped the key stakeholders required to achieve this aim:

- Private landlords and letting agents
- local authority housing teams-including PRS property management and Environmental Health Teams
- specialist domestic abuse services and the wider strategic domestic abuse response

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) - Private Rented Sector (PRS) (*continued*)

- Survivors of domestic abuse living in the PRS.
- National housing leaders, including the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) and the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) and FixFlo.
- national domestic abuse expert partners
- Academics/researchers

The focus of her work includes the following five key development areas with updates on the key activities undertaken this year for each:

- 1. Policy and Public Affairs:** To build on DAHA's partnerships, influence, and expertise in housing and domestic abuse, to influence changes in policy and legislation that may impact the economic and housing options of survivors living in the private rented sector.
 - Submitting response on the draft Code of Practice: RICs and TOP's regulation of Property Agents (RoPA) – writing in partnership with a Whole Housing partner Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA), this highlighted some key areas where domestic and economic abuse could be highlighted and incorporated into the Code, particularly; new requirements to report criminal activity to the police; and defining the 'duty of care' agents have towards customers.
 - Working on a joint tenancies amendment to the DA Bill/Act, which has been done in partnership with two leading legal experts, SEA and Women's Aid England. This included submitting guidance on Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) to include as part of this order a transfer of joint tenancies. The amendment wasn't included, and the Government has instead encouraged us to submit this as part of the Renters Reform Bill, which will flow into 2021/22.
 - Housing for perpetrators. Our PRS Lead chairs the Perpetrator Sub-Group, connected to the national policy and practice group. The group is currently reviewing options for housing perpetrators, which would complement and not come at the cost of survivor services. The DA Act will introduce a perpetrator strategy in 2021, which will create opportunities for this work to gain traction.
 - Lobbying Government on the COVID-19 Reactivation of Possession Proceedings and Domestic Abuse and the risk that this could lead to survivors being evicted, at a time when homelessness services are already overwhelmed. A detailed briefing was prepared for policy makers.
- 2. Standardised best practice:** To develop a 'gold standard' of best practice for how PRS landlords, letting agents and local authority PRS, Environmental Health Teams should respond to domestic abuse, which will be formalised into a set of DAHA Accreditation Standards. These will be developed, piloted and disseminated and promoted nationally.
 - Meeting with local authorities PRS teams to scope interest in developing accreditation standards. Mapping processes to gain an understanding of their context and opportunities for carrying out this work.
 - Updating guidance for PRS landlords and resources on DAHA's PRS webpage.
 - Developing and delivering a 1-hour awareness session for private landlords

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) - Private Rented Sector (PRS) (*continued*)

- Spoke on a podcast with Block Management Network to raise awareness, which includes a following of nearly 2000 block managers.
 - Exploring with Blue Thread to review good practice from a PRS Property Developer perspective.
- 3. Education and resource development:** For PRS landlords/letting agents, tenant/survivors, and DA specialists to access training, information, and resources regarding their role in the PRS response to domestic abuse, and the options and needs of survivors living in PRS.
- Partnering with (SEA) and Law for Life to develop educational resources for survivors living in privately rented accommodation. A 6-week educational course was created for survivors and was trialled with 6 BME services across England. Each service also had a DA Advocate / Practitioner attend to upskill their own knowledge and advocacy in relation to PRS and Social tenancies.
- 4. Survivor led approaches:** To amplify the voices of survivors living in the PRS, so that their experiences and needs are central to developing a safe and supportive response. This includes both engaging with individual survivors who wish to share their experience and influence change, but to also promote the development of research that will give a bigger picture of survivors' needs and experiences.
- Incorporating learning from the briefing prepared for DAHA by Sarah-Jane Walker and Marianne Hester in July 2019, [Policy Evidence Summary 4: Justice, housing and domestic abuse, the experiences of homeowners and private renters](#). This has formed the basis for all the briefings, lobbying and activities listed above. With more resources, we would love to create an Experts by Experience group that brings together a group of survivors living in the PRS (and other tenancies) to share their experiences and insights on how housing responses can be improved and help us shape our work.
- 5. Partnerships:** To continue to build relationships with national and local stakeholders in domestic abuse and housing who we will partner with to influence and promote change in policy and practice at a national and local level.
- Our main partnerships this year have been with:
 - o SEA
 - o Women's Aid
 - o Whole Housing partnership board
 - o Members of the national policy and practice group
 - o Shelter
 - o National Residential Landlords Association
 - o Law for Life
 - o Blue Thread property developers
 - o Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland and England
 - o Giles Peaker and Jenny Beck – legal experts.
 - o Respect and DRIVE programme

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Whole Housing Approach

The Whole Housing Approach (WHA) was first conceptualised in 2018 by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) in collaboration with the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group. The MHCLG extended the 18-month pilot with funding for an additional year 2020/21 with continued delivery of in the following three local areas:

- London Tri Borough
- Cambridgeshire
- Stockton (north of England)

The project delivery team included six specialist domestic abuse organisations and ten local authority areas. The funding focused on delivering activities for the following 7 components, a reduction of 1 from the previous year (minus the Sanctuary Scheme):

Component	Delivery Partner
Private Rented Sector	DAHA hosted by Standing Together
Privately Owned	Surviving Economic Abuse
Managed Reciprocal	Safer London
Component	Delivery Partner
Mobile Advocacy	Cambridgeshire Women's Aid Refuge Cambridgeshire Advance
Co-located Housing Advocacy	Advance
Flexible Funding	Standing Together (London and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)
DAHA for social housing	Cambridgeshire only DAHA hosted by Standing Together

A mix of direct services to survivors was delivered alongside second tier work with professionals and organisations to help improve how they respond to DA and embed within the local Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse.

Our main delivery outputs for activities delivered between April 2020 and March 2021 includes:

- 973 survivors and 868 dependent children were supported by 7 mobile advocates and 2 co-located housing advocates across Cambridgeshire and London sites.
- 104 survivors and 166 dependent children received Flexible Funding to help them maintain or access safe and stable housing. A total of £35,343 was awarded with most funds helping to clear rent arrears and debts accumulated due to financial abuse, pay for deposits and other move-on-costs and for household items after relocation.
- The Reciprocal Scheme in Cambridgeshire received 6 referrals and facilitated 5 moves, bringing the total to 9 moves over the course of the pilot, which enabled these survivors to maintain their secure tenancy.
- We saw an increase in activity for DAHA accreditation in all three sites. The Stockton WHA kickstarted the work by activating a steering group to work on implementing the standards. Cambridgeshire saw an increase of 2 providers sign up while continuing to support 8 providers working towards accreditation. And in London, we had the highest number of local authorities sign up to the process in

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Whole Housing Approach (continued)

any given year, representing a total of 66% of boroughs now working towards accreditation.

- The PRS work strand updates are included above.
- The Privately Owned Housing Officer employed by Surviving Economic Abuse delivered work at the 2nd tier (similar to the DAHA PRS Development Manager). The postholder continued working with stakeholders based in mortgage lenders, banks and building societies and family law. We produced a case study illustrated by Scriberia that shows how SEA's second tier work directly benefits a survivor on the ground, resulting in her being able to keep her home.

The group produced and published a [WHA toolkit](#) in March 2020. Three launch events were also due to take place that month but were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A [virtual launch event](#) took place in November 2021 and was attended by 350 participants. It included over 10 speakers, mainly our delivery partners updating on their work and the voice of three survivors sharing the impact the project had on them and their housing circumstances.

A [year 1 report](#) was published in November 2021 and was launched as part of this event.

Despite COVID-19, the WHA project delivery partners continued attending monthly board meetings, where partner updates were shared and programme developments were made. The DA Bill/Act played a big role in our thinking

about the WHA model this year. The Act received royal assent in April 2021 with the WHA partnership considering the new duties / laws being introduced in relation to housing and how a WHA could support and complement this.

There are three new pieces of legislation that relate to housing with links to WHA explained:

- Secure Tenancies Act, granting secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse where an original sole or joint secure tenancy was held (Part 7 miscellaneous and general). The Managed Reciprocal scheme will support the secure tenancies act, which is a coordinated, cost-effective mechanism created to prevent survivors from losing their social tenancies. The Whole Housing Programme Managers chaired and spoke at an event in March 2021 hosted by Safer London to promote this scheme with local authority leads, which was attended by 120 participants.
- Amendment to Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and omitting the vulnerability category for Priority Need (Part 7 miscellaneous and general). The DAHA accreditation process will help local authorities consider the implementation of this as part of their focus on their overall response to DA.
- Duty on Tier 1 boards / local authorities to deliver 'safe accommodation' (Part 4). This is an exciting new piece of legislation that will see new responsibilities and DA service provision being commissioned. There are three main types of Safe Accommodation defined as refuge services, move-on accommodation and sanctuary schemes. We have endorsed that local authorities go a step beyond and deliver this within a WHA framework. The WHA has been mentioned in the draft statutory guidance for Part 4. And we have been approached by at least 15 local areas asking for guidance on how they can deliver this within a WHA.

In Feb 2021, the Government announced new burdens funds for each local authority to help prepare for the new duty along with £125 million towards delivering part 4 safe accommodation provision. This resulted in the team expanding into consultancy work with local authorities (LA) to help them prepare for this duty, which includes all LA's submitting a Safe Accommodation strategy by August 2021.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Whole Housing Approach (continued)

By March 2021, we had been commissioned by the five following areas to support the development of the Needs Assessment and strategy and other responsibilities accompanying this new duty:

- o West Berkshire
- o City of London
- o Southampton County Council
- o Surrey
- o Wokingham

We are also part of an evaluation project led by Huddersfield University that will produce the first evaluation of its kind reviewing 15 Sanctuary Schemes in England. This will support the WHA team to develop minimum standards for the scheme, which will be made available on the WHA online toolkit.

An outstanding piece of work is to create two new components for WHA, including one on Move On Accommodation (now that this is included as a definition of safe accommodation) and on WHA Coordination.

A bid was submitted to The National Lottery in December 2020 with a proposal for a 3-year, multi-agency, one-site project. Our initial MHCLG 30-month pilot focused on testing and developing the WHA's 12 individual components. Project resources enabled us to focus on what good looks for each of the 12 components. We did this in our first pilot by partnering with national and local experts from across the three sites and focused our development on where good practice was emerging.

Now that we have defined what good looks like for each 12 components, we now need to focus our delivery on a one-site pilot that will enable us to deliver and coordinate all 12 components in one locality, while developing the 2 new components mentioned above and ideally updating the existing 12. The new project proposal includes testing new ideas to create a WHA partnership, coordinated by a WHA Coordinator employed by the local authority who will bring together stakeholders from across all 12 components at a strategic level. It will also produce for the first time a WHA Hub where the idea is to create a streamlined referral pathway for survivors in need of safe accommodation and stable housing. It will take inspiration from The Clearing House model used for finding homes for rough sleepers and move on accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse. At the very least, this hub will help establish a central database for recording housing need, uptake of local housing options and ideally will help inform the requirement under Part 4 to produce a Needs Assessment to inform a Safe Accommodation Strategy. The offer of Mobile Advocacy support and Flexible Funding could be offered via this mechanism.

Housing First and Homelessness

The Housing First and Homelessness project was set up in 2017 in response to the need to strengthen and build partnerships across the homelessness and VAWG sectors. The project focus is on women and survivors experiencing homelessness, VAWG and other forms of multiple disadvantage, whether they are sleeping rough, living in supported accommodation, or in any other unsafe and informal housing situation. Research and experience have shown that this group face multiple barriers to accessing safe accommodation and appropriate support. The project employs a Homelessness and Housing First Coordinator who works with local authorities, homelessness support services, specialist women's services and a raft of other agencies to ensure that this group of women have better access to safe accommodation, and support that meets their needs. Key project outcomes over the course of the past year include:

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Housing First and Homelessness (*continued*)

The new Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator role

We successfully applied for MHCLG emergency COVID 19 domestic abuse funding to fund a new Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator post. Natalie Wong came into post as Housing First and Homelessness coordinator in August 2020 and Louisa Steele moved into a management role. Natalie now oversees the Housing First housing coordination work and provides project officer support to the Safety by Experience project.

Housing First

The Westminster VAWG Housing First project provides permanent, independent housing and intensive support for 20 women experiencing long term homelessness, any form of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and multiple disadvantage. The support element of the project is delivered by Solace Women's Aid who work to build relationships with the women and provide intensive 'woman led' support to help them maintain a tenancy and improve physical and mental wellbeing. The housing element of the project is coordinated by Standing Together who manage partnerships with a coalition of housing partners who provide units for the project.

- This year ST expanded the partnership by bringing on board our newest housing provider Octavia, who have already housed two women.
- ST have coordinated quarterly partnership meetings with all project partners to discuss challenges and ways forward. We have also delivered 'What to expect from Housing First' briefings to all RSL staff involved with the project.
- ST have analysed project data and conducted staff, client and stakeholder feedback to produce a one year service evaluation report. This will be launched and publicized next year.
- All the initial ten women accepted onto the scheme have been housed. Westminster council (who commission the service) expanded the service capacity in September 2020 by another ten women, taking the total to 20.
- ST publicized the project at a range of forums, speaking at the All party parliamentary group on ending homelessness and the Homeless Link Housing First national conference.

Safety by Experience Project

The Housing First and Homelessness project has been working in partnership with homelessness organisation St Mungo's to deliver the 'Safety by Experience' project. This project has been funded by the Homeless Link Ending Women's Homelessness Fund from November 2019 and will end in June 2021. The Safety by Experience projects aims to:

- Provide the homelessness sector and specialist women's sector with guidance on VAWG risk assessment and safety planning in homelessness settings
- Ensure that survivors of VAWG accessing St Mungo's services are (and report feeling) safer and better supported.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Housing First and Homelessness (*continued*)

- Make sure that St Mungo's staff are better equipped to recognise and respond to VAWG

Outcomes so far:

- Interviewed 20 women accessing St Mungo's service to consult on their experiences of homelessness, VAWG and safety.
- Held 4 steering groups attended by Pan London women's and homelessness sector organizations.
- Used feedback from women and other tools to create guidance on supporting homeless women experiencing multiple disadvantage.
- Developed training package on women's homelessness, women and trauma, VAWG and safety. Trained 31 staff across 3 pilot sites at St Mungos.
- St Mungos staff are currently piloting the guidance.

From March to June 2021 we will consult with staff to get feedback on the guidance, re-draft it and then launch the approach at an event at the end of June.

Homeless Perpetrator work:

We worked with SHP service Fulfilling Lives Islington and Camden to create practical guidance for professionals in homelessness settings around ['Working Effectively with Perpetrators and Survivors of Domestic Abuse in Homelessness Settings'](#). This was launched at an event in December attended by 150+ professionals from across the homelessness and women's sectors.

Supporting homeless survivors of abuse during Covid 19 and beyond:

Standing Together was funded by Westminster Council's Community Contribution Fund COVID-19 grant from May – October 20 to deliver a short project in response to COVID 19 'Supporting homeless survivors of abuse during Covid 19 and beyond'. The aim was to provide additional, specialist support for homelessness practitioners working with this group of women in outreach, supported accommodation, and emergency hotel accommodation settings in Westminster during the 'Everybody in' initiative.

- The first half of the project focused on providing responsive and immediate 'phone a friend' support to practitioners. During this time the coordinator provided one to one telephone and email advice to 30+ homelessness practitioners in Westminster and attended a range of borough forums to publicise the project and increase awareness around domestic abuse, VAWG and women's safety during the COVID outbreak.
- In the second half of the project the coordinator developed and embedded a new monthly borough forum, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Multiple Disadvantage forum. The forum met three times and heard the cases of 8 women experiencing VAWG and multiple disadvantage, providing advice on reducing risk and increasing safety to 20 homelessness practitioners from the Passage, St Mungos SOS, Compass and Green Room teams, Turning point and the Marylebone Project.
- In the second half of the project the coordinator trained up 15 practitioners from homelessness services across the borough to be domestic abuse leads for their team. Delegates attended 2, 3 hour 'Domestic abuse in Homelessness settings' training courses delivered over zoom.

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B. Educating agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic violence

Standing Together carries out a variety of activities to fulfil its educative role, all with the aim of improving practice amongst helping agencies. This in turn benefits survivors in terms of access to services, the improved skills and awareness of the professionals who deal with them, the consistency of the standards applied by agencies and the safe options available to them and to their children.

Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities Project

Standing Together's Faith and Community Programme incorporates the Safety Across Faith & Ethnic (SAFE) Communities project and the Faith and VAWG Coalition as well as Co-ordinating the Harmful Practices Operational Group. The aim is to ensure that domestic abuse and violence against women and girls are tackled holistically by targeting support to and building trust with communities facing barriers to support and tackling intersecting oppressions.

We are a team of various but interlinked work strands that was formed into a programme in May 2020.

SAFE Communities Project

This started as a three-year project run by Standing Together, seeking to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls by working with and learning from grassroots Black, minorities and faith communities. Building the capacity of institutions, communities and women means these groups could become better equipped and more effective in tackling domestic violence and abuse (DVA). The only staff member until May 2020 was Huda Jawad, the project founder. She was joined in 2019 by part time administrative support from Sandra Madej.

The Project was born out of the belief that a coordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse is the only effective way to support survivors and hold perpetrators to account. This model is known as the Coordinated Community Response (CCR). This method of working with local specialists and statutory agencies is spearheaded in the UK by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA). The faith and grassroots community (as opposed to the professional community) was a missing component of the CCR model.

It has brought together groups who would not otherwise meet and is the primary source of expertise on the interconnections between VAWG, faith and ethnicity in London. It has carried out bespoke training and capacity building to grassroots community groups and faith organisations. We also provided access to influential networks. SAFE Communities is now entering a transition as it matures and seeks follow-on funding.

Faith & VAWG Coalition

The Faith and VAWG Coalition is a partnership of organisations lead by the Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities project at Standing Together. The Coalition brings together a range of organisations (**Standing Together- SAFE Communities Project, Restored, Respect, Muslim Youth Helpline, Jewish Women's Aid, Forward UK, Latin American Women's Rights Service, Muslim Women's Network UK, the Black Churches Domestic Abuse Forum and Welsh Woman's Aid**) and activists (Sara Hyde, Natalie Collins, Marwa Belgazi and Nikki Dhillon-Keane).

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Faith & VAWG Coalition (*continued*)

The Coalition was launched on 5 March 2020 and seeks to build bridges between members of Faith Communities or Faith-centric organisations and domestic abuse specialists and organisations within the VAWG-sector.

Many survivors with a faith feel that some specialist services and society, in general, are unable to understand their experiences of abuse, and their barriers to accessing support due to their religious identity, their faith community and any spiritual abuse that they may experience at the hands of their perpetrator.

Since March 2020 we launched a report into the experiences of survivors from faith backgrounds during the Covid-19 Pandemic in December. We have partnered with a number of faith organisations and leaders to raise awareness on supporting survivors of domestic abuse during these testing times. We have worked with campaigners on influencing and representing the voices of survivors from faith and minoritised backgrounds on the domestic abuse bill which has now become an Act. We have also produced guidance on spiritual abuse for the Home Office and have spent the year working on our governance and decision-making processes. We have recruited a project officer and in the process of recruiting a membership coordinator. We hope to be launching a website and a conference in the next 6 months.

Harmful Practices

Initially started as Huda Jawad co-chairing the Harmful Practices Operational Group for the Tri-borough in 2018 that met once a quarter. It was previously coordinated by the VAWG lead at Kensington and Chelsea-Shabana Kauser. Standing Together was given funding to lead its data collection efforts and the role has now developed to a part time coordinator role. The work is led by Fran Richards who spent the majority of 2020 holding space for members of the forum who were mostly front line 'by and for organisations'; building trust and building a data collection agreement and protocol that supported the vital work the organisations do with survivors with multiple barriers to support. We are now in the process of fundraising for more strategic and CCR focused work that will enable partnerships across sectors and locations to take place to evidence, map and support survivors of harmful practices be better served by statutory and specialist agencies.

Events

The Blooming Strong Campaign was created by ST, it is the way we engage with partners to mark November 25th as the UN Day for the elimination of violence against women and as part of our 16 days of activism. This year we expanded the project and sent a campaign



packs out to other areas as well as across London. In total we had 171 nominations for a Blooming Strong Flower, all of which were delivered during the 16 days. We also ran a virtual coffee morning introduced by survivor and Britain's got Talent star Becky O'Brien and joined by Nicole Jacobs the Domestic Abuse Commissioner followed by a positive discussion of some of the inspirational women in attendees' lives

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CCR Leaders Course

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Leaders Course aims to increase the skills and expertise of professionals, including statutory commissioners and policy makers, who are responsible for leading and coordinating responses to domestic abuse (DA) and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The course was developed following a 24 month European project between Standing Together, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and European partners. The Domestic Violence: Coordinating the Intervention (DVCI) project developed, tested and implemented innovative, work-based Continuing Education and Training (CVET) to support the crucial role of DA Strategic Coordination.

Currently, job descriptions and levels of skills and influence differ vastly, and there is no standard training that focuses on strengthening competencies and skills to support the role of DA Strategic Coordination. The CCR Leaders course addresses this gap. Crucially this course provides a space for strategic leads, commissioners and policy officers with responsibility for DA/VAWG to connect, share best practice and learning.

Following the successful delivery of this pilot course in 2017/2018 and increasing demand from local authorities, Standing together decided to re-run it in January 2020. The course comprises of 6 days of training delivered over 3 months. The critical need for this course was highlighted by the fact that within a couple of weeks of promoting new rates for the course, all places were fully booked up.

Unfortunately, due to COVID19, the last module of the course which was due to take place at the end of March 2020 was postponed until February 2021 when it was converted to a virtual course so that learners could complete the training. All participants passed the accredited learning course which was evaluated well and participants have been in touch to let us know that they are implementing learning from the course in their daily work.

European Project: CQ4 DVCI

Standing Together was successful in applying for further European funding to work on a second phase of the DVCI project.

This second phase of the "Certificate and Qualification: Coordinators for Domestic Violence Strategic Intervention" project involves the following partners – Apostoli Katharsis (Romania), Dimitra (Greece), Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (UK), Aristoteleies Katartiseis (Greece) and Diakonija (Latvia) and Standing Together (UK).

This work commenced in January 2020 and has been interrupted by the Pandemic, we have not been able to complete any learning visits but have met virtually with partners throughout the year and developed an e-learning course curriculum and materials. The next stage will develop the assessment criteria.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Standing Together has been involved in the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process from its inception in 2011 and has built a body of knowledge and skills that is invaluable. We offer a complete and inclusive approach that delivers high quality overview reports and independent chairing. Our team consists of a DHR Manager, two dedicated DHR Support Officers based in the Standing Together offices as well as our pool of Associates who act as Chairs for the DHR's. Our team of Associates are highly skilled and experienced and are experts in the field of domestic abuse. Our experience of a coordinated community response and domestic abuse partnerships ensures we balance the needs of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), panel agencies with the sensitivities of the victim's and perpetrator's families. We believe in DHRs and feel they can deliver change in an area where change is needed.

Key achievements during the year were:

Recruitment:

- We successfully recruited 4 new DHR Chair associates in August 2020.
- Developed a new induction process which allows experienced chairs to act as mentors for new chairs. This has allowed us to increase the number of DHRs active since the new chair no longer co-chairs on an existing case. This new process also reduces the cost for Standing Together to induct chairs.
- All 4 new chairs are in the 3rd stage of their inductions and have all been allocated an active DHR and mentor.

Active DHRs:

- Standing Together is now chairing/ has successfully chaired 111 Domestic Homicide Reviews. 67 of these reviews are now published.
- 4 newly commissioned DHRs: North Walesx2, Hertfordshire, Hackney.
- 26 DHRs ongoing: BCP, Bexleyx4, Bromley, Buckinghamshirex2, Central Bedfordshire, Croydon, East Surrey, Hackneyx2, Gloucester, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Leicesterx3, Stroudx2, North Walesx2, Wiltshire.
- 20 awaiting publication: Bath, Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, East Sussexx3, Gloucesterx3, Hackney, Leicester, Lewisham, Tower Hamletsx2, Wales x3, Wiltshire
- 12 DHRs on the new pricing plan developed at the start of 2020 which increases a day rate from £700 to £815 for DHRs which are over 17.5 days.
- Standing Together continues to hold a 98% success rate of being passed on the first hearing by HO QA.

Training & Learning Dissemination

- Virtually launched Standing Together's 2020 DHR Process and Case Analysis report, with over 300 attendees.
- #LearningTheLessons: Have delivered five DHR webinars on a range of topics including: International Perspectives, Intersectionality in DHRs, Fatal AFV, Local DHR Processes, and Mental Health Analysis. Each webinar being attended by 200-350 people with extremely positive feedback
- Developed a DHR training package and have delivered to Bedfordshire Health Services, Lewisham GP Network, and at the Sutton Social Care Conference.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Domestic Homicide Reviews (*continued*)

- Leading on the research proposal and contracts with CSPs to produce a report in partnership with Southall Black Sister analysing BME DHRs.

National Work

- Contribute as a panel member for the monthly Home Office OHR Quality Assurance Panel as their specialist DA service.
- Sitting as a panel member for 5 non-Standing Together DHRs as their expert DA service.
- Involved in a range of national projects including sitting on the ESRC Domestic Homicide Advisory Group and the academic roundtable for NPCC Domestic Homicides Project.
- Consulted with AAFDA on the development of the DHR Network which has now been launched.

Internal Developments

- Increased DHR Chair meetings to fortnightly, which is alternated to be a space for case reflection and problem solving and reviewing templates and DHR processes.
- Updated templates for: Overview Report, Executive Summary, SOE, IMRs, Chronology, and Short Reports.
- Developed slides to guide pre-meet between panel and chair, and slides to better guide first panel meeting.

Strategic Influence

Standing Together serves on the following boards, panels, working groups and networks, sharing experience and expertise to our mutual benefit with:

- Chair the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group
- External Consultation Group of the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service Scrutiny and Involvement Panel, Crown Prosecution Service
- London Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel, London Areas, Crown Prosecution Service
- The London Mayor's Expert Group on Violence Against Women and Girls
- The Department of Health group developing a domestic violence pathway for Health
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- Home Office VAWG Stakeholders Group
- COVID sector wide meetings

The ST CEO and staff speak at numerous international, national, regional and local conferences about our strategic and operational approach to the coordinated community response and often particular aspects of work.

Financial Review

Overview

Standing Together's work in Year 2020 - 2021 continued along the strategically planned paths of making a difference in raising awareness and making changes to the response to domestic violence.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Financial Review (*continued*)

Standing Together was strongly reliant on government funding and assessing alternative funding opportunities during the year had changed due to the impact of COVID 19 pandemic.

The challenges in funding for certain areas were mitigated by the successful applications of £373k COVID 19 emergency funding.

The charity is successful in recruiting experienced staff against this background in maintaining skilled and qualified staff to new posts created this year. The Chief Executive concentrates on local, national and European work along with the Standing Together team via shared goals, policies to strengthen our position with existing

contracts and future proposals to extend our work around domestic violence. Their work is supported by the finance and administration team ensuring that good financial management continues to be the key to achieving stability and ensuring a sound future for the organisation.

Following the announcement of a lockdown in March 2020 due to COVID19 pandemic, Standing Together initiated its Business Continuity arrangements, which saw swift changes in the way that staff worked. Our IT infrastructure was upgraded and staff were supplied with individual laptops to work from home. Despite the current COVID19 there is no expectation or evidence in the forecasts or the financial performance of the year to date that would suggest the pandemic would have a significant impact on the financial position of the charity. ST has been undertaking regular forecast updates to help mitigate unexpected risks. Although the long-term effects of the pandemic are still largely uncertain, adding in this additional exercise allows the Board to identify any potential future changes to the business.

In the financial year ended 31st March 2021 total incoming resources decreased by 35.1% from £3.2m to £2.1m. The decline in income was primarily due to funding of £1.1m for the Pathfinder Health project coming to an end. This was more than matched by a decrease in charitable expenditure of 45.3% from £3.1m to £1.7m. At the year end the net increase in funds was £410.8k (2020: £138.2k).

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 - 2021

Our main principal funding sources are from local government

During 2020 – 2021 the total funding generated was £2.1m, which consisted primarily of income from local authorities in London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF), Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC), Westminster County Council (WCC), Haringey Council, London Borough of Ealing. Other grants were awarded by the central government including Home Office, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and London Councils. There were further sources of income from Oak Foundation and City Bridge trust funders

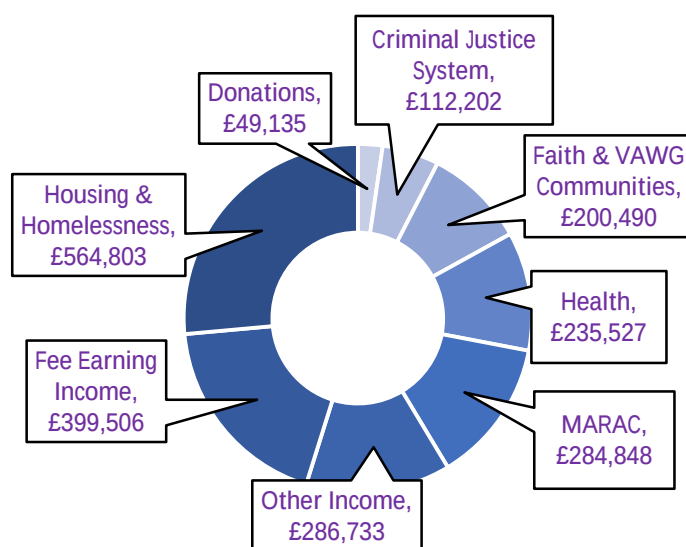
Additional income from charitable grants (see note 4), European Commission, training and consultancy has been crucial this year. Standing Together is very grateful for the support of grant making bodies and individual donations from the public.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 – 2021 (*continued*)

Income Resources: £2,133,244



Income funded the following projects:

- Housing & Homelessness**

Income received included funds from London Councils (£81k) for Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) to establish a set of housing standards through DAHA accreditation process; £270k from Comic Relief and Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) to support the Whole Housing Approach project; £134k to tackle unrelated issues of homelessness and improve housing pathways for women with multiple needs, £36k from LB of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF) and MHCLG to coordinate the sanctuary and flexi fund scheme to provide provision for improved home security and essential needs and £38k received from Comic Relief to recruit an expert trainer to develop training packages for DAHA.

- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)**

Bi Borough (includes Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea) and LBHF collectively contributed £127k, Haringey £50k and Ealing £56k to support the work around information sharing on the highest risk domestic abuse cases to ensure that all parties put in place a plan for safety of domestic violence survivors. In addition to this MOPAC/MOJ and the Home Office through COVID 19 emergency funding provided £24k and £28k respectively.

- Criminal Justice**

As part of the contract with Bi Borough and LBHF provision of Shared Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) coordination services included £41k plus £26k from MOPAC/MOJ and £15k from Treebeard assist to facilitate the court process and experience of domestic abuse cases within the criminal system with the aim of increasing the proportion of successful outcomes.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 – 2021 (*continued*)

LBHF via the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund allocated £25k to the role of the Criminal Justice Programme Manager who support victims and witnesses. A further £5k received from Inner London Magistrates Poor Box to purchase low cost items to victim/survivors of domestic abuse who have had contact with the Criminal Justice System.

· **Health**

A total of £235k was awarded to support the Health Team projects. Inclusive of £66k from Public Health to continue the support of the Children & Health Coordinator role reflecting the view we share of the essential role which health professionals have in identifying and supporting survivors of domestic violence; Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation awarded £49k to fund the significant Domestic Abuse Coordinator post in developing and embedding a Trust wide holistic domestic abuse training package; £57k from National Lottery COVID 19 emergency fund and £63k remaining from Pathfinder project to coordinate and cover the evaluation of the project.

· **Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities**

The SAFE Communities project brought together leaders, pooled expertise and people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and faith communities with the aim to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women. As well as £25k received from Esmee Fairburn to extend the project for 6 months, there was the underspend of £30k from Maidenhead Malachi Trust and additional funding of £77k from Oak Foundation and £68k from City Bridge Trust.

· **Fee Earning Income**

Standing Together generated a total of £399k from fee earning activities. This included 146k from Domestic Homicide Reviews; £71k from educative consultancy and training courses; £151k consultancy work. The Home Office awarded £31k from COVID 19 emergency funding to cover shortfall as a result of the pandemic.

· **Other Income:**

i. Shared VAWG Operations Management

LBHF, Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea granted £40k for the role of Partnership Operational Manager to oversee and support the development of the Shared VAWG strategy services operational groups

ii. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

Housing associations Peabody and Gentoo, partners of the national partnership agreed to contribute £83k to support the mission to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.

iii. National Lottery Community Fund

Received £63k as part of funding to support core cost and strategic learning partnership between Aafda, Chayn, Galop, Imkaan, Respect, Rights of Women, SafeLives, Social Finance, Surviving Economic Abuse and Women's Aid. The partnership aims to pool collective expertise and knowledge to find new and collaborative approaches to better support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 – 2021 (*continued*)

iv. Home Office / MOPAC/MOH

COVID 19 emergency funding of £53k awarded to cover shortfall in income generating income.

v. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

£34k grant was claimed from the CJRS for staff on furlough because of the COVID19 pandemic.

vi. Angelou

Advance pays Standing Together £2k to oversee the Angelou website, a partnership of 10 specialist organisations that provide free advice and support to women and girls experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

vii. Other income

Includes £1.3k in respect of payment for staff secondment and £0.3k bank interest.

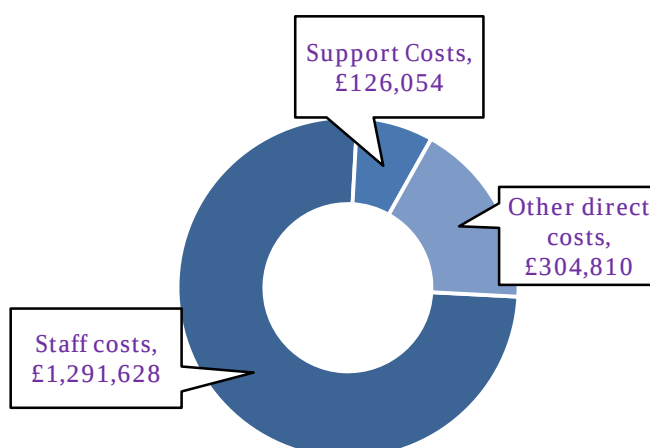
Donations

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations and support we receive from individuals and organisations. The donations totalling £49k this year are a valuable contribution to our objective to alleviate domestic abuse. This does not include contributions from DAHA Partners of £83k which is included in note 2.

In Kind

We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Charitable Expenditure: £1,722,492



Charitable expenditure comprised staff costs of £1,291,628 (out of total costs of £1,722,492) which accounted for 75% of total costs. Support cost, £126,054 included costs for information technology (IT), other professional fees, office and premise costs. Other direct costs of £304,810 were for consultant fees, onward cost to partners and general direct costs (insurance, memberships, travel and depreciation).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Financial Results

The Income and Expenditure Accounts showed incoming resources for the year of £2.1m (2020: £3.2m) and expenditure of £1.7m (2020: £3.1m). The total reserves stand at £802k (2020: £390k) of which £323k is restricted and £479k is unrestricted. Of the unrestricted fund, £352k has been designated for contractual liabilities, leaving a balance of £127k as unrestricted free reserves.

Standing Together receives most of its funding in the form of grants directly in support for specific projects. We have increased our core funding by attracting flexible and diverse sources within our mission and expertise, ensuring that when submitting funding proposals full recovery cost is included in total costs. At present, the core funding is sufficient to cover Standing Together's overheads and administration costs.

Investments

Apart from maintaining a prudent amount in reserves each year most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term leaving few funds for long term investment. We maintain our good management of funds between the current and deposit accounts which has seen the rate of interest remain the same in this year. To ensure security of our deposits under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, the Trustees are carrying out a review to establish the best institutions to invest designated funds and surplus monies.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The Trustees recognise that it must manage its affairs to ensure that the level of reserves and associated cash balances remain sufficient such that Standing Together will continue to operate on a sustainable basis. It is the Trustees objective that in the event that Standing together faces difficult financial circumstances, these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Having assessed the current risks, the Trustees has established a policy to increase the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity. Trustees have decided that, after an allowance for future income expectations, Standing Together should maintain cash and realisable assets sufficient to fund three months of operation costs.

Based on the current grants position, the reserve represents the minimum level of funds required to protect Standing Together from the potential financial impact of known business risks. In the event of Standing Together facing difficult financial circumstances these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Based on the current position the policy requires us to hold £350k in liquid and realisable assets. The Trustees will monitor and review the level of reserves annually, in line with Charity Commission guidance.

4. Plans for the Future

Each year, Standing Together Staff and Trustees meet to review our objectives and priorities for achieving our charitable aims and to refresh our Theory of Change.

In 2021-22 Standing Together set out to:

- Develop our reach and impact via all forms of media and IT
- Continue development of our work in policy

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

4. Plans for the Future (*continued*)

- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health-based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and influence the DH including online platforms and accreditation.
- Continued roll out the CCR Leaders course along with a more robust training package
- Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work, housing, health, faith and communities programme, harmful practices, MARAC and community based settings.
- Expand our membership model through DAHA but also the CCR network allowing us to extend our training and consultancy work
- Focus on fundraising
- Work towards the anti-racism charter to become an anti-racist organisation

5. Conclusion

Standing Together are proud of the way we work in partnerships to embed and model the coordinated community response to domestic abuse. The Coordinated Community Response provides a framework by which we organise, plan and prioritise our work.

Year on year, we build a more robust program of work locally and nationally to both undertake and model the breadth of systemic work that is required to promote safety for survivors of domestic abuse and to hold perpetrators to account.

Our challenge has always been to maintain the partnership work that we do in central London while promoting the best of what we are learning to our wider national networks. Our CCR network has traditionally provided us with that opportunity however this year we have embraced other ways to do this through our national networks like the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), MARAC work, Whole Housing, Faith and VAWG Coalition, In Search of Excellence, DHRs, Mentor Court Project and Pathfinder.

Expansion comes with both challenges and opportunities. Both are easier for Standing Together as our work is firmly grounded and the principles and components of the coordinated community response which remain touch stone to all we do and how we develop.

6. Impact of Coronavirus

Subsequent to the financial year end, the scale and spread of Covid 19 (Coronavirus) virus worldwide and the actions taken by local authority, central governments and organisations affected, has caused and will continue to cause disruption to almost all sectors and the way that Standing Together operates.

The Trustees entered 2020 in a cautious position with a well-diversified funding portfolio which was aided by extension of existing grants and new successful bids to continue current projects.

The CEO and management team continue to monitor the situation closely, reporting regularly to Trustess and consider how best to respond to any emerging issues. Standing Together has taken steps such as furloughing staff and applying for government emergency funds to mitigate the increase in costs of staff working from home and the loss of fee earning contracts.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law and the law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- o Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- o Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- o Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- o Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that, in the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the date of this report, the following applies:

- So far as each Trustee is aware there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- Each Trustee has taken all the steps necessary to make herself/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Relationship with Funders

- No Trustee had any relationship with any of the main funders except as a Trustee of Standing Together In so far as the Management Committee is aware:
- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The Management Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

This Report is agreed and signed at the AGM by the Chair of Standing Together Kruti Patel, on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 2 November 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'K' and a stylized 'Patel'.

Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We have audited the financial statements of Standing Together against Domestic Abuse (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(Continued)

whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- applicable legal requirements.
- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement in the Trustees' Report, 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(Continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) applicable to smaller entities and the Companies Act 2006.
- We understood how the charitable company is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the charity's documented policies and procedures. The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override and allocation of costs to charitable activities and restricted funds.
- Our approach was to check that the income from grants, donations and fee were properly identified and accurately disclosed, that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. We also reviewed major journal adjustments along with unusual transactions and considered the identification and disclosure of related party transactions.

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

Use of our report

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(Continued)

Use of our report

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



Shoaib Arshad (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:

Knox Cropper LLP

Chartered Accountants & Statutory
Auditors 65 Leadenhall Street
London EC3A 2AD

6 December 2021

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note		2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	131,727	-	131,727	26,267	-	26,267
Charitable activities	4	834,593	1,166,675	2,001,268	750,884	2,510,191	3,261,075
Investments	3	249	-	249	1,256	-	1,256
TOTAL INCOME		£ 966,569	£ 1,166,675	£ 2,133,244	£ 778,407	£ 2,510,191	£ 3,288,598
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable activities	5	(741,627)	(980,865)	(1,722,492)	(739,981)	(2,410,415)	(3,150,396)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(741,627)	(980,865)	(1,722,492)	(739,981)	(2,410,415)	(3,150,396)
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		224,942	185,810	410,752	38,426	99,776	138,202
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 1 APRIL		253,350	137,100	390,450	214,924	37,324	252,248
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31 MARCH 2021		£ 478,292	£ 322,910	£ 801,202	£ 253,350	£ 137,100	£ 390,450

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. None of the Charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2021

(Registered Company No. 04283131)

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment	10	3,365	4,486
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	354,853	275,464
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,057,661</u>	<u>616,463</u>
		1,412,514	891,927
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(614,677)	(505,964)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>797,837</u>	<u>385,963</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		801,202	390,449
NET ASSETS		<u>801,202</u>	<u>390,449</u>
		£	£
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds	14	351,643	201,448
General fund	14	<u>126,649</u>	<u>51,902</u>
		478,292	253,350
Restricted Funds	14	<u>322,910</u>	<u>137,100</u>
		<u>801,202</u>	<u>390,450</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Board of Trustees on 2 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by: -



Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020	
	£	£	
Cash flows from operating activities			
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	410,752	138,202	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	1121	1,121	
(Decrease)/increase in Debtors	(79,389)	128,592	
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	108,713	(357,811)	
Investment income	(249)	(1,256)	
	<u>440,948</u>	<u>(91,152)</u>	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Returns on investment – interest receivable	249	1,256	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(5,607)	
	<u>249</u>	<u>(4,351)</u>	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	441,197	(95,503)	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1st April 2020	616,464	711,967	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st March 2021	<u>£ 1,057,661</u>	<u>£ 616,464</u>	
Components of cash and cash equivalents			
	April 2020	Cashflow	April 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£ 616,464</u>	<u>£ 441,197</u>	<u>£ 1,057,661</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Company status

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the note 14.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) which the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the amount will be received, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donation received are deferred when conditions are attached, for example when they relate to a specific future period.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately to the direct staff costs allocated to the activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised and stated at cost less depreciation.

Furniture and equipment	5 years on straight line

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pensions

The company is part of a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations	131,727	-	131,727	26,267	-	26,267
	£ 131,727	£ -	£ 131,727	£ 26,267	£ -	£ 26,267

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Interest receivable from Bank interest	249	-	249	1,256	-	1,256
	£ 249	£ -	£ 249	£ 1,256	£ -	£ 1,256

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Grants & contracts for services:						
Support & education to prevent domestic violence	605,893	1,166,675	1,772,568	492,222	2,510,191	3,002,413
Membership fees	-	-	-	1,425	-	1,425
Fee income	228,700	-	228,700	257,237	-	257,237
	£ 834,593	£ 1,166,675	£ 2,001,268	£ 750,884	£ 2,510,191	£ 3,261,075

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of grants & contracts for services

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Calypso Browning	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Chelwest NHS	-	49,000	49,000	-	49,000	49,000
City Bridge Trust	-	68,490	68,490	-	-	-
City of Westminster Charitable Trust	-	12,690	12,690	-	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	-	35,000	35,000	-	40,000	40,000
Comic Relief - Recovery Fund	-	38,200	38,200	-	-	-
DCMS – Pathfinder Health Project	-	-	-	-	322,500	322,500
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	58,664	58,664	-	1,147,596	1,147,596
Domestic Homicide Reviews	146,372	-	146,372	186,834	-	186,834
Ealing Council	55,655	-	55,655	53,655	-	53,655
Erasmus (EU)	-	-	-	-	12,743	12,743
Esmee Fairburn	-	25,000	25,000	-	50,000	50,000
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	66,000	-	66,000	66,000
Haringey Council	49,855	-	49,855	49,858	-	49,858
Home Office - Emergency Fund	112,134	-	112,134	-	-	-
Home Office – MSWTA	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Homeless Link	-	48,375	48,375	-	48,375	48,375
Inner London Magistrates Courts	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Job Retention Scheme	33,600	-	33,600	-	-	-
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham	-	51,000	51,000	-	51,000	51,000
London Councils	-	80,565	80,565	-	86,477	86,477
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	-	245,000	245,000	-	507,500	507,500
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	69,711	69,711	-	49,000	49,000
MOJ/MOPAC - Emergency Fund	-	51,418	51,418	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	120,329	120,329	-	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	77,000	77,000	-	-	-
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Tri Borough Funding	208,277	2,160	210,437	201,875	-	201,875
Westminster City Council	-	3,173	3,173	-	-	-
Winston Churchill Memorial	-	9,900	9,900	-	-	-
	£ 605,893	£ 1,166,675	£ 1,772,568	£ 492,222	£ 2,510,191	£ 3,002,413

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

5a. Cost of charitable activities (current year)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £
Projects:				
Community	62,493	3,114	6,208	71,815
Criminal Justice	104,439	760	2,076	107,275
DHRs	107,462	56,809	4,694	168,965
Health	236,860	5,381	22,033	264,274
Housing & Homelessness	348,418	175,850	35,028	559,296
MARAC	261,957	1,063	19,668	282,688
Training	1,507	11,156	1,854	14,517
Other charitable projects	168,492	50,677	34,493	253,662
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 1,291,628	£ 304,810	£ 126,054	£ 1,722,492

5b. Cost of charitable activities (prior year as at 31st March 2020)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2019 £
Projects:				
Community	44,549	6,671	1,604	52,824
Criminal Justice	91,543	3,372	2,836	97,751
DHRs	99,677	79,387	10,764	189,828
Health	389,672	1,158,855	36,568	1,585,095
Housing & Homelessness	300,942	462,757	26,676	790,375
MARAC	231,635	2,435	16,570	250,640
Training	13,358	6,257	2,135	21,750
Other charitable projects	81,080	39,750	41,303	162,133
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 1,252,456	£ 1,759,484	£ 138,456	£ 3,150,396

Resources expended include:

	2021	2020
Auditors' remuneration:	£ 5,000	£ 4,500

Details of resources expended are given in notes 6, 7 and 8

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

6. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Partner and stakeholder costs	122,589	1,348,694
Consultancy and Domestic Homicide Review Associate costs	103,295	117,789
Training and learning services	33,573	23,757
External evaluation	24,983	13,713
Other direct costs	20,370	255,532
	£ 304,810	£ 1,759,485

Included in other direct costs is expenditure of £Nil (2020: £129,861) incurred on data collection, sharing learning and national good practice and dissemination relating to the Pathfinder Health Project.

6a. Payments to Partners and Stakeholders:

	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
(i) Pathfinder Health Project				
Consortium partners:				
Against Violence & Abuse (AVA)	-		107,602	
SafeLives	-		115,407	
IRISi Interventions	-		79,904	
Imkaan	-		63,920	
		-		366,833
Health Sites:				
NHS Blackpool CCG	-		60,000	
North Devon Against DA (NDADA)	-		55,563	
London Borough of Haringey	-		60,000	
Somerset Partnership NHS	-		72,638	
RB of Kensington & Chelsea	-		69,761	
London Borough of Camden	-		67,500	
Arch (North Staffordshire) Ltd	-		67,688	
NHS Southampton CCG	-		72,500	
		-		525,650
Evaluation by Cardiff University		-		97,500
		-		989,983
(ii) Whole Housing Approach Programme				
Partners:				
Cambridge Shrievally Trust	-		40,000	
Cambridge Women's Aid	-		108,000	
Refuge	-		132,500	
		-		280,500
(iii) Domestic Abuse Housing Association				
Partners:				
Peabody	37,500		31,167	
Gentoo	37,500		31,167	
		75,000		62,334
(iv) Homeless Link		15,877		15,877
(v) Solace Women's Aid		31,711		-
Total partners and stakeholder costs	£ 122,588			£ 1,348,694

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Premises and Office costs	91,063	93,174
Communication & IT	17,726	25,339
Legal & professional fees	12,267	15,442
Auditor's fee	5,000	4,500
	<u>£ 126,056</u>	<u>£ 138,455</u>

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Gross salaries	1,117,123	1,087,155
Social security	108,292	105,833
Pension costs	44,615	44,585
Other staff costs	21,599	14,885
	<u>£ 1,291,629</u>	<u>£ 1,252,458</u>

The average weekly number of employees calculated as full time equivalents during the period was:

	Number	Number
Key Management Team	2	2
Community project	1.5	1
Criminal Justice project	2.6	2.5
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	2	3
Health	5.1	7
Housing & Homelessness	8.4	7
MARAC	8	6
Other Projects	2	3
	<u>31.6</u>	<u>31.5</u>

The average number of employees (head counts) during the period was:

<u>34.6</u>	<u>32</u>

One employee (2020: Nil) received remuneration of more than £60,000; between £60,001 to £70,000.

During the year, key management received an aggregate salary and benefits of £125,674 (2020: £144,391)

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year, no members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration (2020 : £NIL) No members of the Board of Trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2020 : £NIL)

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

10. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2020	5,607	5,607
At 31 March 2021	5,607	5,607
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2020	1,121	1,121
Charge for the year	1,121	1,121
At 31 March 2021	2,242	2,242
Net book value		
At 31 March 2021	£ 3,365	£ 3,365
At 31 March 2020	£ 4,486	£ 4,486

11. DEBTORS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	246,653	181,160
Prepayments	4,088	4,233
Accrued income	90,531	75,233
Other debtors	13,581	14,838
	£ 354,853	£ 275,464

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Due within one year		
Deferred income	286,586	102,390
VAT creditors	93,303	83,576
Social security and other taxes	26,200	29,594
Accruals & creditors	208,588	290,404
	£ 614,677	£ 505,964

13. TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and therefore is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available, to registered charities.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

14a Statement of Funds (current year as at 31 March 2021)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Transfers and Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	200,000	-	-	150,215	350,215
DVCN Funds	1,448	-	20	-	1,428
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 201,448	£ -	-£ 20	£ 150,215	£ 351,643
RESTRICTED FUNDS	£	£	£	£	£
Calypso Browning	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Chelwest NHS	-	49,000	(49,000)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	68,490	(61,054)	-	7,436
City of Westminster Charitable Trust	-	12,690	(12,690)	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	12,551	35,000	(40,784)	-	6,767
Comic Relief - Recovery Fund	-	38,200	(38,200)	-	-
DCMS – Pathfinder Health Project	-	-	-	-	-
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	58,664	(58,664)	-	-
Erasmus (EU)	12,062	-	(12,015)	-	47
Esme Fairburn	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	(61,420)	-	4,580
Home Office - Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Home Office – MSWTA	-	-	-	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	20,438	-	(20,438)	-	-
Homeless Link	32,241	48,375	(62,000)	-	18,616
Inner London Magistrates Courts	-	5,000	(72)	-	4,928
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	11,869	51,000	(49,070)	-	13,799
London Councils	3,412	80,565	(80,000)	-	3,977
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	-	30,000	(1,922)	-	28,078
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	33,307	245,000	(153,884)	-	124,424
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	69,711	(69,711)	-	-
MOJ/MOPAC - Emergency Fund	-	51,418	(51,418)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	120,329	(93,958)	-	26,371
Oak Foundation	-	77,000	(22,328)	-	54,672
RBKC - CSE	11,220	-	938	-	12,158
Tri Borough	-	2,160	-	-	2,160
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Westminster City Council	-	3,173	(3,173)	-	-
Winston Churchill	-	9,900	-	-	9,900
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 137,100	£ 1,166,675	-£ 980,865	£ -	£ 322,910

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Transfers and Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	201,448	-	(20)	150,215	351,643
General Funds	51,902	966,569	(741,607)	(150,215)	126,649
	253,350	966,569	(741,627)	-	478,292
Restricted Funds	137,100	1,166,675	(980,865)	-	322,910
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 390,450	£ 2,133,244	£ (1,722,492)	£ -	£ 801,202

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

14b Statement of Funds (prior year as at 31 March 2020)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	200,000	-	-	-	200,000
DVCN Funds	23	1,425	-	-	1,448
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 200,023	£ 1,425	£ -	£ -	£ 201,448

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Chelwest NHS	-	49,000	(49,000)	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	-	40,000	(27,449)	-	12,551
DCMS – Pathfinder Health Project	-	322,500	(322,500)	-	-
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	1,147,596	(1,147,596)	-	-
Erasmus (EU)	-	12,743	(681)	-	12,062
Esmee Fairburn	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	(66,000)	-	-
Home Office – MSWTA	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	25,000	(4,562)	-	20,438
Homeless Link	-	48,375	(16,134)	-	32,241
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	8,114	51,000	(47,245)	-	11,869
London Councils	-	86,477	(83,065)	-	3,412
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	29,210	507,500	(503,403)	-	33,307
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	49,000	(49,000)	-	-
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	-	15,000	(3,780)	-	11,220
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 37,324	£ 2,510,191	£(2,410,415)	£ -	£ 137,100

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	200,023	1,425	-	-	201,448
General Funds	14,901	776,982	(739,981)	-	51,902
	214,924	778,407	(739,981)	-	253,350
Restricted Funds	37,324	2,510,191	(2,410,415)	-	137,100
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 252,248	£ 3,288,598	£(3,150,396)	£ -	£ 390,450

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

15a. Analysis of net assets between funds (current year as at 31 March 2021)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	3,365	-	3,365
Net Current assets	351,643	123,284	322,910	797,837
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 351,643	£ 126,649	£ 322,910	£ 801,202

15b. Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year as at 31 March 2020)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	4,486	-	4,486
Net Current assets	201,448	47,416	137,100	385,964
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 201,448	£ 51,902	£ 137,100	£ 390,450

16. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2021 the Company had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for land and buildings) as set out below:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Operating leases which expire:		
within one year	44,631	44,631
within two to five years	-	44,631
	£ 44,631	£ 89,262

The cost of operating lease during the year was as follows:

Office lease charges for the year	£ 44,631	£ 44,631

17. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Pension costs in note 8 relate to payments made to a defined contribution scheme. The charitable company's liability is limited to making the payments due to scheme on timely basis. The liability as at 31 March 2021 is £7,484 (2020: £6,797)

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

There were no related party transactions, other than those disclosed in note 8 and 9.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

19. SECTION 37 STATEMENT

Grant aid of £83,977 was received from London Councils in the financial year ended 31st March 2021. The purpose of the grant is to introduce and adopt established set of standards and an accreditation process in response to domestic abuse within housing.

The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grant Awarded	£ 80,565	£ 86,477
Costs		
Staff Costs	55,000	55,000
Other Direct Costs (consultancy & evaluation)	20,023	23,088
Rent	2,000	2,000
Running costs	2,977	2,977
Total Costs	£ 80,000	£ 83,065
Underspent in the year	565	3,412
Underspent from last year	3,412	-
Total underspent at the year end	£ 3,977	£ 3,412

The sum of £5,000 was withheld in respect of the evaluation which was delayed as shown accrued costs that were paid after 31 March 2021; and there was an underspend on travel expenses of £3,977 (2020: £3,412).



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**Company limited by guarantee No. 04283131
Registered Charity No. 1088844**

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

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Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS For the year ended 31 March 2021

Board of Trustees

K Patel	Chair
A Corbett (resigned 20/10/20)	
E Elkington	
F Endersby (appointed 28/04/20)	
R. Farrar (resigned 20/10/20)	
C. Griffin	Vice Chair
M Hill (appointed 29/07/21)	
T Joseph (appointed 29/07/21)	
S.Letchford (QPM) (resigned 20/10/20)	
A. Macalpine (resigned 20/10/20)	
M Latif (appointed 29/07/21)	
A Patel (appointed 29/07/21)	
L. Payne	
P Price	Treasurer
A Smith (appointed 29/07/21)	
K Vernau (appointed 29/07/21)	
A Wilkinson (resigned 20/10/20)	

Company Registration No: 04283131

Charity Registration No: 1088844

Registered Office: The Polish Centre
Room 44D, 4th Floor
238 – 246 King Street
London
W6 0RF

Auditors: Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

FOREWORD

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in Standing Together (ST). Our Trustees and staff team are extremely proud of the pioneering work of our organisation does to embed a coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic abuse in the UK. We remain inspired by the ambition of our founders over twenty years ago. We are proud of the depth and breadth of work to address and eradicate domestic abuse in such a range of areas. We are working in community-based settings, the criminal justice system and in a range of housing, health and faith settings. We are also integral to the strategic and operational response to domestic abuse in five London boroughs and in particular the bi-borough of Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham. We are increasingly sharing our approach to the coordinated community response in a number of national programmes such as the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), Whole Housing, Pathfinder (health), Faith and Communities and in our Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) work. We are very proud of the partnerships in these areas and are privileged to work alongside so many ambitious and talented charities, services and community groups.

2020 -2021 has been an extraordinary year with unprecedented challenges due to coronavirus pandemic. Despite these challenges the team has worked tirelessly to deliver our services, bring in additional funding and to continue to meet ST's objectives.

We are pleased that our annual audit highlights our sound management of Standing Together. We would very much like to thank the Standing Together trustees, the staff team, our partners and all of those who have supported our work this year.

Sincerely,



Kruti Patel
Chair of Board of Trustees



Gudrun Burnet
Chief Executive

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing documents, the Charities Act 2011 and 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).

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6th September 2001 and registered as a charity in October 2001. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10. The Members of the Company comprise all and only the current serving Trustees.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of trustees retire after which they may be re-elected if they agree.

The Chair along with selected members of the Board and CEO are responsible for recruiting members of the Board of Trustees. Membership of the Board is reviewed annually to ensure that the broadest interests served by Standing Together are represented. Trustees are sought who have experience and influence in their field and are most appropriate to promote the success of the Charity. They bring great abilities to bear on their role and in the various offices they hold on the Board. Their roles as Trustees include human resources; implementation of equal opportunities; financial management, education and equalities, criminal justice, legal expertise, a strategic overview of fundraising and strategic planning.

Each year a planning and review day is held with trustees. During the year a Board evaluation assessment was carried out. This included a review of the Board composition, skills, knowledge, experience, diversity and culture. It was recommended that to exercise best practice and in line with Charity Governance Code Commission guidelines, that Trustees with 9 years or more service would be replaced. In February 2021 a recruitment drive was carried out which resulted in the appointment of 6 new Trustees on 29th July 2021.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 20th October 2020, Ann Corbett, Rosemary Farrar, Simon Letchford and Anne Wilkinson resigned. During the year Fiona Endersby was appointed on 28th April 2020. On 29th July 2021 Michelle Hill, Tracey Joseph, Rizwan Latif, Anisha Patel, Anne Smith and Kim Vernau were recruited to the Board of Trustees.

All trustees receive letters and an agreement confirming appointment, including a pack of key documents containing governing documents and information on the organisation, their role and responsibilities.

As part of their induction, Trustees are briefed on their duties and meet with line managers who outlined their specific projects. To support them in their roles each Trustee are offered a "Buddy", an existing board member who can mentor them through the first few months.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Information on training for trustees of charities is offered to new trustees.

All Trustees have signed (a) a Declaration of Eligibility (b) Conflicts of Interest and Register of Interests and (c) a contract between Trustees and Standing Together and this is reviewed at each Trustee meeting. Trustees do not receive remuneration or derive any other personal benefit from the activities of the charity.

Management of the Charity

Standing Together is managed by this highly committed Board of Trustees which meets every quarter. The Board has maintained membership of nine to twelve trustees since registration in 2001 and makes every effort to ensure it is comprised of a mix of new and experience trustees who collectively provide the appropriate expertise and skills on the board. The principle remains that this structure safeguards that there is the appropriate expertise and skills on board to ensure that the charity is run in accordance with standard organisation practice, that ensure that activities undertaken are in line with the charitable objectives and aims of Standing Together.

The Board has fulfilled its role this year in being responsible for the strategic direction and the sound financial health of the company and for ensuring that the activities of the company meet its charitable objectives. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Chief Executive of Standing Together has overall responsibility for the running of the organisation and delivery of Standing Together's strategy, its development and achievements reporting directly to the Board, supported in financial matters by the Finance & HR Manager and in operational matters by the Partnership Manager and the wider management team. The salary for key management is decided by the Trustees taking into account the skills and experience required, the management responsibilities, the overall budget constraints and a view of what is appropriate as compared to similar roles in the sector in which we work. The level of salary bands is currently been reviewed by an independent human resource consultant, which will be presented in a pay policy to the Board for approval.

Financial Management

Standing Together has policies and procedures in place to carry out good financial management and clear audit trails to ensure that there are sufficient funds to maintain core services in the short and long term.

The Board of Trustees set up a Finance Committee which consists of Trustees Pat Price and Cynthia Griffin; plus Gudrun -Burnet, CEO and Caron Bailey the Finance & HR Manager. The Committee carries out detailed work on financial matters in connection with the budget, financial performance and funding of the organisation relating its findings at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Committee formally meets four times during the year.

Other policies and procedures include Finance Regulations; quarterly Finance Reports to Trustees; regular review of systems for supporting financial procedures; designated staff with clear roles & responsibilities and an Annual Audit.

In the up-and-coming financial year, the Finance Committee continues to focus on ways to increase the general reserves and monitor the organisation's performance against contingency plans. There is ongoing dialogue as we progress through and conclude the level of adequate general reserve. It has been recommended that by promoting Standing Together's bespoke training and consultancy work, looking at alternative ways of fundraising and engaging in the support of philanthropists and champions these are key opportunities in adding to general reserve. The emphasis is on how the Charity is funded,

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

how the Trustee seeks to continue to make progress, the fundraising strategy and its management. As part of this, the Business Continuity Plan was reviewed and updated in the year.

Risk Management

Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity. Risks are considered in light of their likelihood and potential impact and the necessary steps to mitigate them. The risks are outlined in a risk register which is updated for each Trustee meeting. It sets out the process that we use to identify and manage risks in all our activities.

Throughout the year the Trustees completed an overall review of the risk register whereby the Board considered:

- the high and significant risks to which Standing Together is exposed,
- the potential impact and probability associated with each risk,
- existing internal controls and accountability for them, and
- mitigating actions to reduce each risk to a level that is considered to be acceptable.

Securing future funding is the biggest risk for the charity and this challenge has been addressed in the Business Continuity Plan (2018-22). These are monitored by the Chief Executive and the Finance & HR Manager, with the Finance Committee, and assessed annually by the full Board. Standing Together has succeeded in diversifying its sources of funding by obtaining additional income raised from social enterprise and fundraising events. This undesignated income has assisted the process of forward planning; the management of cash flow and enabled the organisation to maintain and develop its activities to advance its charitable objectives.

Standing Together is satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to possible major risks.

Health and Safety

Standing Together maintains a Health & Safety policy committed to reducing the risks of hazards in the organisation workplace, making sure that premises, resources and working practices meet recognized standards for quality, security and safety. The Finance & HR Manager and Office Manager are trained First Aid Officer and Fire Marshals who are designated to ensure compliance with the company's policy and the landlord's responsibilities towards the organisation, especially regarding fire, safety and security precautions.

To maintain staff well being we continue to offer in addition to monthly supervisions, regular clinical supervisions which are delivered in a confidential manner to protect individuals' privacy. We have an independent qualified counsellor who acts as a point of contact for both staff and volunteers who are experiencing emotional distress.

Premises

Standing Together has leased its offices from the Polish Centre since its formation and held a succession of leases with Polish Social and Cultural Association Ltd who run the Centre. The lease agreement expires on 31st March 2022. The rent is under review and work is being done on looking at alternative premises which may be more suitable considering staff mainly working from home due to COVID19 pandemic.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Data

All data and I.T. security systems are reviewed regularly for compliance with Standing Together policy, protocols and procedures, as data sharing is an important function of the organisation and the partnerships we facilitate. All systems are fully backed up and copies are kept separately and securely. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Confidentiality Agreement and Information Sharing Agreement, which governs all our MARACs, have been used as good practice models by other partnerships. Passwords are renewed regularly and revised. All staff have undertaken 'Methods of Protecting Sensitive Data' training including General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) online training which was implemented on 25th May 2018.

Partners & Stakeholders

Standing Together is an independent charity. In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, the charity works closely with other organisations and develops partnerships with voluntary and statutory bodies in support of local and national policies.

Standing Together supports the government's strategy to address 'Violence Against Women and Girls' and sits on the Home Office VAWG Stakeholder Group. ST also sits on the London Domestic Violence Coordinators Network at MOPAC and the MOPAC VAWG Expert Group, the ACPO Domestic Abuse Stakeholder meeting, the CPS External Consultation Group and the London Criminal Justice Board subgroup for Domestic Abuse. Standing Together coordinates the Domestic Violence Coordinators Network (DVCN) on behalf of their members.

The charity is a member of Women's Aid (England), a member of NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organisations) and of EVAW (End Violence Against Women Coalition) and benefits from the information and services they provide.

2. Statement of Intent and Charitable Purposes

Standing Together's ambition is to promote a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic abuse. To that end, Standing Together has created a Theory of Change to show how ST works to achieve its intermediate and longer-term outcomes. ST did this to:

Generate a shared understanding of aims and plans to achieve them.

Provide a simple and graphical description that will **help to communicate** about the aims of Standing Together.

Provide **clarity about what data and evidence** will be most important to collect as the organisation looks towards setting up its measurement framework.

It serves as a basis for a **more persuasive argument** that Standing Together impacts the lives of survivors, statutory agencies and local communities and it will help prepare Standing Together for further investment.

Following this work ST and with a final goal in mind that a coordinated community response model is embedded in the UK, ST set out to clarify and update our definition of the Coordinated Community Response and to set a new outcome measurement framework.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Coordinated Community Response Defined

The Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse is a local, whole system approach to the issue.

Standing Together's Core Principles underpinning the CCR approach

- The only way to respond to the issue of domestic abuse is to work collaboratively through the CCR.
- Domestic abuse is caused by, and generates, gender inequality.
- Individual experiences of domestic abuse are influenced by gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, race, religion, marital status, immigration, socio-economic position and many other factors: responses must understand the differing needs and potential barriers of the local population and be flexible enough to account for this.
- The CCR enables a whole system response to a whole person, recognising the wellbeing and safety needs of victims and survivors, with communities and organisations working alongside them.
- Responsibility for safety should not rest solely with individual victims but also with the community and services.
- Perpetrators must be held to account for the harm they inflict and offered routes to change their abusive behaviours.
- A CCR supports organisational responses, it does not replace them: organisations remain responsible and accountable (to their own agencies and to the partnership) for their own responses to domestic abuse, within a context of multi-agency working.
- A CCR requires leadership, a shared understanding of domestic abuse and risk, and coordination.

Standing Together's CCR Approach

- We put the safety and needs of survivors (adults and children) at the heart of every CCR.
- We ensure that the voices of survivors and their advocates are integral to every CCR.
- We require CCRs to cover the spectrum from primary prevention, to early intervention, to crisis responses, and the long-term recovery of survivors and behaviour change of perpetrators.
- Our CCR acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic abuse.
- Our CCR addresses the diverse and intersecting backgrounds, identities and experiences and situations of survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR addresses adults, children and young people; survivors and perpetrators.
- Our CCR encompasses all organisations operating in an area (statutory, voluntary, community) plus individuals who live / work in the area, and informal groups / networks located there.
- We require that all local organisations have an equal place and voice in the CCR.
- Our CCR requires coordination, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and leadership.
- Our CCR is flexible and will evolve.
- We ensure that local organisations recognise that they are best placed to identify, and develop, improvements to practice in developing a CCR - and we provide help to them to do this.
- We are committed to providing a consultative, learning and empowering approach to areas developing CCR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Standing Together' s CCR Core Components

What every CCR will have, regardless of area or local structures; all components adhere to the principles listed above.

- All organisations have developed and agreed a **common purpose** and approach to domestic abuse including a stated commitment to the CCR.
- **Definitions of domestic abuse and risk** are agreed and shared by all statutory, voluntary and community organisations.
- A defined **structure/mechanism(s)** is in place for the **coordination, governance and monitoring** of the CCR to ensure **accountability** and to enable a flexible and evolving approach.
- An **action plan** is in place.
- Written **policies and procedures** are in place within every **organisation** covering their response to domestic abuse. Regular compulsory **training** at every level of the organisation supports these.
- Written **policies and procedures** are agreed covering **multi-agency** systems and working (including the MARAC and SDVC). Regular compulsory **training** supports these.
- An agreed **dataset** is in place and monitored on a regular basis.
- **Survivors' voices** (and the views of their advocates) are regularly sought, listened to and responded to.
- Adequately resourced **specialist services** are in place to respond to adults, children and young people: survivors and perpetrators.
- In 2020-21 we particularly set out to:
 - Maintain service delivery during COVID 19 and ensure staff well being remained a priority throughout the pandemic.
 - Launch the Pathfinder toolkit in partnership with AVA, IMKAAN, IRISi and Safelives.
 - Successfully fundraise for our Faith and Communities, Whole Housing, Mentor Court and Health work
 - Run our nationally accredited training (CCR Leaders) for those with strategic responsibilities for VAWG.
 - Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work, housing, health, MARAC and community-based settings.
 - Apply and be awarded the contract for existing Court and MARAC work in bi-borough and Hammersmith and Fulham.

3. Achievements and Performance

We report below on our achievements in meeting the aims of our charitable company.

- We have successfully sustained services during COVID 19 and protected the well being of our staff
- Refreshed In Search of Excellence and launched this at a public event
- Expanded and continued our offer for health professionals
- Launched our DAHA membership model to ensure this is self-sustaining
- Sustained our work in Faith and Communities.
- We have been awarded the contract for MARAC and Court in the bi-borough and Hammersmith and Fulham

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

- We have played an instrumental role at policy level in terms of responding to and consulting on the Domestic Abuse Act
- We have improved our communications via social media and campaigning for example Blooming Strong and Running Together

A. Promoting the development of services to meet the needs of survivors of domestic abuse

The Coordinated Response in the Three Boroughs

In order to develop our local CCR, ST worked closely with the VAWG Strategic Partnership for the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF), the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and the City of Westminster (WCC) to develop and implement a strategy for violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Strategy was written after considerable consultation with survivors, service users, stakeholders from a range of statutory and voluntary organisations as well as elected members across the three councils. The Strategy details how the Partnership will deliver a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to VAWG; it keeps survivors and children at the centre of its aims and objectives, whilst also holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. The Strategy is focused around the following seven strategic priorities:

1. Access
2. Response
3. Community
4. Practitioners
5. Children and Young People
6. Perpetrators
7. Justice and Protection

It includes a 43-point action plan which provides the framework for the VAWG Partnership to deliver against its agreed objectives.

As of 27th March 2017, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster announced that they would withdraw from service sharing arrangements in Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Public Health. With effect from 1st April 2018

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham was no longer be part of the shared services for these named services. However, all three boroughs have confirmed their commitment to work together and maintain a three borough VAWG Board. From April 2019, it was decided for 1 year to maintain the current strategy with a refresh that identified the following priorities:

The Partnership model and service delivery was due to be remodelled and recommissioned in 20/21 but due to the Covid 19 Pandemic it was decided to postpone that for 12 months as services were already stretched beyond capacity in working within the restrictions of lockdown. The commissioning process opened again in February 2021 with contracts extended until the end of September 2021 to allow for transition to the new contracts.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Three Borough VAWG Strategic Partnership

ST takes the operational lead in delivering the Strategy and is an integral part of the governance structure of the board. The VAWG Strategic Board is tasked to:

- To ensure the voices and experiences of survivors of VAWG are reflected throughout the Strategy and Action Plan via regular consultation and feedback;
- To monitor progress of targets and objectives against the Shared VAWG Action Plan and assess whether actions and activities, including of the 6 VAWG Operational Groups, are achieving the required outcomes;
- To establish the overall impact of the strategy via quality assurance and performance monitoring frameworks;
- To promote effective links with the work other Strategic Partnerships including the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards and Health and Well-Being Boards;
- To incorporate new legislation, policy and guidance alongside ongoing understanding and assessment of local need and recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews and serious case reviews; and
- To report regularly on the progress of the Strategy to each of the three-sovereign borough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, for which VAWG is a priority area of business.

The Board is informed and influenced by six Operational Groups that each have a coordinator and a chair and work to detailed action plans based on the seven strategic commitments. The groups are:

- Housing
- Specialist Services
- Children and Health
- Risk and Review (which includes the Specialist Court and MARACs)
- Harmful Practices
- Modern Slavery and Exploitation

These groups provide detailed feedback via coordinators to an Executive group, which meets regularly to monitor the action plans, share information across the Partnership and raise issues and trends to the Strategic Board which have developed in the three boroughs. Standing Together coordinate the first four of those operational groups.

2020/21 has been an exceptional year due to the pandemic and the oversight of the VAWG Partnership Board has been essential to maintain positive communication between agencies and ensure all partners are supported and held to account in providing for survivors, their children and perpetrators during such unprecedented times. The positive working relationships and mutual respect that has been built within our three Borough partnership has assisted in ensuring high quality provision was maintained.

As a result of COVID 19 Standing Together have been heavily involved in the response and ensure our services have remained business as usual. This has entailed meeting regularly with the strategic leads and our work in MARACs, courts, health, harmful practices, housing and of course our specialist services.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Angelou partnership:

Received 3,158 referrals in total during 20/21.

Headline Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Baseline 2012/13	Achieved 2019/20	Achieved 2020/21	Rag Status Green Amber Red
Improved safety of victims of VAWG and their children	Women report increased safety and feelings of safety as measured by exit surveys	65%	85%	85%	Green
Work as part of a Co-ordinated Community Response to tackling VAWG in the Tri-B Area	Women report a reduction in abuse due to support and advice received from service as measured by closing assessments.	67%	94%	93%	Green
Repeat victimisation is reduced and service users are supported to live free of violence	Women are at reduced risk at case closure following the support of the service as measured by professional judgement, risk and needs assessment and closing assessments.	62%	92%	89%	Green
Greater access to justice (both civil and criminal systems) for all service users					
Improved long-term outcomes and well being for service users and their families;	Women and girls report their quality of life has improved as measured by exit surveys.	55%	80%	79%	Green
Empower women and girls who have experienced violence to recover and thrive in a future without violence.					

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Angelou partnership:

Headline Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Baseline 2012/13	Achieved 2019/20	Achieved 2020/21	Rag Status Green Amber Red
Increased number of victims of VAWG engaging in services and improved access for BME groups and young people; Support for victims is provided at the earliest stage and is for as long as they need to access support	Increased number of women and girls engaged in services as measured by the number/ percentage of service users that have been contacted and engaged in services as well as monitoring of demographic data.	70%	84%	80.5%	Green
Young people have the opportunity to explore healthy and unhealthy relationships and deepen understandings of VAWG; Community has greater awareness of VAWG, reduced tolerance for VAWG and increased awareness of avenues for support.	Women and girls report improved confidence in reporting abuse and/or where to access help and support as measured by exit interviews and evaluations. Young people report improved confidence in reporting abuse and/or where to access help and support as measured by exit interviews and evaluations.	72%	97% 100%	97% 96%	Green Green

Standing Together maintains the Angelou partnership website over the year which helped facilitate access to the variety of services it provides.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Specialist Services Operational Group

The Specialist Services group only met twice during 20/21. Because of lockdown specialist services were at capacity in responding remotely to the increase of cases across the 3 boroughs. It met in November and surveyed the members as to how it could be most useful. Communication between services scored highly as did continuing an activist agenda. The group has a good representation of 'by and for' services so it was felt essential that their voices should be and how they could be accessed. amplified to the strategic group. The group continues to share information amongst members (and to the Board) on what services were available in each borough

Children and Health Operational Group

The Children and Health Operational Group (CHOG) encourages the implementation of the CCR model by improving responses to domestic abuse from health, statutory and non-statutory services who come into contact with children and young people. This is achieved through institutional advocacy, coordinating evidence-based interventions, promoting the voice of survivors and their children within meetings and forums and policy development and implementation.

The Children and Health Team Leader engages with a variety of stakeholders including GP practices, sexual health services, substance misuse services, health visitors, Children's Social Care, Early Years and front-line domestic abuse service providers in the Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

The CHOG meetings take place on quarterly basis, with four being held in 2020-21. The following themes were explored:

Domestic Abuse in the Family Courts; Operation Encompass, Stalking and Domestic Abuse; Iris programme for GPs and findings from a local Domestic Homicide Review.

The Children and Health Team Leader coordinates the Hammersmith and Fulham co-location project, in partnership with Advance and DVIP. The steering group met four times in 2020-21, hearing case studies and positive impacts of the project at each meeting. Funding has been secured for this project to continue in 2021-22.

The Children and Health Team Leader has contributed to a range of training sessions and workshops across the Tri Borough to: Housing services; GPs, Community champions, Covid-19 helpline workers, Social Care staff and GPs.

Delivered training to 55 practitioners in health settings, from GPs to reception staff. She also trained 251 colleagues from social care, including Social Workers, CAFCASS officers, housing and support workers.

Feedback from training included:

"It was just really engaging. I think the Safe Together model was great and really got me thinking about best practice. Also the information about domestic homicide reviews and the 8 step domestic homicide model. I am fired up to advocate for clients in MARAC meetings and beyond"

"It was a very informative and enlightening session. Loved it"

"Nicola and Sarah you did a fantastic job today. Thank you so much"

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Children and Health Operational Group (continued)

Key achievements 2020-21:

- We coordinated a project with the Early Intervention Foundation this quarter which mapped services across H&F and Westminster. The final product will be produced in the next quarter
- Created guidance for health and social care staff in light of Covid-19, disseminated to a range of local and national partners
- Wrote training for the Covid-19 CAN and Shield helplines
- Promoted the local CCR through the update of In Search of Excellence

Safe and Together

Following the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership endorsing the Safe and Together model, work progressed significantly in 2020-21. We provided 15 Social Work managers with two 2 hour modules plus a 90 minute de-brief on the model. We also delivered the four day CORE training to 18 Social Workers from across the Three Boroughs and the feedback we received via the Safe and Together Institute was excellent;



The models we were introduced to will be useful in day to day case planning. The trainer did very well in ensuring the training remained engaging despite all being conducted over video.

CORE TRAINING ATTENDEE, Live Remote

We have a project group who are working on a delivery plan for the next financial year.

Acute Trust Project

The Acute Trust Project aims to develop and sustain a Trust-wide response to domestic abuse within CWFT; increasing Trusts' and professionals' capacity to identify, respond and appropriately refer domestic abuse cases through training, development of policy and referral pathways, creation of a network of DA champions and improved multi-agency engagement.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Acute Trust Project (*continued*)

- **The key achievements 2020-2021:**
- Training has continued in the Trust wherever possible, although training and meetings freezes for health staff have taken places during periods in lockdown. There have been a total of 2425 staff attendances at DA training (Levels 1-4) this year. 36 staff members have completed Domestic Abuse Link (DAL) training
- The numbers of MARAC and IDVA referrals made by the Trust has increased. 185 MARAC referrals were made compared to 146 in 2019/20. This is a 27% increase from 2019/20 and a 176% increase from 2018/19 when 67 MARAC referrals were made. 428 IDVA referrals were made in 2020/21, compared to 373 in 2019/20. This is a 15% increase from 2019/20 and a 23% increase from 2018/19 when 347 IDVA referrals were made
- CWFT participated in the 'You Are Not Alone' campaign, which was publicised to patients and the public. Trust staff were eager to show that, although this year has been incredibly busy for hospital staff, they were still committed to providing support to survivors.



A core focus of the project this year has been to develop policy/processes to support CWFT staff who are experiencing domestic abuse.

- A survey was sent to all CWFT staff asking about their experiences of DA and accessing support from the Trust
- This will be utilised, along with the results of focus groups conducted with CWFT HR, Occupational Health and Legal staff, to create a dedicated policy
- In response to the immediate needs identified in the survey, processes have been created to provide staff access to emergency accommodation, financial support, food/clothing/toiletries, and emotional support from the Trust.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Whole Health Project

As a legacy of the national health work undertaken by the Pathfinder Project, the Mental Health Coordinator is now the Whole Health Coordinator working with a range of healthcare services across numerous locations. Funding in the year 2020-2021 focussed on using the learning and resources from the Pathfinder Project to embed the 'Whole Health Model' across NHS Trusts in England.

As part of this work the Coordinator has:

- Mapped out a new online forum aimed at health professionals working to improve the health service response to domestic abuse. The forum will provide a space where health workers can connect, ask questions, problem solve and download resources to aid in implementation of the Whole Health Model. The Coordinator surveyed existing health contacts to gauge demand for this concept and worked with a digital consultant to begin the creation of the forum itself. We have been successful in a bid to Comic Relief to continue this work and launch the forum in 2021-2022
- Created an accreditation framework for health Trusts based on the elements of best practice outlined in the Pathfinder toolkit. The framework will help guide health Trusts through systems change and will be accessed through an online portal which will allow Trusts to track their progress and will encourage them to make continued improvements. The Comic Relief funding listed above will facilitate the creation of the online portal.
- Supported the Domestic Abuse Coordinators in place at Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust/West London NHS Trust and Camden and Islington NHS Trust through the provision of resources to be used in their work
- Coordinated the INCADVA (INter-Collegiate and national Agency Domestic Violence and Abuse) forum which brings together a range of health and VAWG organisations to tackle domestic abuse/VAWG at a policy and strategic level. The coordinator maintains and updates the member list, arranges the bi-annual meetings (including agendas, chair and minutes) and coordinates two additional subgroups focussing on the VAWG content in the medical curriculum and joint health/VAWG policy responses. This year the latter group created a joint response to the Domestic Abuse Bill consultation and accompanying statutory guidance, worked with Peers in the House of Lords during the 2nd and 3rd readings of the Bill and submitted a joint forum response to the NHS Standard Contract consultation outlining the need for the Whole Health Model in tackling VAWG
- Worked with the health team and the Violence and Abuse Mental Health Network Advisory group to create a briefing with recommendations to the Home Office Health Subgroup
- Co-delivered a range of training sessions including; domestic abuse simulation training for mental health professionals (in partnership with the Maudsley Simulation Team), domestic abuse, trauma and self-care training to two health Trusts, domestic abuse and child safeguarding training, multi-agency domestic abuse training and 'train the trainer' training for a group of health Trusts in the South West of England. Feedback from training included the following:

"I thought the training was really insightful and allowed us to have a greater understanding of how the system works and what we need to keep an eye out on. I enjoyed being able to see things from a different perspective this really helped me to enhance my own perspectives."

"I was able to have an open and honest discussion with both of the meeting hosts as well as my colleagues. It was a really informative session"

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Whole Health Project (*continued*)

"It will really influence how I think about domestic abuse in a broader context"

"It is one of the best I have been to"

Domestic Abuse Courts

Standing Together continue to coordinate the Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDACs) at Westminster Magistrates Court to provide a specialist court facility to the boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea. The SDAC for Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea and the DDAC for Westminster have been running for nineteen and nine years respectively and continue to evolve good practice and improve the service to victims/survivors. The SDAC model ensures that the focus on victim/witness safety is maintained throughout the entire specialist court process which has become more important in this current financial climate where agency resources have been cut.

In late 2020, the CJ team secured Tampon Tax funding via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for a 2-year Mentor Court project starting in April 2021, which aims to reinvigorate the SDAC model nationally and in turn, improve the criminal justice response to domestic abuse. The project will enhance the existing SDAC's at Westminster (London Mentor Court), recruit an Outer London court, and expand on the mapping work already being carried out within the team on a much wider scale. The London and Outer London Mentor Courts will offer stakeholders the opportunity to observe the SDAC in session and partake in learning sessions, so that they can take the SDAC model back to their local area.

This funding will allow the CJ team at STADA to grow by recruiting for additional posts including for the outer London court who will also form part of the wider CJ Team at STADA.

The anticipated large-scale review of SDACs on a national level is unprecedented and will build upon the work that has been carried out more recently funded by Treebeard. The Programme Manager who will be responsible for this element of the project, had previously started work to map and observe SDACs across the country, and this will continue via the Mentor Court project work on a much larger scale. Treebeard continues to support the CJ team with funding to support with the reinvigoration of the SDACs nationally.

During the pandemic, the CJ team adapted to the crisis by increasing their support to stakeholders and developing new processes to provide support for victims. The team maintained a presence in the police station where they continued to support officers in the CSU. The Impact Project continues to run in partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham, working closely with ADVANCE. The funding from the Tampon Tax will enable us to recruit a part-time Impact Officer as the Programme Manager moves to focus on the Mentor Court project in April 2021.

The CJ Team continues to work with key stakeholders whilst we navigate the ever-changing terrain of remote working during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Programme Managers have furthered relationships with the CPS and the Police, which has enabled the CCR to continue working in the tri-borough, making sure that other agencies are able to provide and receive information allowing the safety and needs of victims to be maintained. The CJ team continue to provide subject matter expertise across many forums related to domestic abuse and the criminal justice system, and the CJ Programme Managers recently provided feedback on the Domestic Abuse Act whilst it was going through Parliament, drawing on this expertise.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Domestic Abuse Courts (*continued*)

The CJ Team remain valued members of CPS VAWG Scrutiny Panel, Police NFA Scrutiny Panel, LCJB Delivery Board, CPS External Consultation Group, BTP Public Protection Panel and Regional Stakeholders Meeting. The DA Court Management Groups to meet on a quarterly basis where operational feedback is provided to members to ensure consistency between the courts but to also hold the partner agencies to account regarding their commitment to the specialist courts. The DA Focus group also meets following the CMG meetings and the Court Led Meetings where the scrutiny of local data and outcomes is discussed.

The specialist courts at Westminster Magistrates Court continue to be acknowledged as best practice and the CJ team hope that the Mentor Court project will allow for this practice to be recognised and rolled out on a national basis.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC}

In 1999 Standing Together (ST) played a pioneering role in the development and implementation of MARACs. ST founded the MARAC in Hammersmith & Fulham (September 2007) and Kensington & Chelsea (January 2008) then adding Haringey (March 2013), Ealing (June 2013) and Westminster (September 2013). Some of SafeLives MARAC documentation was modelled on paperwork created by ST. Our MARACs have been visited by the Home Office and recommended by SafeLives as among the best in the country and at the forefront of championing survivor safety.

Aligning with SafeLives best practice guidance and the principles of an effective MARAC, all ST MARACs have run effectively and in line with SafeLives recommended practice in 2020-21. Our work includes close liaison with specialist agencies, bringing their expertise to MARAC meetings, helping inform practitioners, reducing barriers to support experienced by some communities and individuals with intersectional characteristics and complex needs, ensuring equality of access and inclusive action planning that recognises diversity. Through this process ST is committed to actively increasing MARAC referrals from all sections of the community.

We have a well-developed MARAC training package providing team briefings, representative inductions, and quarterly workshops to frontline staff on domestic abuse awareness, risk identification, SafeLives DASH RIC Checklist, MARAC processes and protocols, referral thresholds, and specialist services. At the start COVID-19 Pandemic, the MARAC team adapted their training packages to be delivered virtually.

We pride ourselves on our uniquely robust team capacity consisting of a Team manager, FT support officer, PT Data officer and four Coordinators meaning we have built in resilience and are able to remain compliant with all contractual obligations in terms of service delivery. At each MARAC meeting we provide two staff; a MARAC Coordinator and a minute-taker which enhances quality and allows for more effective action planning and support for reps and chairs.

ST coordinates and administrates the London MARAC Coordinators Forum bringing together Coordinators to share best practice, learn from each other, discuss challenges and explore innovation in the MARAC field. Throughout the year we held three meetings.

Underpinning our MARAC work is the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model. This provides us unrivalled expertise in developing partnerships and multi-agency working. Our Coordinators benefit from organisational learning and best practice knowledge enriching each MARAC we coordinate and ensuring that

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

our MARAC team has considerable influence and in roads amongst a wide variety of practitioners in the DA field sharing good practice and encouraging appropriate interventions. All MARAC Coordinators at ST bring a background of frontline or other relevant experience.

The following data breakdowns indicate high performance when compared to SafeLives recommended target figures in all areas of provision and particularly in comparison to other London region MARACs.

Hammersmith & Fulham

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	320	419
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	32.2
% Repeat	28% - 40%	30.3%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	2.6%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	9.1%
% BME Referrals	55%	47.7%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	17.9%
Number of children	N/A	320

Hammersmith & Fulham MARAC has heard 419 cases during 2020-2021, 10 cases less than 2019-2020. SafeLives recommends that 320 cases are heard per 12-months period, Hammersmith & Fulham MARAC has heard 130.9% of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting for 2019-2020 was 35.8, while during 2020-2021 it has been 32.2, with an average fluctuation of 3.7 cases. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases including the top four referring agencies as Police (27.3%), IDVA service (23.3%), Children Social Care (10.6%) and Secondary Care Acute Trust (10.3%).

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

Kensington & Chelsea

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	12
Cases heard (N)	270	329
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	27.4
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	28.0%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	3.6%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	6.1%
% BME Referrals	55%	49.2%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	18.8%
Number of children in household	N/A	215

Kensington & Chelsea MARAC has heard 329 cases during 2020-2021, 4 cases more than 2019-2020 and has met 12 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 270 cases are heard per 12-months period, Kensington & Chelsea MARAC has heard 121.9% of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting during 2019-2020 was 27.1, while during 2020-2021 it has been 27.4, with an average fluctuation of 5.6 cases. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (30.2%), IDVA service (21.3%), Secondary Care Acute Trust (11.1%), and MARAC transfers (10.7%).

Westminster

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	13
Cases heard (N)	370	557
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	42.8
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	22.6%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	6.6%

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

Westminster

% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	8.4%
% BME Referrals	55%	58.2%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	16%
Number of children in household	N/A	384

Westminster MARAC has heard 557 cases during 2020-2021, 111 cases more than 2019-2020. Westminster MARAC met 13 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 370 cases are heard per 12-months period, Westminster MARAC has heard 150.5% of the recommended volume. The average number of cases per meeting for 2019-2020 was 31.9, while during 2020-2021 it has been 42.8, with an average fluctuation of 7.4 cases. Westminster MARAC has seen the biggest increase from all the MARACs Standing Together coordinates; out of 13 meetings held this year, 8 of them heard over 40 cases, which has had a significant impact on the workload of the coordinator and partner agencies. Three meetings in Quarter 4 had to be held across two days due to the caseload exceeding 40 cases. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (24.2%), IDVA service (18.0%), Housing (13%) and Voluntary.

Ealing

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	17
Cases heard (N)	540	584
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	34.4
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	17.5%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	1.2%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	5.1%
% BME Referrals	55%	64.2%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	11.3%
Number of children in household	N/A	592

Ealing MARAC heard 584 cases during 2020-2021, 132 more cases than the previous year with 452 cases heard. Ealing MARAC met 17 times this year SafeLives recommends that 540 cases are heard per 12 month period, Ealing MARAC has heard 108.1% of the expected volume The average number of cases per meeting was 34.4 between April 2020- March 2021, and 26.6 between April 2019-March 2020.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (*continued*)

The average fluctuation of cases between April 2020 – March 2021 was 6.6 cases. On four occasions the caseload exceeded 40. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (31.3%), IDVA service (20.5%), Children Social Care (10.4%) and Other/MARAC transfers (9.1%).

Haringey

	SafeLives Recommends	2020-21
Number of meetings (N)	N/A	17
Cases heard (N)	410	534
Average no. cases per meeting	N/A	32
% Repeat Cases	28% - 40%	22.6%
% LGBT Referrals	2.5% - 5.8%	5.0%
% Male Referrals	5% - 10%	6.9%
% BME Referrals	55%	67.9%
% Disability Referrals	19%+	12.6%
Number of children in household	N/A	410

Haringey MARAC heard 534 cases during 2020-2021, 27 more cases than the previous year with 507 cases heard. Haringey MARAC met 17 times this year. SafeLives recommends that 410 cases are heard per 12 month period, Haringey MARAC has heard 130.2% of the expected volume. The average number of cases per meeting was 32 between April 2020- March 2021, and 28 between April 2019-March 2020. We have observed an average fluctuation of 4 cases per meeting, same as the last year. There was a broad range of 12 referring agencies to the MARAC cases. The top four referring agencies were Police (30%), IDVA service (19%), Children Social Care (17%) and Voluntary Sector (10%).

Performance Highlights for the MARAC Team in 2019-20

All MARACs performing above SafeLives recommended volume

This indicator of good quality MARAC provision is measured by the volume of referrals (best practice is meeting 80-100% of SafeLives recommended volume.) From the table below, volume in 2020-21 across all five MARACs were above best practice. This is a very positive year on year achievement accomplished through our work in raising awareness with MARAC agencies ensuring high risk victim/survivors are not being missed.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 the following volumes have been seen in the Five MARAC Boroughs:

YEAR	LBHF	RBKC	WCC	Ealing	Haringey
SafeLives Recommendation	320	270	370	540	410
Volume 2020-21 (12 months)	419	329	557	584	534

(MARACs should only see the top 10% of highest risk Victim/ Survivors going forward those Boroughs where over-referring might be occurring more targeted training and development work on thresholds will be required.)



 National lockdown

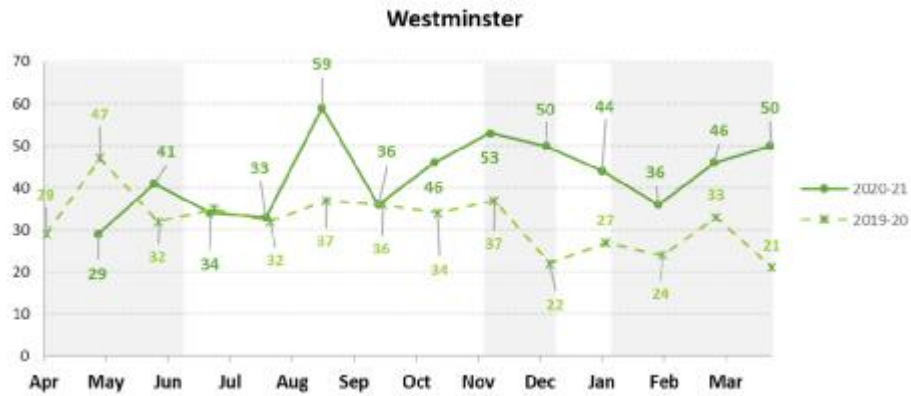


 National lockdown

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (continued)



National lockdown



Haringey



Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (*continued*)

COVID-19 & MARAC

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic, MARAC meetings were adapted to be held online. As the months progressed, it became clear that the landscape of MARACs had changed for the foreseeable and it was unlikely that face to face meetings could resume within this financial year. Standing Together introduced an interim plan in March 2020 to ensure MARACs continued at the beginning of the pandemic. Agencies sent in their research ahead of the meetings and reviewed and the virtual call focused on action planning. Standing Together monitored and reviewed the interim process both in steering group and within the organisation and proposed changes in commence in Quarter 4. The proposal was to resume MARAC meetings for full case discussion and action planning via Microsoft Teams. All MARAC reps core and non-core are required to attend and proactively engage in the meeting including preparing with research, focusing on what is being shared and sharing only what is relevant and proportionate information, avoiding repetition. These changes were agreed with commissioners and partners at the interim steering groups in December 2020. Coordinators held briefings with all MARAC representatives on this change in process in January 2021. By adjusting the approach, Standing Together hope that this will continue to ensure that the victim/survivor's voice is heard throughout, thorough action planning and ensure a coordinated community response to domestic abuse. This process is being monitored at interim steering groups, Risk and Review and internally at Standing Together. Observations have seen more thorough case discussion and action planning with the victim/survivors voice being heard.

Across 2020-21, the MARAC team have been working tirelessly during the pandemic to ensure there was minimal disruption to the MARAC process and all deadlines were met without fail. This is a huge achievement given the high volume of cases and associated increased workload, particularly in Westminster and Ealing boroughs when compared to the previous financial year. To cope with the demand, Standing Together was successful in obtaining two FT posts (x 1 administrator and x 1 data analyst) via the Home Office and London Community Fund COVID Relief in January 2021 until 31st March 2021. The support from these two roles within a short space of time made a huge impact to the team and bolstered the resources to cope with the increased demand. We were able to demonstrate the need for these posts and were granted an extension of this funding until 30th September 2021 from Westminster City Council.

London MARACs and COVID-19 Review Paper

Due to our established strong partnership created across London with the MARAC Coordinators Forum, our MARAC team manager was able to utilise this and gain valuable feedback across London for a solid understanding of MARAC's response to COVID-19. We consolidated the feedback efficiently and effectively on trends, approaches and apply our own knowledge delivering best practice MARACs and relevant research to produce a [review paper](#) in August 2020. This paper not only highlighted different approaches across London, but

platformed best practice, complimented by practical tools MARACs could use to improve their practice. We presented this paper at the Risk and Review meeting in October 2020.

London MARAC Coordinators Forum

Standing Together continues to host, chair, and administrate the London wide MARAC Coordinators forum every quarter. The meetings have covered a range of topics with guest speakers from a variety of specialist DA organisations. We held three meeting virtually across the year to share best practice, discuss challenges, and explore innovation in the MARAC field. There was a particular focus on how MARACs have adapted and

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences {MARAC} (*continued*)

responded to the pandemic. Other topics included harmful practices and MARAC responses and MOPACs pilot for GPS monitoring of domestic abuse perpetrators.

MARAC Health ChelWest & ICHT Referral distribution point

Standing Together has continued to be the centralised referral point for all MARAC referrals originating from Imperial College Health Trust and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Foundation NHS Trust. ICHT and ChelWest have their own MARAC referral form and all staff send this to the secure Health MARAC inbox at Standing Together for distribution onwards to the appropriate MARAC (if not Tri-Borough). This saves busy medical staff time providing a simplified system increasing the likelihood of professionals referring to MARAC. In 2020-21, the team have processed 179 referrals (ICHT = 87; ChelWest = 92) on behalf of these NHS trusts.

MARAC Awareness Raising

Standing Together works closely with partner agencies to ensure that all relevant members of staff are familiar with the MARAC process, and their role and responsibilities within it by providing MARAC briefings, inductions, and workshops. In 2020-21, MARAC Coordinators in the service area completed 130 sessions with partner agencies across all boroughs reaching 808 partners. As a result of Standing Together's MARAC workshops, professionals have improved knowledge and confidence in referring to MARAC as measured by evaluations.

April 2020 -March 2021	Number of sessions	Total attendees
Briefings	25	443
Inductions	93	122
Workshops	12	243
Total	130	808

Best Practice For Immigration Matters

Ealing MARAC has been recognised by SafeLives as having best practices when dealing with victim/survivors who have insecure immigration status. The Ealing coordinator has been working with SafeLives on their best practice guidance and Ealing MARAC will be recognised within that guidance. This will be shared with stakeholders when published.

MARAC Team Forward Plan Priorities 2021-2022

MARAC & COVID-19

The impact of the pandemic on the MARAC process continues into the next financial year. Coordinators continue to work remotely as do most of our partner agencies. Due to current guidelines and restrictions, it is not possible to resume to meetings in person currently. Standing Together will continue to ensure a coordinated community response to domestic abuse by internal monitoring and consultation with partners and front-line services working directly with victim/survivors. Our data analysts will provide insight into the process across the previous year and how this will inform our practices moving forward.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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MARAC Training Packages

The Team manager will focus on refining the MARAC representatives training package that Standing Together offers to other areas to raise the profile of Standing Together. Sessions have been delivered to Kingston MARAC and Camden MARAC in recent months which have been well received. The aim will be to advertise this package on our website to increase funds for the MARAC team.

MARAC Operating and Information Sharing Protocol (MOISP)

MOISPs across all MARAC will be requiring review during this financial year. The MOISPs will be updated to include security of MARAC information in a virtual setting.

Service Continuity

During the next financial year, all MARAC contracts will be requiring renewal. The Team manager will be prioritising these tenders to ensure continuity of service.

MOPAC London MARAC Review

ST bid for the MOPAC London MARAC Review and have been successful. The objectives of the review are to provide an overview of the performance of London MARACs and the partner agencies involved in the MARAC to understand their effectiveness; how MARACs are resourced; effective communication; an overview of victim/survivors experiences of MARAC and highlight examples of best practice including recommendations for embedding this across London.

Housing Operational Group

The role of the Housing Operational Group is to ensure that victim/survivors (with or without children) receive consistent, appropriate, and professional support when approaching housing services and housing providers in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster. Effective interventions will include early identification and intervention and crisis and emergency assistance that increase safety and reduce risk as well as improved access to resettlement services, on-going or long-term and housing options that enable survivors to access safe and secure housing.

It also encourages housing providers to consider the delivering of their services within a Whole Housing Approach framework that brings together under one umbrella all of the main tenure types, housing options and initiatives and specialist domestic abuse services needed in a local area to help survivors of domestic abuse access safe and stable housing. The Whole Housing Approach currently includes 12 components, which applied concurrently will enhance collaborative working, that will in turn create earlier intervention, reduce homelessness, and enable tenancy sustainment.

The HOG meetings take place on quarterly basis, with four being held in 2020-21.

The following themes were explored:

- Stalking with a guest speaker from Suzi Lamplugh
- Child Contact in the context of COVID-19 with a guest speaker from the Child Law Advice Service
- Effective case management with guest speakers from Peabody

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Housing Operational Group (*continued*)

- Domestic Abuse Bill and relevance to housing

The group is chaired by a member of the National Housing Federation (NHF).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings in 2020-21 were held via video conference with an average of 15 members attending each meeting. We also now have representatives from all three local authority Housing Solution Services attending and sharing best practice.

The Whole Housing Coordinator facilitates the Housing Operational Group and offers coordination support for the Sanctuary Scheme for LBHF and Flexible Funding pot (part of Whole Housing) for the three boroughs.

Sanctuary Scheme

In 2020/21, we spent £17,658 to secure 50 homes in LBHF through the Sanctuary scheme with Safe Partnership, at an average cost of £353 per household. This is an increase by 10 from the previous year. Continuous improvements to the scheme were made based on survivor feedback and requests for additional security measures, which Safe Partnership do not provide. The Whole Housing Coordinator met with partners / funders from LBHF Council who agreed to expand the offer. As a result, a survivor at high risk of harm from their perpetrator had CCTV installed and another had fencing installed, which helped them feel safer to remain in their home.

In April 2020, Safe Partnership closed their service due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Whole Housing Programme Lead was able to quickly establish an arrangement with a new provider Crawfords through a contact shared by the Sanctuary Scheme lead at RBKC, who also use Crawfords as a Sanctuary provider. This resulted in only a 3-week gap in service delivery. A partnership agreement was drawn up. The Sanctuary Scheme referral form was updated to include considerations on COVID-19 and safe access to people's homes. Crawfords covered a three-month period while Safe Partnership's services were ceased and our relationship with them continues as they installed the fencing mentioned above for a survivor.

In 2020/21, the Whole Housing Coordinator continued facilitating a working group with Sanctuary leads from the three boroughs to address operational issues with the scheme. This group was initially set up to create more consistency across the three schemes. The working group met every 2 months and reviewed local data and shared challenges encountered as a result of COVID-19. Despite the pandemic, all three schemes were able to maintain operations and offer this vital service to survivors, enabling them to be safe at home. discussed how to remove barriers. Improvements were noted across the three schemes. Since Westminster appointed a Sanctuary Coordinator, they installed 50 schemes whereas the year before it had only been 8. RBKC continued to offer examples of best practice and also increased the number of Sanctuary referrals installed, with an increase of 16 from the previous year. Improved coordination and networking resulted in LBHF being able to identify a new provider so their service could remain operational during the pandemic.

Flexible Funding

The Whole Housing Coordinator also administered the Flexible Funding pot, which was introduced as part of the Whole Housing project. It is a designated pot that survivors can access easily and quickly to retain or secure safe and stable housing. There is no set list of what will be funded. It exists to fund whatever will help survivors access the best housing outcome possible for them in the short and long term.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Flexible Funding (*continued*)

The following table shows the number of survivors supported by the scheme in the last two years:

	2019 – 2020	2020 - 2021	Total
London boroughs of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith	48 survivors and 39 dependent children Total amount issued: £26,186	18 survivors and 24 dependent children Total allocated: £10,596	66 survivors and 63 dependent children. Total allocated: £36,782 Average sized grant was £560 (range £13 to £2,123)

Of the grants issued,

- 4% were for educational costs
- 17% were for rental assistance and deposits
- 46% were for home essentials
- 33% were for basic needs including food vouchers and children's clothing

The following quotes are from survivors accessing the fund:

'I had been with my husband for years, just putting up with the abuse. My Mobile Advocate found me a house to move to. I had nothing. With Flexible Funding I was able to buy beds for my children, a cooker and a sofa. Without this fund, I may not be here now.'

'I really didn't want to leave my home. I was so scared he would turn up at my door. Flexible Funding paid for a ring doorbell. Now at least I can see who is there. I feel much safer now'.

'My Mobile Advocate had found me a flat to rent privately. I had all my things and I was ready to go but I just didn't have the money for a deposit. Flexible Funding allowed me to put a deposit down and I moved into my new flat with my new baby. I am so happy'.

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) was formed in 2014, in partnership with two of the U.K.s leading Housing Associations, Gentoo, based in Sunderland and Peabody based in London. DAHA offers a comprehensive accreditation process for housing providers to improve individual organisation responses and promote engagement in a coordinated community response. A team of DAHA Development Managers drives this work forward and is comprised of the following team:

- a Pan –London role which is funded by London Councils.
- a national role which is funded by Comic Relief.
- a Cambridgeshire-wide role, funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of the Whole Housing Approach project.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (*continued*)

- a DAHA Project and Training Coordinator.

DAHA's mission is to improve the Housing Sector's response to domestic abuse and one of the ways it achieves this is through an accreditation process that includes 8 priority areas to ensure that housing providers and services offer a consistent, effective and appropriate response to anyone experiencing domestic abuse in their homes.

The 8 priority standards provide a framework for housing providers to:

- Ensure staff are well placed and confident to identify signs of domestic abuse.
- Standardise the process so residents / service users can access and receive the right response every time.
- Reduce costs to public purse and housing providers by implementing early interventions.
- Increase staff skills and engagement with local community partners such as specialist domestic abuse services and MARAC.

Key achievements and developments of the year 20120/21

We adapted services at record speed in April in response to lockdown to be delivered virtually in order to keep DAHA's core services going – this included online workshop deliveries, steering group attendance and accreditation assessments.

In recognition that lockdown meant that many survivors were now trapped at home with their perpetrator and that housing offered a key point of access, we published guidance for housing providers that assisted them in creating a plan of action for reaching out to known survivors and procedures for how to respond to new cases. We hosted this on a COVID-19 resource page on our website. This page was visited 4000 times in the first 6 weeks of lockdown. We received a lot of positive feedback from numerous providers indicating that they had used this to develop and adapt their protocols and procedures. The team worked tirelessly to respond to numerous enquiries from providers asking for advice on what they could do to help.

We recruited and inducted a team of 10 associate trainers and 8 accreditation assessors to support the team in carrying out these activities and meet an increase in demand for training.

We were successful in a Comic relief COVID-19 fund, which enabled us to revise our existing Safe at Home awareness course and develop new courses including a Safe at Home Skills course, DAHA Champions Course and DAHA Accreditation Leads course. The latter will be delivered for the first time to a cohort of DAHA leads in May 2021.

The 'National Domestic Abuse and Housing Policy and Practice Group' continued to meet despite COVID-19, bringing together all key stakeholders from homelessness and VAWG sectors with an aim to ensure coordination exists. This year, the group responded to the following government consultations, which mainly lobbied government ministers to offer better protections to survivors in light of COVID-19:

- National group letter to Robert Jenrick requesting better support for survivors fleeing domestic abuse during the pandemic.

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (*continued*)

- A national group letter to Dame Louise Casey requesting a tailored approach to women's move on post lockdown
- National group submission of written evidence to the domestic abuse bill committee. This lobbied for items included as amendments to the DA Act, including the extension of priority need for all survivors. It also advocated for a Whole Housing Approach to be delivered in every locality, which was included in the MHCLG's draft statutory guidance for Part 4 / Safe Accommodation duty.

The DAHA team set up 9 regional groups; 8 in England and 1 in Wales which brings together local housing providers and services to share national policy and practice updates, consider implementation implications and focus on the implementation of DAHA, the Whole Housing Approach and the CCR. These groups are connected to the national group, sharing updates and issues between them.

DAHA chairs the Perpetrator sub-group, another offshoot of the national group that brings together a range of leading services to look at effective responses for perpetrators and options for housing them where this will benefit the survivor including any children's safety.

The Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator with input from the DAHA Team initiated work to adapt our accreditation assessment standards and criteria for homelessness provider services. They held a series of round tables with a handful of stakeholders and providers. By March 2021, they were in the process of producing a draft to present to the DAHA team. A further round table will be held in 2021/22 to help finalise these standards.

DAHA launched as a membership body on 1st April 2021. The DAHA founders met regularly to update the business plan in line with this new part of the service and offered a strategic steer to the DAHA team who led on the development of this work. We now offer the following three levels of membership:

- Affiliated – for any provider or service that wants to support our work.
- Accreditation – for providers and services that are working towards becoming DAHA accredited and would like to benefit from the support of a Development Manager and other benefits.
- Accredited – for provider and services that have been accredited and are intending to reaccredit when the 3 year renewal comes up

The membership was launched to generate a steady and forecastable funding stream that will make the team less reliant on short term, inconsistent grant funding. This will help sustain the core team and its activities while expanding it to meet growth in demand. The team's priorities for 2021/22 is to secure funds to support our start up. This would include a Membership Officer and Comms Officer posts to help with managing members and

with marketing and branding Funds are also needed for a CRM to provide a robust database to manage contacts, relationships, and track provider behaviour.

An [interim evaluation report by York University](#) was published and launched at a virtual webinar in January 2020. The findings show that DAHA works. Our accreditation process enables housing providers to respond more effectively. It produces positive benefits for tenants/customers, for staff supporting and for the overall operations of the organisation while also yielding cost savings. The final report will be published in July 2021.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (*continued*)

Accreditations and Supporting Work

This year, we accredited 7 new providers, including the following:

- Orbit: 15/03/2021
- BPHA: 18/12/2020
- Homes for Haringey: 21/10/2020
- Brent Council Housing Options: 06/10/2020
- Bolton at Home: 23/09/2020
- Guinness: 14/09/2020
- Stonewater: 30/07/2020

This now brings us to a total of 26 providers accredited.

We received commitments from 69 providers who signed up for accreditation, representing an increase of 48 from last year's 21 providers who signed up. We now have approximately 120 providers working towards accreditation or reaccreditation.

In London, 66% of local authorities are working towards accreditation. The London Development Manager is working towards a 100% sign up, which would make London the first city with all boroughs DAHA Accredited.

Nationally, the DAHA Development Manager has worked with Leicestershire to sign up their 11 district councils, which is the first time that a full county has signed up for accreditation.

We delivered 30 virtual workshops nationally with approx. 700 participants attending. Virtual delivery resulted in reaching our biggest audience yet.

We initiated a new project with Morgan Sindall, a property management company and this year saw us preparing for this and recruiting a seconded post that will base with Morgan Sindall 2 days a week. The post holder is our very own DAHA Project and Training Officer who has taken the role as part of her continuing professional development. This project will include working with Morgan Sindall to adapt the existing DAHA accreditation standards for this type of service. Through this process, we will support the organisation to become the first property management company to be accredited.

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) - Private Rented Sector (PRS)

Our new DAHA PRS Lead started in August 2020, following a gap in post since December 2019. Our new postholder has made significant advancements with this project. The aim of this project is for survivors of domestic abuse living in the private rented sector to be able to achieve safety and secure housing and to receive a safe and consistent response from landlords and letting agents, local authorities and specialist domestic abuse services.

The PRS Lead has mapped the key stakeholders required to achieve this aim:

- Private landlords and letting agents
- local authority housing teams-including PRS property management and Environmental Health Teams
- specialist domestic abuse services and the wider strategic domestic abuse response

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) - Private Rented Sector (PRS) (*continued*)

- Survivors of domestic abuse living in the PRS.
- National housing leaders, including the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) and the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) and FixFlo.
- national domestic abuse expert partners
- Academics/researchers

The focus of her work includes the following five key development areas with updates on the key activities undertaken this year for each:

- 1. Policy and Public Affairs:** To build on DAHA's partnerships, influence, and expertise in housing and domestic abuse, to influence changes in policy and legislation that may impact the economic and housing options of survivors living in the private rented sector.
 - Submitting response on the draft Code of Practice: RICs and TOP's regulation of Property Agents (RoPA) – writing in partnership with a Whole Housing partner Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA), this highlighted some key areas where domestic and economic abuse could be highlighted and incorporated into the Code, particularly; new requirements to report criminal activity to the police; and defining the 'duty of care' agents have towards customers.
 - Working on a joint tenancies amendment to the DA Bill/Act, which has been done in partnership with two leading legal experts, SEA and Women's Aid England. This included submitting guidance on Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) to include as part of this order a transfer of joint tenancies. The amendment wasn't included, and the Government has instead encouraged us to submit this as part of the Renters Reform Bill, which will flow into 2021/22.
 - Housing for perpetrators. Our PRS Lead chairs the Perpetrator Sub-Group, connected to the national policy and practice group. The group is currently reviewing options for housing perpetrators, which would complement and not come at the cost of survivor services. The DA Act will introduce a perpetrator strategy in 2021, which will create opportunities for this work to gain traction.
 - Lobbying Government on the COVID-19 Reactivation of Possession Proceedings and Domestic Abuse and the risk that this could lead to survivors being evicted, at a time when homelessness services are already overwhelmed. A detailed briefing was prepared for policy makers.
- 2. Standardised best practice:** To develop a 'gold standard' of best practice for how PRS landlords, letting agents and local authority PRS, Environmental Health Teams should respond to domestic abuse, which will be formalised into a set of DAHA Accreditation Standards. These will be developed, piloted and disseminated and promoted nationally.
 - Meeting with local authorities PRS teams to scope interest in developing accreditation standards. Mapping processes to gain an understanding of their context and opportunities for carrying out this work.
 - Updating guidance for PRS landlords and resources on DAHA's PRS webpage.
 - Developing and delivering a 1-hour awareness session for private landlords

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) - Private Rented Sector (PRS) (*continued*)

- Spoke on a podcast with Block Management Network to raise awareness, which includes a following of nearly 2000 block managers.
 - Exploring with Blue Thread to review good practice from a PRS Property Developer perspective.
- 3. Education and resource development:** For PRS landlords/letting agents, tenant/survivors, and DA specialists to access training, information, and resources regarding their role in the PRS response to domestic abuse, and the options and needs of survivors living in PRS.
- Partnering with (SEA) and Law for Life to develop educational resources for survivors living in privately rented accommodation. A 6-week educational course was created for survivors and was trialled with 6 BME services across England. Each service also had a DA Advocate / Practitioner attend to upskill their own knowledge and advocacy in relation to PRS and Social tenancies.
- 4. Survivor led approaches:** To amplify the voices of survivors living in the PRS, so that their experiences and needs are central to developing a safe and supportive response. This includes both engaging with individual survivors who wish to share their experience and influence change, but to also promote the development of research that will give a bigger picture of survivors' needs and experiences.
- Incorporating learning from the briefing prepared for DAHA by Sarah-Jane Walker and Marianne Hester in July 2019, [Policy Evidence Summary 4: Justice, housing and domestic abuse, the experiences of homeowners and private renters](#). This has formed the basis for all the briefings, lobbying and activities listed above. With more resources, we would love to create an Experts by Experience group that brings together a group of survivors living in the PRS (and other tenancies) to share their experiences and insights on how housing responses can be improved and help us shape our work.
- 5. Partnerships:** To continue to build relationships with national and local stakeholders in domestic abuse and housing who we will partner with to influence and promote change in policy and practice at a national and local level.
- Our main partnerships this year have been with:
 - o SEA
 - o Women's Aid
 - o Whole Housing partnership board
 - o Members of the national policy and practice group
 - o Shelter
 - o National Residential Landlords Association
 - o Law for Life
 - o Blue Thread property developers
 - o Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland and England
 - o Giles Peaker and Jenny Beck – legal experts.
 - o Respect and DRIVE programme

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Whole Housing Approach

The Whole Housing Approach (WHA) was first conceptualised in 2018 by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) in collaboration with the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group. The MHCLG extended the 18-month pilot with funding for an additional year 2020/21 with continued delivery of in the following three local areas:

- London Tri Borough
- Cambridgeshire
- Stockton (north of England)

The project delivery team included six specialist domestic abuse organisations and ten local authority areas. The funding focused on delivering activities for the following 7 components, a reduction of 1 from the previous year (minus the Sanctuary Scheme):

Component	Delivery Partner
Private Rented Sector	DAHA hosted by Standing Together
Privately Owned	Surviving Economic Abuse
Managed Reciprocal	Safer London
Component	Delivery Partner
Mobile Advocacy	Cambridgeshire Women's Aid Refuge Cambridgeshire Advance
Co-located Housing Advocacy	Advance
Flexible Funding	Standing Together (London and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)
DAHA for social housing	Cambridgeshire only DAHA hosted by Standing Together

A mix of direct services to survivors was delivered alongside second tier work with professionals and organisations to help improve how they respond to DA and embed within the local Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse.

Our main delivery outputs for activities delivered between April 2020 and March 2021 includes:

- 973 survivors and 868 dependent children were supported by 7 mobile advocates and 2 co-located housing advocates across Cambridgeshire and London sites.
- 104 survivors and 166 dependent children received Flexible Funding to help them maintain or access safe and stable housing. A total of £35,343 was awarded with most funds helping to clear rent arrears and debts accumulated due to financial abuse, pay for deposits and other move-on-costs and for household items after relocation.
- The Reciprocal Scheme in Cambridgeshire received 6 referrals and facilitated 5 moves, bringing the total to 9 moves over the course of the pilot, which enabled these survivors to maintain their secure tenancy.
- We saw an increase in activity for DAHA accreditation in all three sites. The Stockton WHA kickstarted the work by activating a steering group to work on implementing the standards. Cambridgeshire saw an increase of 2 providers sign up while continuing to support 8 providers working towards accreditation. And in London, we had the highest number of local authorities sign up to the process in

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Whole Housing Approach (continued)

any given year, representing a total of 66% of boroughs now working towards accreditation.

- The PRS work strand updates are included above.
- The Privately Owned Housing Officer employed by Surviving Economic Abuse delivered work at the 2nd tier (similar to the DAHA PRS Development Manager). The postholder continued working with stakeholders based in mortgage lenders, banks and building societies and family law. We produced a case study illustrated by Scriberia that shows how SEA's second tier work directly benefits a survivor on the ground, resulting in her being able to keep her home.

The group produced and published a [WHA toolkit](#) in March 2020. Three launch events were also due to take place that month but were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A [virtual launch event](#) took place in November 2021 and was attended by 350 participants. It included over 10 speakers, mainly our delivery partners updating on their work and the voice of three survivors sharing the impact the project had on them and their housing circumstances.

A [year 1 report](#) was published in November 2021 and was launched as part of this event.

Despite COVID-19, the WHA project delivery partners continued attending monthly board meetings, where partner updates were shared and programme developments were made. The DA Bill/Act played a big role in our thinking

about the WHA model this year. The Act received royal assent in April 2021 with the WHA partnership considering the new duties / laws being introduced in relation to housing and how a WHA could support and complement this.

There are three new pieces of legislation that relate to housing with links to WHA explained:

- Secure Tenancies Act, granting secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse where an original sole or joint secure tenancy was held (Part 7 miscellaneous and general). The Managed Reciprocal scheme will support the secure tenancies act, which is a coordinated, cost-effective mechanism created to prevent survivors from losing their social tenancies. The Whole Housing Programme Managers chaired and spoke at an event in March 2021 hosted by Safer London to promote this scheme with local authority leads, which was attended by 120 participants.
- Amendment to Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and omitting the vulnerability category for Priority Need (Part 7 miscellaneous and general). The DAHA accreditation process will help local authorities consider the implementation of this as part of their focus on their overall response to DA.
- Duty on Tier 1 boards / local authorities to deliver 'safe accommodation' (Part 4). This is an exciting new piece of legislation that will see new responsibilities and DA service provision being commissioned. There are three main types of Safe Accommodation defined as refuge services, move-on accommodation and sanctuary schemes. We have endorsed that local authorities go a step beyond and deliver this within a WHA framework. The WHA has been mentioned in the draft statutory guidance for Part 4. And we have been approached by at least 15 local areas asking for guidance on how they can deliver this within a WHA.

In Feb 2021, the Government announced new burdens funds for each local authority to help prepare for the new duty along with £125 million towards delivering part 4 safe accommodation provision. This resulted in the team expanding into consultancy work with local authorities (LA) to help them prepare for this duty, which includes all LA's submitting a Safe Accommodation strategy by August 2021.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Whole Housing Approach (continued)

By March 2021, we had been commissioned by the five following areas to support the development of the Needs Assessment and strategy and other responsibilities accompanying this new duty:

- o West Berkshire
- o City of London
- o Southampton County Council
- o Surrey
- o Wokingham

We are also part of an evaluation project led by Huddersfield University that will produce the first evaluation of its kind reviewing 15 Sanctuary Schemes in England. This will support the WHA team to develop minimum standards for the scheme, which will be made available on the WHA online toolkit.

An outstanding piece of work is to create two new components for WHA, including one on Move On Accommodation (now that this is included as a definition of safe accommodation) and on WHA Coordination.

A bid was submitted to The National Lottery in December 2020 with a proposal for a 3-year, multi-agency, one-site project. Our initial MHCLG 30-month pilot focused on testing and developing the WHA's 12 individual components. Project resources enabled us to focus on what good looks for each of the 12 components. We did this in our first pilot by partnering with national and local experts from across the three sites and focused our development on where good practice was emerging.

Now that we have defined what good looks like for each 12 components, we now need to focus our delivery on a one-site pilot that will enable us to deliver and coordinate all 12 components in one locality, while developing the 2 new components mentioned above and ideally updating the existing 12. The new project proposal includes testing new ideas to create a WHA partnership, coordinated by a WHA Coordinator employed by the local authority who will bring together stakeholders from across all 12 components at a strategic level. It will also produce for the first time a WHA Hub where the idea is to create a streamlined referral pathway for survivors in need of safe accommodation and stable housing. It will take inspiration from The Clearing House model used for finding homes for rough sleepers and move on accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse. At the very least, this hub will help establish a central database for recording housing need, uptake of local housing options and ideally will help inform the requirement under Part 4 to produce a Needs Assessment to inform a Safe Accommodation Strategy. The offer of Mobile Advocacy support and Flexible Funding could be offered via this mechanism.

Housing First and Homelessness

The Housing First and Homelessness project was set up in 2017 in response to the need to strengthen and build partnerships across the homelessness and VAWG sectors. The project focus is on women and survivors experiencing homelessness, VAWG and other forms of multiple disadvantage, whether they are sleeping rough, living in supported accommodation, or in any other unsafe and informal housing situation. Research and experience have shown that this group face multiple barriers to accessing safe accommodation and appropriate support. The project employs a Homelessness and Housing First Coordinator who works with local authorities, homelessness support services, specialist women's services and a raft of other agencies to ensure that this group of women have better access to safe accommodation, and support that meets their needs. Key project outcomes over the course of the past year include:

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Housing First and Homelessness (*continued*)

The new Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator role

We successfully applied for MHCLG emergency COVID 19 domestic abuse funding to fund a new Housing First and Homelessness Coordinator post. Natalie Wong came into post as Housing First and Homelessness coordinator in August 2020 and Louisa Steele moved into a management role. Natalie now oversees the Housing First housing coordination work and provides project officer support to the Safety by Experience project.

Housing First

The Westminster VAWG Housing First project provides permanent, independent housing and intensive support for 20 women experiencing long term homelessness, any form of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and multiple disadvantage. The support element of the project is delivered by Solace Women's Aid who work to build relationships with the women and provide intensive 'woman led' support to help them maintain a tenancy and improve physical and mental wellbeing. The housing element of the project is coordinated by Standing Together who manage partnerships with a coalition of housing partners who provide units for the project.

- This year ST expanded the partnership by bringing on board our newest housing provider Octavia, who have already housed two women.
- ST have coordinated quarterly partnership meetings with all project partners to discuss challenges and ways forward. We have also delivered 'What to expect from Housing First' briefings to all RSL staff involved with the project.
- ST have analysed project data and conducted staff, client and stakeholder feedback to produce a one year service evaluation report. This will be launched and publicized next year.
- All the initial ten women accepted onto the scheme have been housed. Westminster council (who commission the service) expanded the service capacity in September 2020 by another ten women, taking the total to 20.
- ST publicized the project at a range of forums, speaking at the All party parliamentary group on ending homelessness and the Homeless Link Housing First national conference.

Safety by Experience Project

The Housing First and Homelessness project has been working in partnership with homelessness organisation St Mungo's to deliver the 'Safety by Experience' project. This project has been funded by the Homeless Link Ending Women's Homelessness Fund from November 2019 and will end in June 2021. The Safety by Experience projects aims to:

- Provide the homelessness sector and specialist women's sector with guidance on VAWG risk assessment and safety planning in homelessness settings
- Ensure that survivors of VAWG accessing St Mungo's services are (and report feeling) safer and better supported.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Housing First and Homelessness (*continued*)

- Make sure that St Mungo's staff are better equipped to recognise and respond to VAWG

Outcomes so far:

- Interviewed 20 women accessing St Mungo's service to consult on their experiences of homelessness, VAWG and safety.
- Held 4 steering groups attended by Pan London women's and homelessness sector organizations.
- Used feedback from women and other tools to create guidance on supporting homeless women experiencing multiple disadvantage.
- Developed training package on women's homelessness, women and trauma, VAWG and safety. Trained 31 staff across 3 pilot sites at St Mungos.
- St Mungos staff are currently piloting the guidance.

From March to June 2021 we will consult with staff to get feedback on the guidance, re-draft it and then launch the approach at an event at the end of June.

Homeless Perpetrator work:

We worked with SHP service Fulfilling Lives Islington and Camden to create practical guidance for professionals in homelessness settings around ['Working Effectively with Perpetrators and Survivors of Domestic Abuse in Homelessness Settings'](#). This was launched at an event in December attended by 150+ professionals from across the homelessness and women's sectors.

Supporting homeless survivors of abuse during Covid 19 and beyond:

Standing Together was funded by Westminster Council's Community Contribution Fund COVID-19 grant from May – October 20 to deliver a short project in response to COVID 19 'Supporting homeless survivors of abuse during Covid 19 and beyond'. The aim was to provide additional, specialist support for homelessness practitioners working with this group of women in outreach, supported accommodation, and emergency hotel accommodation settings in Westminster during the 'Everybody in' initiative.

- The first half of the project focused on providing responsive and immediate 'phone a friend' support to practitioners. During this time the coordinator provided one to one telephone and email advice to 30+ homelessness practitioners in Westminster and attended a range of borough forums to publicise the project and increase awareness around domestic abuse, VAWG and women's safety during the COVID outbreak.
- In the second half of the project the coordinator developed and embedded a new monthly borough forum, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Multiple Disadvantage forum. The forum met three times and heard the cases of 8 women experiencing VAWG and multiple disadvantage, providing advice on reducing risk and increasing safety to 20 homelessness practitioners from the Passage, St Mungos SOS, Compass and Green Room teams, Turning point and the Marylebone Project.
- In the second half of the project the coordinator trained up 15 practitioners from homelessness services across the borough to be domestic abuse leads for their team. Delegates attended 2, 3 hour 'Domestic abuse in Homelessness settings' training courses delivered over zoom.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

B. Educating agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic violence

Standing Together carries out a variety of activities to fulfil its educative role, all with the aim of improving practice amongst helping agencies. This in turn benefits survivors in terms of access to services, the improved skills and awareness of the professionals who deal with them, the consistency of the standards applied by agencies and the safe options available to them and to their children.

Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities Project

Standing Together's Faith and Community Programme incorporates the Safety Across Faith & Ethnic (SAFE) Communities project and the Faith and VAWG Coalition as well as Co-ordinating the Harmful Practices Operational Group. The aim is to ensure that domestic abuse and violence against women and girls are tackled holistically by targeting support to and building trust with communities facing barriers to support and tackling intersecting oppressions.

We are a team of various but interlinked work strands that was formed into a programme in May 2020.

SAFE Communities Project

This started as a three-year project run by Standing Together, seeking to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls by working with and learning from grassroots Black, minorities and faith communities. Building the capacity of institutions, communities and women means these groups could become better equipped and more effective in tackling domestic violence and abuse (DVA). The only staff member until May 2020 was Huda Jawad, the project founder. She was joined in 2019 by part time administrative support from Sandra Madej.

The Project was born out of the belief that a coordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse is the only effective way to support survivors and hold perpetrators to account. This model is known as the Coordinated Community Response (CCR). This method of working with local specialists and statutory agencies is spearheaded in the UK by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA). The faith and grassroots community (as opposed to the professional community) was a missing component of the CCR model.

It has brought together groups who would not otherwise meet and is the primary source of expertise on the interconnections between VAWG, faith and ethnicity in London. It has carried out bespoke training and capacity building to grassroots community groups and faith organisations. We also provided access to influential networks. SAFE Communities is now entering a transition as it matures and seeks follow-on funding.

Faith & VAWG Coalition

The Faith and VAWG Coalition is a partnership of organisations lead by the Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities project at Standing Together. The Coalition brings together a range of organisations (**Standing Together- SAFE Communities Project, Restored, Respect, Muslim Youth Helpline, Jewish Women's Aid, Forward UK, Latin American Women's Rights Service, Muslim Women's Network UK, the Black Churches Domestic Abuse Forum and Welsh Woman's Aid**) and activists (Sara Hyde, Natalie Collins, Marwa Belgazi and Nikki Dhillon-Keane).

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

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Faith & VAWG Coalition (*continued*)

The Coalition was launched on 5 March 2020 and seeks to build bridges between members of Faith Communities or Faith-centric organisations and domestic abuse specialists and organisations within the VAWG-sector.

Many survivors with a faith feel that some specialist services and society, in general, are unable to understand their experiences of abuse, and their barriers to accessing support due to their religious identity, their faith community and any spiritual abuse that they may experience at the hands of their perpetrator.

Since March 2020 we launched a report into the experiences of survivors from faith backgrounds during the Covid-19 Pandemic in December. We have partnered with a number of faith organisations and leaders to raise awareness on supporting survivors of domestic abuse during these testing times. We have worked with campaigners on influencing and representing the voices of survivors from faith and minoritised backgrounds on the domestic abuse bill which has now become an Act. We have also produced guidance on spiritual abuse for the Home Office and have spent the year working on our governance and decision-making processes. We have recruited a project officer and in the process of recruiting a membership coordinator. We hope to be launching a website and a conference in the next 6 months.

Harmful Practices

Initially started as Huda Jawad co-chairing the Harmful Practices Operational Group for the Tri-borough in 2018 that met once a quarter. It was previously coordinated by the VAWG lead at Kensington and Chelsea-Shabana Kauser. Standing Together was given funding to lead its data collection efforts and the role has now developed to a part time coordinator role. The work is led by Fran Richards who spent the majority of 2020 holding space for members of the forum who were mostly front line 'by and for organisations'; building trust and building a data collection agreement and protocol that supported the vital work the organisations do with survivors with multiple barriers to support. We are now in the process of fundraising for more strategic and CCR focused work that will enable partnerships across sectors and locations to take place to evidence, map and support survivors of harmful practices be better served by statutory and specialist agencies.

Events

The Blooming Strong Campaign was created by ST, it is the way we engage with partners to mark November 25th as the UN Day for the elimination of violence against women and as part of our 16 days of activism. This year we expanded the project and sent a campaign



packs out to other areas as well as across London. In total we had 171 nominations for a Blooming Strong Flower, all of which were delivered during the 16 days. We also ran a virtual coffee morning introduced by survivor and Britain's got Talent star Becky O'Brien and joined by Nicole Jacobs the Domestic Abuse Commissioner followed by a positive discussion of some of the inspirational women in attendees' lives

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

CCR Leaders Course

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Leaders Course aims to increase the skills and expertise of professionals, including statutory commissioners and policy makers, who are responsible for leading and coordinating responses to domestic abuse (DA) and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The course was developed following a 24 month European project between Standing Together, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and European partners. The Domestic Violence: Coordinating the Intervention (DVCI) project developed, tested and implemented innovative, work-based Continuing Education and Training (CVET) to support the crucial role of DA Strategic Coordination.

Currently, job descriptions and levels of skills and influence differ vastly, and there is no standard training that focuses on strengthening competencies and skills to support the role of DA Strategic Coordination. The CCR Leaders course addresses this gap. Crucially this course provides a space for strategic leads, commissioners and policy officers with responsibility for DA/VAWG to connect, share best practice and learning.

Following the successful delivery of this pilot course in 2017/2018 and increasing demand from local authorities, Standing together decided to re-run it in January 2020. The course comprises of 6 days of training delivered over 3 months. The critical need for this course was highlighted by the fact that within a couple of weeks of promoting new rates for the course, all places were fully booked up.

Unfortunately, due to COVID19, the last module of the course which was due to take place at the end of March 2020 was postponed until February 2021 when it was converted to a virtual course so that learners could complete the training. All participants passed the accredited learning course which was evaluated well and participants have been in touch to let us know that they are implementing learning from the course in their daily work.

European Project: CQ4 DVCI

Standing Together was successful in applying for further European funding to work on a second phase of the DVCI project.

This second phase of the "Certificate and Qualification: Coordinators for Domestic Violence Strategic Intervention" project involves the following partners – Apostoli Katharsis (Romania), Dimitra (Greece), Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (UK), Aristoteleies Katartiseis (Greece) and Diakonija (Latvia) and Standing Together (UK).

This work commenced in January 2020 and has been interrupted by the Pandemic, we have not been able to complete any learning visits but have met virtually with partners throughout the year and developed an e-learning course curriculum and materials. The next stage will develop the assessment criteria.

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Domestic Homicide Reviews

Standing Together has been involved in the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process from its inception in 2011 and has built a body of knowledge and skills that is invaluable. We offer a complete and inclusive approach that delivers high quality overview reports and independent chairing. Our team consists of a DHR Manager, two dedicated DHR Support Officers based in the Standing Together offices as well as our pool of Associates who act as Chairs for the DHR's. Our team of Associates are highly skilled and experienced and are experts in the field of domestic abuse. Our experience of a coordinated community response and domestic abuse partnerships ensures we balance the needs of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), panel agencies with the sensitivities of the victim's and perpetrator's families. We believe in DHRs and feel they can deliver change in an area where change is needed.

Key achievements during the year were:

Recruitment:

- We successfully recruited 4 new DHR Chair associates in August 2020.
- Developed a new induction process which allows experienced chairs to act as mentors for new chairs. This has allowed us to increase the number of DHRs active since the new chair no longer co-chairs on an existing case. This new process also reduces the cost for Standing Together to induct chairs.
- All 4 new chairs are in the 3rd stage of their inductions and have all been allocated an active DHR and mentor.

Active DHRs:

- Standing Together is now chairing/ has successfully chaired 111 Domestic Homicide Reviews. 67 of these reviews are now published.
- 4 newly commissioned DHRs: North Walesx2, Hertfordshire, Hackney.
- 26 DHRs ongoing: BCP, Bexleyx4, Bromley, Buckinghamshirex2, Central Bedfordshire, Croydon, East Surrey, Hackneyx2, Gloucester, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Leicesterx3, Stroudx2, North Walesx2, Wiltshire.
- 20 awaiting publication: Bath, Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, East Sussexx3, Gloucesterx3, Hackney, Leicester, Lewisham, Tower Hamletsx2, Wales x3, Wiltshire
- 12 DHRs on the new pricing plan developed at the start of 2020 which increases a day rate from £700 to £815 for DHRs which are over 17.5 days.
- Standing Together continues to hold a 98% success rate of being passed on the first hearing by HO QA.

Training & Learning Dissemination

- Virtually launched Standing Together's 2020 DHR Process and Case Analysis report, with over 300 attendees.
- #LearningTheLessons: Have delivered five DHR webinars on a range of topics including: International Perspectives, Intersectionality in DHRs, Fatal AFV, Local DHR Processes, and Mental Health Analysis. Each webinar being attended by 200-350 people with extremely positive feedback
- Developed a DHR training package and have delivered to Bedfordshire Health Services, Lewisham GP Network, and at the Sutton Social Care Conference.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Domestic Homicide Reviews (*continued*)

- Leading on the research proposal and contracts with CSPs to produce a report in partnership with Southall Black Sister analysing BME DHRs.

National Work

- Contribute as a panel member for the monthly Home Office OHR Quality Assurance Panel as their specialist DA service.
- Sitting as a panel member for 5 non-Standing Together DHRs as their expert DA service.
- Involved in a range of national projects including sitting on the ESRC Domestic Homicide Advisory Group and the academic roundtable for NPCC Domestic Homicides Project.
- Consulted with AAFDA on the development of the DHR Network which has now been launched.

Internal Developments

- Increased DHR Chair meetings to fortnightly, which is alternated to be a space for case reflection and problem solving and reviewing templates and DHR processes.
- Updated templates for: Overview Report, Executive Summary, SOE, IMRs, Chronology, and Short Reports.
- Developed slides to guide pre-meet between panel and chair, and slides to better guide first panel meeting.

Strategic Influence

Standing Together serves on the following boards, panels, working groups and networks, sharing experience and expertise to our mutual benefit with:

- Chair the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group
- External Consultation Group of the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service Scrutiny and Involvement Panel, Crown Prosecution Service
- London Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel, London Areas, Crown Prosecution Service
- The London Mayor's Expert Group on Violence Against Women and Girls
- The Department of Health group developing a domestic violence pathway for Health
- End Violence Against Women Coalition
- Home Office VAWG Stakeholders Group
- COVID sector wide meetings

The ST CEO and staff speak at numerous international, national, regional and local conferences about our strategic and operational approach to the coordinated community response and often particular aspects of work.

Financial Review

Overview

Standing Together's work in Year 2020 - 2021 continued along the strategically planned paths of making a difference in raising awareness and making changes to the response to domestic violence.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Financial Review (*continued*)

Standing Together was strongly reliant on government funding and assessing alternative funding opportunities during the year had changed due to the impact of COVID 19 pandemic.

The challenges in funding for certain areas were mitigated by the successful applications of £373k COVID 19 emergency funding.

The charity is successful in recruiting experienced staff against this background in maintaining skilled and qualified staff to new posts created this year. The Chief Executive concentrates on local, national and European work along with the Standing Together team via shared goals, policies to strengthen our position with existing

contracts and future proposals to extend our work around domestic violence. Their work is supported by the finance and administration team ensuring that good financial management continues to be the key to achieving stability and ensuring a sound future for the organisation.

Following the announcement of a lockdown in March 2020 due to COVID19 pandemic, Standing Together initiated its Business Continuity arrangements, which saw swift changes in the way that staff worked. Our IT infrastructure was upgraded and staff were supplied with individual laptops to work from home. Despite the current COVID19 there is no expectation or evidence in the forecasts or the financial performance of the year to date that would suggest the pandemic would have a significant impact on the financial position of the charity. ST has been undertaking regular forecast updates to help mitigate unexpected risks. Although the long-term effects of the pandemic are still largely uncertain, adding in this additional exercise allows the Board to identify any potential future changes to the business.

In the financial year ended 31st March 2021 total incoming resources decreased by 35.1% from £3.2m to £2.1m. The decline in income was primarily due to funding of £1.1m for the Pathfinder Health project coming to an end. This was more than matched by a decrease in charitable expenditure of 45.3% from £3.1m to £1.7m. At the year end the net increase in funds was £410.8k (2020: £138.2k).

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 - 2021

Our main principal funding sources are from local government

During 2020 – 2021 the total funding generated was £2.1m, which consisted primarily of income from local authorities in London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF), Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC), Westminster County Council (WCC), Haringey Council, London Borough of Ealing. Other grants were awarded by the central government including Home Office, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and London Councils. There were further sources of income from Oak Foundation and City Bridge trust funders

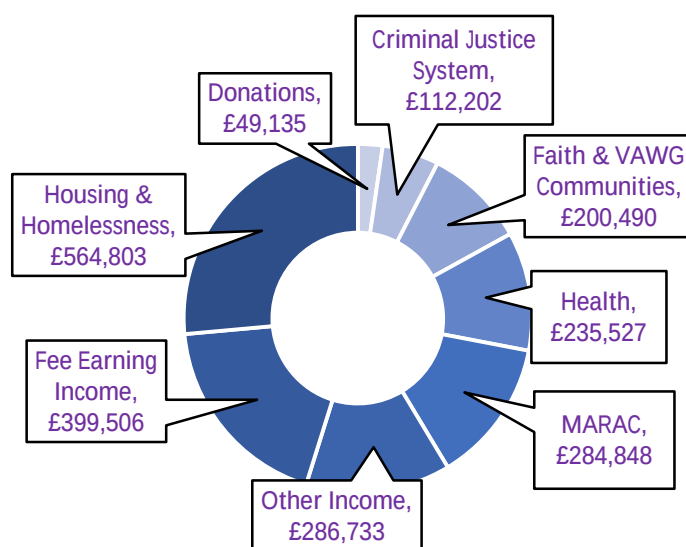
Additional income from charitable grants (see note 4), European Commission, training and consultancy has been crucial this year. Standing Together is very grateful for the support of grant making bodies and individual donations from the public.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 – 2021 (*continued*)

Income Resources: £2,133,244



Income funded the following projects:

- **Housing & Homelessness**

Income received included funds from London Councils (£81k) for Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) to establish a set of housing standards through DAHA accreditation process; £270k from Comic Relief and Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) to support the Whole Housing Approach project; £134k to tackle unrelated issues of homelessness and improve housing pathways for women with multiple needs, £36k from LB of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF) and MHCLG to coordinate the sanctuary and flexi fund scheme to provide provision for improved home security and essential needs and £38k received from Comic Relief to recruit an expert trainer to develop training packages for DAHA.

- **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)**

Bi Borough (includes Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea) and LBHF collectively contributed £127k, Haringey £50k and Ealing £56k to support the work around information sharing on the highest risk domestic abuse cases to ensure that all parties put in place a plan for safety of domestic violence survivors. In addition to this MOPAC/MOJ and the Home Office through COVID 19 emergency funding provided £24k and £28k respectively.

- **Criminal Justice**

As part of the contract with Bi Borough and LBHF provision of Shared Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) coordination services included £41k plus £26k from MOPAC/MOJ and £15k from Treebeard assist to facilitate the court process and experience of domestic abuse cases within the criminal system with the aim of increasing the proportion of successful outcomes.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 – 2021 (*continued*)

LBHF via the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund allocated £25k to the role of the Criminal Justice Programme Manager who support victims and witnesses. A further £5k received from Inner London Magistrates Poor Box to purchase low cost items to victim/survivors of domestic abuse who have had contact with the Criminal Justice System.

· **Health**

A total of £235k was awarded to support the Health Team projects. Inclusive of £66k from Public Health to continue the support of the Children & Health Coordinator role reflecting the view we share of the essential role which health professionals have in identifying and supporting survivors of domestic violence; Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation awarded £49k to fund the significant Domestic Abuse Coordinator post in developing and embedding a Trust wide holistic domestic abuse training package; £57k from National Lottery COVID 19 emergency fund and £63k remaining from Pathfinder project to coordinate and cover the evaluation of the project.

· **Safety Across Faith and Ethnic (SAFE) Communities**

The SAFE Communities project brought together leaders, pooled expertise and people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and faith communities with the aim to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women. As well as £25k received from Esmee Fairburn to extend the project for 6 months, there was the underspend of £30k from Maidenhead Malachi Trust and additional funding of £77k from Oak Foundation and £68k from City Bridge Trust.

· **Fee Earning Income**

Standing Together generated a total of £399k from fee earning activities. This included 146k from Domestic Homicide Reviews; £71k from educative consultancy and training courses; £151k consultancy work. The Home Office awarded £31k from COVID 19 emergency funding to cover shortfall as a result of the pandemic.

· **Other Income:**

i. Shared VAWG Operations Management

LBHF, Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea granted £40k for the role of Partnership Operational Manager to oversee and support the development of the Shared VAWG strategy services operational groups

ii. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

Housing associations Peabody and Gentoo, partners of the national partnership agreed to contribute £83k to support the mission to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.

iii. National Lottery Community Fund

Received £63k as part of funding to support core cost and strategic learning partnership between Aafda, Chayn, Galop, Imkaan, Respect, Rights of Women, SafeLives, Social Finance, Surviving Economic Abuse and Women's Aid. The partnership aims to pool collective expertise and knowledge to find new and collaborative approaches to better support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal Funding Sources in 2020 – 2021 (*continued*)

iv. Home Office / MOPAC/MOH

COVID 19 emergency funding of £53k awarded to cover shortfall in income generating income.

v. Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

£34k grant was claimed from the CJRS for staff on furlough because of the COVID19 pandemic.

vi. Angelou

Advance pays Standing Together £2k to oversee the Angelou website, a partnership of 10 specialist organisations that provide free advice and support to women and girls experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

vii. Other income

Includes £1.3k in respect of payment for staff secondment and £0.3k bank interest.

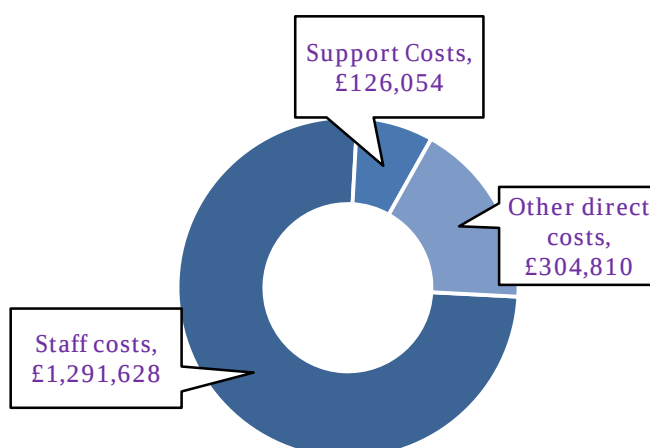
Donations

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations and support we receive from individuals and organisations. The donations totalling £49k this year are a valuable contribution to our objective to alleviate domestic abuse. This does not include contributions from DAHA Partners of £83k which is included in note 2.

In Kind

We have benefitted from volunteers who have assisted on the various projects depending on their area of interest. We are committed to offering an opportunity to individuals to boost their employability skills and enhance their personal development.

Charitable Expenditure: £1,722,492



Charitable expenditure comprised staff costs of £1,291,628 (out of total costs of £1,722,492) which accounted for 75% of total costs. Support cost, £126,054 included costs for information technology (IT), other professional fees, office and premise costs. Other direct costs of £304,810 were for consultant fees, onward cost to partners and general direct costs (insurance, memberships, travel and depreciation).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

Financial Results

The Income and Expenditure Accounts showed incoming resources for the year of £2.1m (2020: £3.2m) and expenditure of £1.7m (2020: £3.1m). The total reserves stand at £802k (2020: £390k) of which £323k is restricted and £479k is unrestricted. Of the unrestricted fund, £352k has been designated for contractual liabilities, leaving a balance of £127k as unrestricted free reserves.

Standing Together receives most of its funding in the form of grants directly in support for specific projects. We have increased our core funding by attracting flexible and diverse sources within our mission and expertise, ensuring that when submitting funding proposals full recovery cost is included in total costs. At present, the core funding is sufficient to cover Standing Together's overheads and administration costs.

Investments

Apart from maintaining a prudent amount in reserves each year most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term leaving few funds for long term investment. We maintain our good management of funds between the current and deposit accounts which has seen the rate of interest remain the same in this year. To ensure security of our deposits under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, the Trustees are carrying out a review to establish the best institutions to invest designated funds and surplus monies.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The Trustees recognise that it must manage its affairs to ensure that the level of reserves and associated cash balances remain sufficient such that Standing Together will continue to operate on a sustainable basis. It is the Trustees objective that in the event that Standing together faces difficult financial circumstances, these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Having assessed the current risks, the Trustees has established a policy to increase the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity. Trustees have decided that, after an allowance for future income expectations, Standing Together should maintain cash and realisable assets sufficient to fund three months of operation costs.

Based on the current grants position, the reserve represents the minimum level of funds required to protect Standing Together from the potential financial impact of known business risks. In the event of Standing Together facing difficult financial circumstances these reserves would allow us to both meet our responsibilities to grant holders and for operations to continue during a period of managed adjustment to these new circumstances.

Based on the current position the policy requires us to hold £350k in liquid and realisable assets. The Trustees will monitor and review the level of reserves annually, in line with Charity Commission guidance.

4. Plans for the Future

Each year, Standing Together Staff and Trustees meet to review our objectives and priorities for achieving our charitable aims and to refresh our Theory of Change.

In 2021-22 Standing Together set out to:

- Develop our reach and impact via all forms of media and IT
- Continue development of our work in policy

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

4. Plans for the Future (*continued*)

- Demonstrate breadth of work required in health-based setting to achieve a coordinated community response and influence the DH including online platforms and accreditation.
- Continued roll out the CCR Leaders course along with a more robust training package
- Maintain a focus on the CCR in our work in relation of Domestic Homicide Reviews, criminal justice work, housing, health, faith and communities programme, harmful practices, MARAC and community based settings.
- Expand our membership model through DAHA but also the CCR network allowing us to extend our training and consultancy work
- Focus on fundraising
- Work towards the anti-racism charter to become an anti-racist organisation

5. Conclusion

Standing Together are proud of the way we work in partnerships to embed and model the coordinated community response to domestic abuse. The Coordinated Community Response provides a framework by which we organise, plan and prioritise our work.

Year on year, we build a more robust program of work locally and nationally to both undertake and model the breadth of systemic work that is required to promote safety for survivors of domestic abuse and to hold perpetrators to account.

Our challenge has always been to maintain the partnership work that we do in central London while promoting the best of what we are learning to our wider national networks. Our CCR network has traditionally provided us with that opportunity however this year we have embraced other ways to do this through our national networks like the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), MARAC work, Whole Housing, Faith and VAWG Coalition, In Search of Excellence, DHRs, Mentor Court Project and Pathfinder.

Expansion comes with both challenges and opportunities. Both are easier for Standing Together as our work is firmly grounded and the principles and components of the coordinated community response which remain touch stone to all we do and how we develop.

6. Impact of Coronavirus

Subsequent to the financial year end, the scale and spread of Covid 19 (Coronavirus) virus worldwide and the actions taken by local authority, central governments and organisations affected, has caused and will continue to cause disruption to almost all sectors and the way that Standing Together operates.

The Trustees entered 2020 in a cautious position with a well-diversified funding portfolio which was aided by extension of existing grants and new successful bids to continue current projects.

The CEO and management team continue to monitor the situation closely, reporting regularly to Trustess and consider how best to respond to any emerging issues. Standing Together has taken steps such as furloughing staff and applying for government emergency funds to mitigate the increase in costs of staff working from home and the loss of fee earning contracts.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law and the law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- o Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- o Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- o Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- o Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that, in the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the date of this report, the following applies:

- So far as each Trustee is aware there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the Charity's auditors are unaware; and
- Each Trustee has taken all the steps necessary to make herself/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Relationship with Funders

- No Trustee had any relationship with any of the main funders except as a Trustee of Standing Together In so far as the Management Committee is aware:
- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The Management Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT For the year ended 31 March 2021

This Report is agreed and signed at the AGM by the Chair of Standing Together Kruti Patel, on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 2 November 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'K' and a stylized 'Patel'.

Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We have audited the financial statements of Standing Together against Domestic Abuse (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(Continued)

whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- applicable legal requirements.
- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement in the Trustees' Report, 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(Continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) applicable to smaller entities and the Companies Act 2006.
- We understood how the charitable company is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the charity's documented policies and procedures. The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override and allocation of costs to charitable activities and restricted funds.
- Our approach was to check that the income from grants, donations and fee were properly identified and accurately disclosed, that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. We also reviewed major journal adjustments along with unusual transactions and considered the identification and disclosure of related party transactions.

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

Use of our report

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(Continued)

Use of our report

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



Shoaib Arshad (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:

Knox Cropper LLP

Chartered Accountants & Statutory
Auditors 65 Leadenhall Street
London EC3A 2AD

6 December 2021

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note		2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	131,727	-	131,727	26,267	-	26,267
Charitable activities	4	834,593	1,166,675	2,001,268	750,884	2,510,191	3,261,075
Investments	3	249	-	249	1,256	-	1,256
TOTAL INCOME		£ 966,569	£ 1,166,675	£ 2,133,244	£ 778,407	£ 2,510,191	£ 3,288,598
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable activities	5	(741,627)	(980,865)	(1,722,492)	(739,981)	(2,410,415)	(3,150,396)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(741,627)	(980,865)	(1,722,492)	(739,981)	(2,410,415)	(3,150,396)
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		224,942	185,810	410,752	38,426	99,776	138,202
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 1 APRIL		253,350	137,100	390,450	214,924	37,324	252,248
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31 MARCH 2021		£ 478,292	£ 322,910	£ 801,202	£ 253,350	£ 137,100	£ 390,450

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. None of the Charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2021

(Registered Company No. 04283131)

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment	10	3,365	4,486
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	354,853	275,464
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,057,661</u>	<u>616,463</u>
		1,412,514	891,927
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(614,677)	(505,964)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>797,837</u>	<u>385,963</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		801,202	390,449
NET ASSETS		<u>801,202</u>	<u>390,449</u>
		£	£
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds	14	351,643	201,448
General fund	14	<u>126,649</u>	<u>51,902</u>
		478,292	253,350
Restricted Funds	14	<u>322,910</u>	<u>137,100</u>
		<u>801,202</u>	<u>390,450</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Board of Trustees on 2 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by: -



Kruti Patel
Trustee/Director

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020	
	£	£	
Cash flows from operating activities			
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	410,752	138,202	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	1121	1,121	
(Decrease)/increase in Debtors	(79,389)	128,592	
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	108,713	(357,811)	
Investment income	(249)	(1,256)	
	<u>440,948</u>	<u>(91,152)</u>	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Returns on investment – interest receivable	249	1,256	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(5,607)	
	<u>249</u>	<u>(4,351)</u>	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	441,197	(95,503)	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1st April 2020	616,464	711,967	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st March 2021	<u>£ 1,057,661</u>	<u>£ 616,464</u>	
Components of cash and cash equivalents			
	April 2020	Cashflow	April 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£ 616,464</u>	<u>£ 441,197</u>	<u>£ 1,057,661</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102 have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Company status

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the note 14.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) which the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the amount will be received, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants and donation received are deferred when conditions are attached, for example when they relate to a specific future period.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately to the direct staff costs allocated to the activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised and stated at cost less depreciation.

Furniture and equipment	5 years on straight line

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pensions

The company is part of a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations	131,727	-	131,727	26,267	-	26,267
	£ 131,727	£ -	£ 131,727	£ 26,267	£ -	£ 26,267

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Interest receivable from Bank interest	249	-	249	1,256	-	1,256
	£ 249	£ -	£ 249	£ 1,256	£ -	£ 1,256

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Grants & contracts for services:						
Support & education to prevent domestic violence	605,893	1,166,675	1,772,568	492,222	2,510,191	3,002,413
Membership fees	-	-	-	1,425	-	1,425
Fee income	228,700	-	228,700	257,237	-	257,237
	£ 834,593	£ 1,166,675	£ 2,001,268	£ 750,884	£ 2,510,191	£ 3,261,075

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of grants & contracts for services

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Calypso Browning	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Chelwest NHS	-	49,000	49,000	-	49,000	49,000
City Bridge Trust	-	68,490	68,490	-	-	-
City of Westminster Charitable Trust	-	12,690	12,690	-	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	-	35,000	35,000	-	40,000	40,000
Comic Relief - Recovery Fund	-	38,200	38,200	-	-	-
DCMS – Pathfinder Health Project	-	-	-	-	322,500	322,500
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	58,664	58,664	-	1,147,596	1,147,596
Domestic Homicide Reviews	146,372	-	146,372	186,834	-	186,834
Ealing Council	55,655	-	55,655	53,655	-	53,655
Erasmus (EU)	-	-	-	-	12,743	12,743
Esmee Fairburn	-	25,000	25,000	-	50,000	50,000
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	66,000	-	66,000	66,000
Haringey Council	49,855	-	49,855	49,858	-	49,858
Home Office - Emergency Fund	112,134	-	112,134	-	-	-
Home Office – MSWTA	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Homeless Link	-	48,375	48,375	-	48,375	48,375
Inner London Magistrates Courts	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Job Retention Scheme	33,600	-	33,600	-	-	-
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham	-	51,000	51,000	-	51,000	51,000
London Councils	-	80,565	80,565	-	86,477	86,477
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	-	245,000	245,000	-	507,500	507,500
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	69,711	69,711	-	49,000	49,000
MOJ/MOPAC - Emergency Fund	-	51,418	51,418	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	120,329	120,329	-	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	77,000	77,000	-	-	-
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Tri Borough Funding	208,277	2,160	210,437	201,875	-	201,875
Westminster City Council	-	3,173	3,173	-	-	-
Winston Churchill Memorial	-	9,900	9,900	-	-	-
	£ 605,893	£ 1,166,675	£ 1,772,568	£ 492,222	£ 2,510,191	£ 3,002,413

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

5a. Cost of charitable activities (current year)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £
Projects:				
Community	62,493	3,114	6,208	71,815
Criminal Justice	104,439	760	2,076	107,275
DHRs	107,462	56,809	4,694	168,965
Health	236,860	5,381	22,033	264,274
Housing & Homelessness	348,418	175,850	35,028	559,296
MARAC	261,957	1,063	19,668	282,688
Training	1,507	11,156	1,854	14,517
Other charitable projects	168,492	50,677	34,493	253,662
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 1,291,628	£ 304,810	£ 126,054	£ 1,722,492

5b. Cost of charitable activities (prior year as at 31st March 2020)

	Staff costs £	Other direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2019 £
Projects:				
Community	44,549	6,671	1,604	52,824
Criminal Justice	91,543	3,372	2,836	97,751
DHRs	99,677	79,387	10,764	189,828
Health	389,672	1,158,855	36,568	1,585,095
Housing & Homelessness	300,942	462,757	26,676	790,375
MARAC	231,635	2,435	16,570	250,640
Training	13,358	6,257	2,135	21,750
Other charitable projects	81,080	39,750	41,303	162,133
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 1,252,456	£ 1,759,484	£ 138,456	£ 3,150,396

Resources expended include:

	2021	2020
Auditors' remuneration:	£ 5,000	£ 4,500

Details of resources expended are given in notes 6, 7 and 8

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

6. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Partner and stakeholder costs	122,589	1,348,694
Consultancy and Domestic Homicide Review Associate costs	103,295	117,789
Training and learning services	33,573	23,757
External evaluation	24,983	13,713
Other direct costs	20,370	255,532
	<u>£ 304,810</u>	<u>£ 1,759,485</u>

Included in other direct costs is expenditure of £Nil (2020: £129,861) incurred on data collection, sharing learning and national good practice and dissemination relating to the Pathfinder Health Project.

6a. Payments to Partners and Stakeholders:

	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
(i) Pathfinder Health Project				
Consortium partners:				
Against Violence & Abuse (AVA)	-		107,602	
SafeLives	-		115,407	
IRISi Interventions	-		79,904	
Imkaan	-		63,920	
		-		366,833
Health Sites:				
NHS Blackpool CCG	-		60,000	
North Devon Against DA (NDADA)	-		55,563	
London Borough of Haringey	-		60,000	
Somerset Partnership NHS	-		72,638	
RB of Kensington & Chelsea	-		69,761	
London Borough of Camden	-		67,500	
Arch (North Staffordshire) Ltd	-		67,688	
NHS Southampton CCG	-		72,500	
		-		525,650
Evaluation by Cardiff University		-		97,500
		-		<u>989,983</u>
(ii) Whole Housing Approach Programme				
Partners:				
Cambridge Shrievally Trust	-		40,000	
Cambridge Women's Aid	-		108,000	
Refuge	-		132,500	
		-		280,500
(iii) Domestic Abuse Housing Association				
Partners:				
Peabody	37,500		31,167	
Gentoo	37,500		31,167	
		75,000		62,334
(iv) Homeless Link		15,877		15,877
(v) Solace Women's Aid		31,711		-
Total partners and stakeholder costs	<u>£ 122,588</u>			<u>£ 1,348,694</u>

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Premises and Office costs	91,063	93,174
Communication & IT	17,726	25,339
Legal & professional fees	12,267	15,442
Auditor's fee	5,000	4,500
	<u>£ 126,056</u>	<u>£ 138,455</u>

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Gross salaries	1,117,123	1,087,155
Social security	108,292	105,833
Pension costs	44,615	44,585
Other staff costs	21,599	14,885
	<u>£ 1,291,629</u>	<u>£ 1,252,458</u>

The average weekly number of employees calculated as full time equivalents during the period was:

	Number	Number
Key Management Team	2	2
Community project	1.5	1
Criminal Justice project	2.6	2.5
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	2	3
Health	5.1	7
Housing & Homelessness	8.4	7
MARAC	8	6
Other Projects	2	3
	<u>31.6</u>	<u>31.5</u>

The average number of employees (head counts) during the period was:

<u>34.6</u>	<u>32</u>

One employee (2020: Nil) received remuneration of more than £60,000; between £60,001 to £70,000.

During the year, key management received an aggregate salary and benefits of £125,674 (2020: £144,391)

9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year, no members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration (2020 : £NIL) No members of the Board of Trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2020 : £NIL)

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

10. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2020	5,607	5,607
At 31 March 2021	5,607	5,607
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2020	1,121	1,121
Charge for the year	1,121	1,121
At 31 March 2021	2,242	2,242
Net book value		
At 31 March 2021	£ 3,365	£ 3,365
At 31 March 2020	£ 4,486	£ 4,486

11. DEBTORS

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	246,653	181,160
Prepayments	4,088	4,233
Accrued income	90,531	75,233
Other debtors	13,581	14,838
	£ 354,853	£ 275,464

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Due within one year		
Deferred income	286,586	102,390
VAT creditors	93,303	83,576
Social security and other taxes	26,200	29,594
Accruals & creditors	208,588	290,404
	£ 614,677	£ 505,964

13. TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and therefore is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available, to registered charities.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

14a Statement of Funds (current year as at 31 March 2021)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Transfers and Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	200,000	-	-	150,215	350,215
DVCN Funds	1,448	-	20	-	1,428
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 201,448	£ -	-£ 20	£ 150,215	£ 351,643
RESTRICTED FUNDS	£	£	£	£	£
Calypso Browning	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Chelwest NHS	-	49,000	(49,000)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	68,490	(61,054)	-	7,436
City of Westminster Charitable Trust	-	12,690	(12,690)	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	12,551	35,000	(40,784)	-	6,767
Comic Relief - Recovery Fund	-	38,200	(38,200)	-	-
DCMS – Pathfinder Health Project	-	-	-	-	-
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	58,664	(58,664)	-	-
Erasmus (EU)	12,062	-	(12,015)	-	47
Esmee Fairburn	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	(61,420)	-	4,580
Home Office - Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Home Office – MSWTA	-	-	-	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	20,438	-	(20,438)	-	-
Homeless Link	32,241	48,375	(62,000)	-	18,616
Inner London Magistrates Courts	-	5,000	(72)	-	4,928
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	11,869	51,000	(49,070)	-	13,799
London Councils	3,412	80,565	(80,000)	-	3,977
Maidenhead Malachi Trust	-	30,000	(1,922)	-	28,078
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	33,307	245,000	(153,884)	-	124,424
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	69,711	(69,711)	-	-
MOJ/MOPAC - Emergency Fund	-	51,418	(51,418)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	120,329	(93,958)	-	26,371
Oak Foundation	-	77,000	(22,328)	-	54,672
RBKC - CSE	11,220	-	938	-	12,158
Tri Borough	-	2,160	-	-	2,160
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Westminster City Council	-	3,173	(3,173)	-	-
Winston Churchill	-	9,900	-	-	9,900
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 137,100	£ 1,166,675	-£ 980,865	£ -	£ 322,910

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Transfers and Resources Expended	Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	201,448	-	(20)	150,215	351,643
General Funds	51,902	966,569	(741,607)	(150,215)	126,649
	253,350	966,569	(741,627)	-	478,292
Restricted Funds	137,100	1,166,675	(980,865)	-	322,910
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 390,450	£ 2,133,244	£ (1,722,492)	£ -	£ 801,202

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

14b Statement of Funds (prior year as at 31 March 2020)

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Designated Fund	200,000	-	-	-	200,000
DVCN Funds	23	1,425	-	-	1,448
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 200,023	£ 1,425	£ -	£ -	£ 201,448

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Chelwest NHS	-	49,000	(49,000)	-	-
Comic Relief - Whole Housing	-	40,000	(27,449)	-	12,551
DCMS – Pathfinder Health Project	-	322,500	(322,500)	-	-
DOHSC – Pathfinder Health Project	-	1,147,596	(1,147,596)	-	-
Erasmus (EU)	-	12,743	(681)	-	12,062
Esmee Fairburn	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Hammersmith & Fulham NHS	-	66,000	(66,000)	-	-
Home Office – MSWTA	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Home Office - Harmful Practice	-	25,000	(4,562)	-	20,438
Homeless Link	-	48,375	(16,134)	-	32,241
LB of Hammersmith & Fulham	8,114	51,000	(47,245)	-	11,869
London Councils	-	86,477	(83,065)	-	3,412
MHCLG – Whole Housing Approach	29,210	507,500	(503,403)	-	33,307
MHCLG – Housing First & Homelessness	-	49,000	(49,000)	-	-
RBKC - CSE Priorities Fund	-	15,000	(3,780)	-	11,220
Treebeard Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 37,324	£ 2,510,191	£(2,410,415)	£ -	£ 137,100

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers and Investment Gains/(losses)	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated Funds	200,023	1,425	-	-	201,448
General Funds	14,901	776,982	(739,981)	-	51,902
	214,924	778,407	(739,981)	-	253,350
Restricted Funds	37,324	2,510,191	(2,410,415)	-	137,100
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 252,248	£ 3,288,598	£(3,150,396)	£ -	£ 390,450

The Designated funds are intended to enable the charity and its partners to conduct their activities fully, in the event of a loss of funding, so that an orderly winding up of its projects may be achieved.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

15a. Analysis of net assets between funds (current year as at 31 March 2021)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	3,365	-	3,365
Net Current assets	351,643	123,284	322,910	797,837
Total as at 31 March 2021	£ 351,643	£ 126,649	£ 322,910	£ 801,202

15b. Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year as at 31 March 2020)

	Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	4,486	-	4,486
Net Current assets	201,448	47,416	137,100	385,964
Total as at 31 March 2020	£ 201,448	£ 51,902	£ 137,100	£ 390,450

16. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2021 the Company had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for land and buildings) as set out below:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Operating leases which expire:		
within one year	44,631	44,631
within two to five years	-	44,631
	£ 44,631	£ 89,262

The cost of operating lease during the year was as follows:

Office lease charges for the year	£ 44,631	£ 44,631

17. PENSION COMMITMENTS

Pension costs in note 8 relate to payments made to a defined contribution scheme. The charitable company's liability is limited to making the payments due to scheme on timely basis. The liability as at 31 March 2021 is £7,484 (2020: £6,797)

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

There were no related party transactions, other than those disclosed in note 8 and 9.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

19. SECTION 37 STATEMENT

Grant aid of £83,977 was received from London Councils in the financial year ended 31st March 2021. The purpose of the grant is to introduce and adopt established set of standards and an accreditation process in response to domestic abuse within housing.

The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grant Awarded	£ 80,565	£ 86,477
Costs		
Staff Costs	55,000	55,000
Other Direct Costs (consultancy & evaluation)	20,023	23,088
Rent	2,000	2,000
Running costs	2,977	2,977
Total Costs	£ 80,000	£ 83,065
Underspent in the year	565	3,412
Underspent from last year	3,412	-
Total underspent at the year end	£ 3,977	£ 3,412

The sum of £5,000 was withheld in respect of the evaluation which was delayed as shown accrued costs that were paid after 31 March 2021; and there was an underspend on travel expenses of £3,977 (2020: £3,412).

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

AUDIT MANAGEMENT LETTER

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2021



The Trustees
Standing Together against Domestic Abuse
4th Floor, The Polish Centre
238-246 King Street
W6 0RF

Our ref: SA/C185801

Date: 21 October 2021

Offices at

London
Haslemere
Hemel Hempstead

Dear Trustees

This audit management letter relates to our audit of Standing Together against Domestic Abuse for the year ended 31 March 2021. We have set out in section 1 of this report, the principal matters arising from our audit, including those prescribed by International Auditing Standard 260. In section 2 we have set out emerging issues. In section 3 we have set out the Trustees' representations on which we have placed reliance for the purpose of our audit.

As you will appreciate, our audit procedures are designed primarily to enable us to form an opinion on the accounts as a whole. Our procedures include such tests of the accounting records and internal control systems as are, in our opinion, necessary for audit purposes. Consequently, whilst our procedures may identify certain weaknesses which may exist, the audit procedures in themselves should not be relied upon to reveal all the weaknesses which may exist in the system.

This report has been prepared for your sole use and we assume no responsibility to any other party in respect of its contents. The report should not be disclosed to any third party without our prior written consent.

This report is not exhaustive and deals with only the more significant matters which came to our attention during the audit. Other matters of lesser significance have been discussed with the relevant staff during the course of our audit work.

In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation to management and staff for their assistance and co-operation during the course of our audit.

If you have any queries on any of the points in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Knox Cropper LLP

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

Section 1 **Matters Arising from the Audit**

Section 2 **Emerging issues**

Section 3 **Trustees' Representations**

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

SECTION 1 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AUDIT

General

The purpose of our audit is to gather sufficient evidence to allow us to conclude that the transactions and balances disclosed in the accounts are unlikely to be materially misstated, to establish that disclosures reflected in the accounts comply with the requirements of legislation and relevant accounting standards and to assess whether the accounting policies adopted are appropriate and consistently applied and to assess whether estimates made and judgements exercised in the preparation of the financial statements are both prudent and even-handed.

Audit Report

We have completed the audit to our satisfaction and confirm that we will issue an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts. The text of the audit report is in accordance with the standard text for unqualified audit reports issued by the Financial Reporting Council, which has been revised for periods commencing on or after 1 January 2020.

International Auditing Standards

International auditing standards have been revised for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2020. One impact of this has been changes to the standard unqualified audit report as referred to above.

Another change is to our responsibilities in respect of going concern. Under the revised standard a more formal procedure is required for consideration of going concern. The Board is required to assess the going concern status of the charity supported by a financial forecast that looks forward 12 months from the date at which the accounts are to be approved i.e. to July 2022.

Audit Adjustments

All material adjustments arising from our audit work have been discussed with management and appropriately reflected in the financial statements. We confirm that no misstatements were detected during the audit which remain uncorrected in the financial statements other than matters which are both individually and cumulatively clearly trivial.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

SECTION 1 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AUDIT

Accounting Policies and Disclosures

The accounting policies adopted by the Charity are consistent with the previous year and are, in all material respects, appropriate to its operations.

We also report that adequate consideration was given to the potential impact of changes in legislation and accounting standards which arose during the year. No changes arose during the current year which affected the accounts and therefore the form and content of the accounts are consistent with the preceding year.

Accounting Systems and Internal Controls

We confirm that the accounting records were well maintained during the year and that no significant weaknesses were identified during the audit.

Internal controls were generally appropriate for the size of the organisation and our compliance testing indicated that they were operating effectively in practice.

Under the Charities SORP, income should be recognised when receipt is probable or more likely than not to be received. This means that the grant income should be recognised when these are agreed even if the instalments are not falling due until after the year-end or the costs have not been incurred in the reporting period. However, where meeting the conditions of performance-related grants are beyond management control, the income may be deferred in line with agreed budgets. We have discussed with the management to set out a cover sheet for each grant specifying the income for the financial periods at the outset of the grant. The cover sheet could also state the VAT considerations and whether the grant is restricted or unrestricted.

Professional Ethics and Independence

We confirm our compliance with Ethical Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and there are no matters in relation to our audit engagement which we consider should be brought to your attention.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

SECTION 2 – EMERGING ISSUES

Charity Commission guidance on Responsible Investment

The Charity Commission is in a process of updating its guidance on responsible investment. By responsible investment, the Charity Commission means investing in a way that aligns with the charity's mission and purposes. The current guidance is set out in CC14 which deals with both financial investment and programme related investment.

Charity Governance Code Update

The Charity Governance Code has been refreshed in December 2020. The code, which is endorsed by the charity commission although not compulsory, sets out the seven principles of good governance, with separate versions for small and large charities.

The main changes relate to the Diversity principle and to the Integrity principle:

- The Diversity principle has been renamed the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion principle and there is a greater focus on the Trustees defining the importance of this principle for their charity and then establishing and monitoring targets and publicising progress.
- The updated Integrity principle emphasises the importance of understanding safeguarding responsibilities and establishing robust procedures including processes whereby concerns can be raised.

Business Rates Review

The government is due to publish its fundamental review of business rates in the Autumn of 2021 with an interim update of its progress to be issued on 23 March 2021. Rates relief is significant for charities, with a net worth of over £2 billion per year.

Engaging workers who are not employees – New IR35 rules

Where workers are engaged to carry out specific projects or functions for an organisation, they are often not treated as employees and they are not paid through the payroll (off-payroll working). Where the worker is engaged as an individual, it is the responsibility of the organisation to assess whether the worker is self-employed, and this has not changed. However, where the worker is engaged through an intermediary (usually a personal service company), prior to 6th April 2021 it has been the responsibility of the intermediary to make the assessment as to whether the worker is effectively an employee of the organisation. From 6th April 2021, for medium-sized and large organisations (including charities), responsibility for making this assessment shifts to the organisation engaging the worker. This change brings the private sector into line with Public Bodies which have been required to do this since 2017.

Timeline for updating the Charity SORP

The next update of the charity SORP is expected to be published in Autumn 2023, coming into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. A new framework for consultation is now in place with the SORP making body and the SORP Committee engaging with stakeholders through the recruitment of volunteer engagement partners representing various strands of the consultation.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

SECTION 3 – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

Standing Together against
Domestic Abuse
4th Floor, The Polish Centre
238-246 King Street
W6 0RF
Registered Company No: 04283131
(England & Wales)
Registered Charity No: 1088844

Messrs. Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants
65 Leadenhall Street
London EC3A 2AD

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, and having made appropriate enquiries of other trustees and officials of the Charity, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the Charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

1. GENERAL

We acknowledge as trustees our responsibility under the Companies Act for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you. We also acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal controls to prevent and detect error and fraud.

2. RECORDS

All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and all the transactions undertaken by the Charity have been properly reflected in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of meetings, have been made available to you. We confirm that, so far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you have not been made aware.

3. GOING CONCERN

We believe that the Charity's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis because the trustees are of the opinion that adequate sources of funding will be forthcoming to allow the Charity to continue in operation. In making this statement, the trustees have considered projections for at least the next twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

4. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

We confirm that we are not aware of any possible or actual instance of non-compliance with those laws and regulations which provide a legal framework within which the Charity conducts its operations. The Charity has complied with all aspects of contractual and other agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no communication with Regulatory Authorities during the year or subsequently concerning non-compliance with financial and regulatory matters.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

SECTION 3 – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

5. INTERNAL CONTROL

There have been no irregularities or allegations thereof involving trustees or officials who have a significant role in internal control or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

6. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no events since the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

We are not aware of any litigation pending at 31 March 2021 or other matters giving rise to potential liabilities or guarantees.

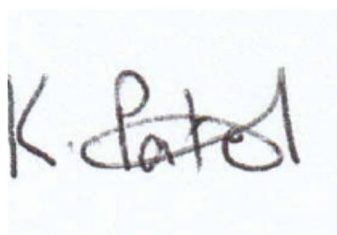
8. LOANS AND ARRANGEMENTS

The Charity has not had, nor entered into at any time during the year, any arrangement, transaction or agreement to provide credit facilities for trustees nor to guarantee or provide security for such matters. No remuneration or reimbursement for expenses was paid to the trustees except as disclosed in the financial statements.

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

We confirm that we have disclosed to you all related party transactions relevant to the Charity and that we are not aware of any related party matters that require disclosure

Yours faithfully



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Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

02/11/2021

.....
Date