

AFRUCA - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
(Company limited by guarantee no. 4306536
registered charity no. 1093027)



**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

AFRUCA - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

env Limited by Guarantee No. 4306536 (England), registered Charity No. 1093027)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Charity Reg. No. 1093027

Company Reg. No. 4306536

Business Office

Head Office

Unit 8
290 Mare Street
London
E8 1HE

AFRUCA Centre for Black and Ethnic Children and Families

Suite 2
Ground Floor
Building 3
Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester
M12 6JH

Registered Office

Unit 8
290 Mare Street
London
E8 1HE

Chief Executive

Modupe Debbie Ariyo OBE

Trustees

Sudhir Sethi
Omolola Adeola-Oni
Magdalene Usikaro
Mamayimbe Sylla
Alimatu Dimonekene

Chair

Auditor

Goldwins Limited
Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

Bankers

NatWest Bank Plc
135 Bishopgate
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EC2M 3UR

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

a. Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 17 October 2001 and registered as a charity on 18 July 2002. 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 £1.

b. Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

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 2 years after which they must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

c. Organisational structure

At the end of the financial year, there were five members of the Board of Trustees in post. The position of Treasurer to the Board remained vacant, with efforts being made to fill this position. The Board of Trustees meet quarterly and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The responsibility for running the charity's activities and provision of services rests on the Chief Executive, with the support of members of staff and volunteers. The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met.

d. Related party relationships

The Charity has considered the disclosure requirements of the SORP for related party relationships, and believes that there are no related party relationships other than the Trustees and their close connections. All related party transactions have been reported in the Notes to the financial statements.

OBJECTIVES

e. Public benefit

The Trustees ensure that the charity carries out its aims and objectives and that these benefit the public; in doing so the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

f. Going Concern

The trustees have considered the Charity's reserves and projected income and expenditure, and have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1. Review of Activities

1. Summary

The charity achieved surplus income for the fourth year running, and significantly increased its income levels compared to previous years. We attracted some new grants from a range of Trusts and Foundations in the course of the year to expand our services to reach new beneficiaries.

Following last year's achievement, yet again, we generated the highest income since inception from different activities, including our new ***Therapy Service for Children Returning Home From Foster Care***. This growth in unrestricted income enabled us to implement many positive changes to meet the increasing needs of our staff, volunteers and service users. This was important for us, with the massive shift in grant funding in the charity sector, leading to funding bodies either closing down or making drastic changes in how they operate due to unprecedented demand for grant funding.

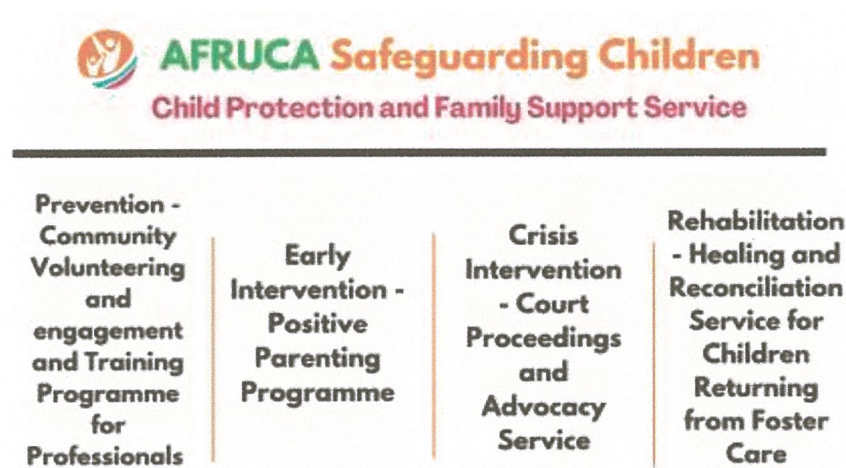
Trustees recognise the significant contributions of our staff and volunteers in meeting our commitments to service users and beneficiaries and helping to increase the charity's financial well-being through income from service delivery. The successes recorded in the course of the financial year were a direct result of the hard work and commitment of all our staff and volunteers and Trustees are appreciative of their dedication to the continued growth and success of AFRUCA.

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2. Child Protection and Family Support Service

We delivered our Child Protection and Family Support service nation-wide to include four key aspects of child protection – **prevention** through our professionals training programme and community engagement programme; **early and crisis intervention** through our positive parenting and advocacy service; and **rehabilitation**, through our new healing and reconciliation service for families whose children are returning from foster care. These programme have been designed to intersect with each other, ensuring a holistic and wholesome approach to supporting children and families.

Figure 1: AFRUCA’s Child Protection and Family Support Service



2.1 Prevention – Community Engagement Programme and Training Programme for Professionals

Our staff continued to deliver a range of awareness raising and education activities to faith and community groups and schools across England. We worked with over 50 different organisations with over 2500 participants gaining new knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe. We worked in different cities across England including in Middlesbrough, Bolton, Birmingham, Coventry, Doncaster, Chippenham, Peterborough, Manchester and London. Additionally, our volunteer champions continued to deliver our weekly “AFRUCA Talks Safeguarding” on zoom. This ran for 40 weeks in the course of the year, with over 1000 direct participants and many others watching the clips on social media afterwards. Some of the subjects we covered as part of our community programme included: “Internet Safety and Keeping Children Safe Online”, “Witchcraft Child Abuse”, “Alternatives To Physical Chastisement”, “Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children”, “Keeping Children Safe During School Holidays”, “What is Child Neglect?” and “Understanding Safeguarding”.

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Our volunteer “Children’s Champions” have been instrumental to the success of our community engagement programme. During the year, we had 20 active volunteers who helped to deliver our Saturday “AFRUCA Talks” Online sessions, as well as attended faith and community group events to deliver presentations to congregants.

We received many positive feedback from various faith leaders and congregants. A quote from Pastor Femi Titilayo of Christ Apostolic Church in Middlesborough is poignant when he said: ***“What AFRUCA taught us has formed the building blocks of our family life teachings”***.

Based on the success of this programme, we were delighted to have been approached by Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership, a part of Hackney Council, to deliver a series of child protection training sessions for African and Caribbean faith leaders and workers across the borough.

Future Plan – AFRUCA BME Child Protection Network

Our child protection community engagement programme has been in place for many years. We recognise the need to develop a structure to enable us continue our engagement with the various faith and community groups we have worked with beyond the one-off delivery of training sessions. This would also enable us to have a system to build effective partnerships and collaborations for change in our community. Following a consultative meeting in February 2024, in the next financial year, we will conclude our plans to establish the ***AFRUCA BME Child Protection Network (APRONET)*** to enable us have a framework for effective engagement with the faith and community sector.

2.2 Prevention – Training Programme for Professionals Working with Black and Ethnic Children

Between July 2023 and June 2024, AFRUCA provided in-house specialist training courses on a range of subjects to various local Authorities and health and social care professionals across England. We worked with over 20 agencies, reaching over 600 participants. We delivered a mix of online and face to face in-house training sessions. Unsurprisingly, our most popular training course was on: ***“Understanding The Safeguarding Needs of Children In Black and Ethnic Communities”*** commissioned by 10 agencies. Some of the agencies we worked with in the course of the year include: CAFCASS Cymru, Leeds City Council, Powys County Council, Wigan CSC, VFS in Munich, Germany and a number of schools including Loreto Collage and Grange School both in Manchester.

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Feedback from various commissioners has shown how our training courses have helped to improve skills amongst practitioners, ensuring improvements in how they intervene in families or deliver services for children. Some quotes include:

“Absolutely amazing training. It was so interesting and I feel like I have learned a lot”
(Social Worker, Wigan Council);

“You recently delivered training to the Greater Manchester Keyworker Service in Bolton. I thought the training was really well paced and very informative, thanks so much for this” (Team Manager, Barnados)

“Thank you for delivering the three sessions. Our staff really enjoyed the sessions and the subjects of the training gave a lot to consider and think about” (Participant, CAFCASS Cymru)

Future Plans

To increase the provision of our specialist training programme to Local Authorities, NHS Trusts, Fostering agencies, schools, colleges and many other agencies, we started the recruitment of a Training Administrator. Their primary role would be marketing AFRUCA's range of specialist training courses nationwide, including e-learning provisions. This is aimed at reaching even more professionals and generating more income for the charity.

2.3 Early and Crisis Intervention - Positive Parenting Service

This service is delivered by our team of qualified Child Protection Social Workers and is the largest source of unrestricted income for the charity. We had a complement of six full time qualified social workers and a community engagement worker in post.

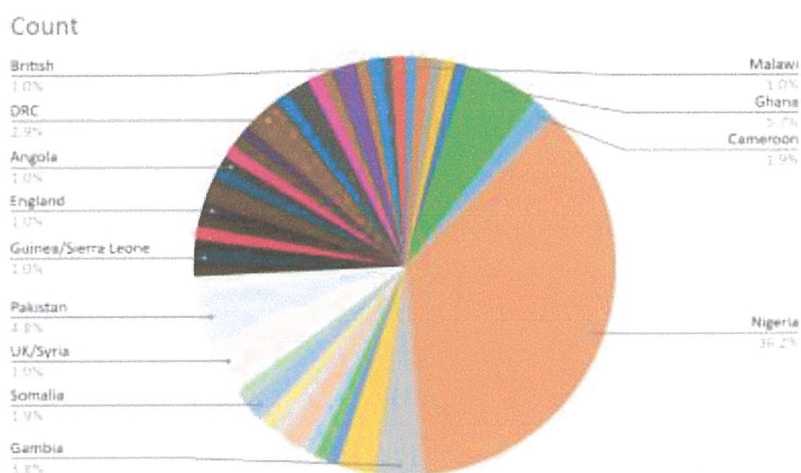
We received 105 referrals over the course of the year with the intervention work either completed, ongoing or awaiting purchase order numbers, while a small number of referrals were withdrawn. AFRUCA's intervention work included completing initial assessments and positive parenting work. We also internally referred some of the parents to our therapeutic/rehabilitation service to support the reunification of children returning from foster care with their parents.

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Demography of Service Users

The vast majority of the parents we supported were from African countries, especially Nigeria. However, we saw an increase in referrals for other ethnic groups including: China, Jamaica, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, India.

Figure 2: Pie Chart Showing Parent's Ethnicities 2023-2024

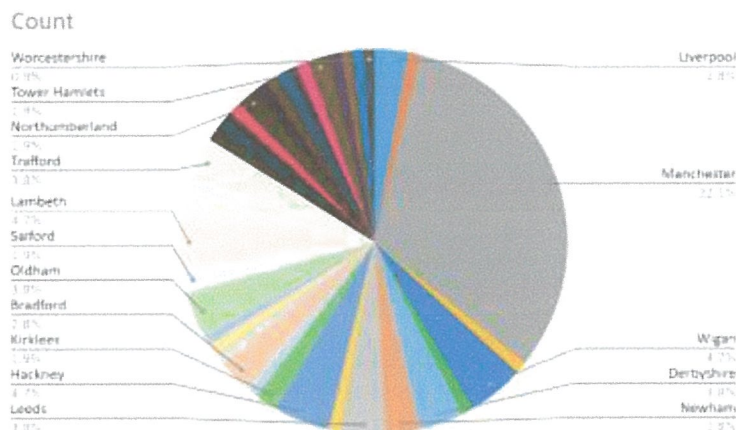


Referrals

We continued to receive referrals from various local authorities largely from Manchester Children's Social Care (25.6% last year and 32.1% this year) with a reduction noted in relation to the number of referrals received from Lambeth unlike in previous years (10.3% last year and 4.7% this year). However, the number of new referrers has also increased comprising local authorities such as: Hackney, Bexley, Enfield, Redcar-Cleveland, Kirklees, Lewisham, Sefton, Shropshire, Tower Hamlets, Wigan, Walsall, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Wiltshire, Middleborough, Northumberland and Worcestershire. This demonstrates that AFRUCA's work is being recognised further afield. The increasing number of referrals from these local authorities could be due to internal migration of families, an increasing number of new arrivals on various work visa schemes as well as international students.

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Figure 3: Pie Chart Showing Some Referring Local Authorities 2023-2024



Nature of Positive Parenting Work

The majority of our referrals continued to be requests for support regarding the use of physical chastisement. However, in the past year, we had worked with families to support them with issues around; emotional abuse, neglect, domestic abuse, witchcraft branding / spirit possession, honour based abuse and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The majority of our work took place remotely. There were some positive aspects to this which included, working nationwide whilst being able to save time and costs in terms of travel and providing families with the flexibility to attend the sessions. Some of the challenges have included: issues with interpreters and challenges accessing Local Authority Social Workers in a timely manner.

Making A Difference

- AFRUCA's child protection service continued to make a difference in the lives of Black and ethnic children and families across the UK through supporting parents to learn positive parenting strategies for raising children in the UK, managing children's behaviour and building the bond and relationship with their children.
- Through our positive parenting intervention, we have supported a number of families where in the last year, 20 children from 7 families have been returned to parents' care during or on completion of AFRUCA's parenting intervention. 5 children from 2 families have had their cases stepped down from Child Protection to Child in Need (CIN). 1 Child from 1 family has been closed to children's services. At least 5 children from 2 families have had the Interim Care Order (ICO) withdrawn and the children returned to parent's care.

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- As in previous years, we note many parents found it easier engaging with AFRUCA staff. A key reason could be having to engage with someone who understood their race and/or cultural background, hence able to demonstrate empathy towards them. Hence, we noticed many families became less resistance to local authority intervention once they became involved with AFRUCA.
- We have adapted our AFRUCA's course materials to include pictures and simplified language as English may not always be parent's first language, or depending on the parents cognitive functioning to enable them understand, process and retain information.

Issues to Highlight

- We identified that there is a need for provision of proper orientation, education, training and awareness on safeguarding children to be provided for families intending to move or that have newly arrived in the UK. This is more so in the case of Nigerians where we consistently see a higher number of referrals into our service. This is a government policy issue that needed to be addressed.
- Our work with families in the child protection system places us in a very unique position to advocate and influence policy at the national level for improvement in how the system operates. Working in partnership with parents to achieve this goal would help to create effective change.

Feedback

In the last year, we received many commendations from parents and social workers. Below is one of such commendations from the social worker of a family we worked with.

"There has been positive engagement from parents since AFRUCA started to work with the parents. Parents are now participating in the child protection process and making changes, while showing greater understanding as to why children's services are involved and working with them" (Social Worker, London Borough of Newham).

2.4 Early and Crisis Intervention - Child Protection Advocacy Pilot Project

We delivered a short pilot advocacy project with Hackney Council as part of their child protection system complaints process. The aim was to prevent the number of complaints progressing to the latter stages by providing complainants with the offer of free, culturally competent advocacy.

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As part of this pilot phase, we worked with two parents who had made complaints about services received and who requested for advocacy. We provided advocacy by making email contact and with a number of in-person meetings taking place at locations provided by the Local Authority. We advocated for the parents so their voices could be heard regarding their complaints, so that they could organise their thoughts, gain a different perspective and plan for their approach at meetings. We supported parents to attend complaints meeting with the Local Authority. Following this, we supported parents to draft responses for their complaint to be sent to the Local Authority.

We continue to receive communication for parents requesting advocacy support with their ongoing local authority cases. As we currently lack the internal capacity for this growing work, we will seek to recruit additional staff to help lead this new work area.

2.5 Rehabilitation – Family Healing and Reconciliation Service

We launched our new Psychotherapy Service for Children Returning Home from Foster Care in London in October 2023 with funding from City Bridge Trust. We recruited a team of independent psychotherapists to help deliver the service by taking referrals. There was a slow uptake of the service until around March 2024. To help improve take up by families, we renamed the service as ***'The AFRUCA Family Healing and Reconciliation Service'***. This was to ensure the name of the service reflected its cultural appropriateness for Black and Ethnic children and families.

In the course of the year, we received 18 referrals into the service. Some of the families were referred internally (8) and the others referred externally by local authorities (10). Some of the referred families had either previously accessed AFRUCA's positive parenting programme or had been referred for parenting sessions alongside the healing & reconciliation service.

By the end of June 2024, two families had completed therapy sessions with AFRUCA's psychotherapist while intervention was ongoing with six families. Five local authorities were yet to have AFRUCA set up on their systems and the other referrals were parents who either started engaging with the service but stopped due to other personal commitments or were yet to engage with the service.

Challenges

We encountered some challenges in getting the service off the ground and engaging families:

- There were challenges in families taking up the service due to the negative connotations associated with the word 'therapy' or not understanding the benefits of accessing the service.

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- Parents inability to access the service due to other competing priorities/commitments or other support needs such as housing and lack of provision of an interpreter in a timely manner by the referring local authority.
- Some parents still had their children in the care of the local authority therefore, they have had to attend sessions alone.
- The service struggled to recruit an Administrator following the post becoming vacant in February. A new administrator was however recruited to start in post at the beginning of September 2024.
- The service struggled to recruit independent psychotherapists experienced in systemic therapy for both children and families from Black and ethnic backgrounds.

Future Plans

Our plan is to increase provision of our Family Healing and Reconciliation Service to Local Authorities nationwide. To this end, we have recruited a new Administrator to start in post in September 2024. Their key role would be marketing the service and liaising with referring local authorities, psychotherapists and families. We hope to generate additional income for the charity in this way to help us improve our sustainability.

We will continue to work with parents to address their support needs and address the barriers to accessing the service, while looking at how AFRUCA can provide support or signpost them to other appropriate agencies.

Feedback

"The client shared that the sessions have been helpful as he felt heard, not judged, and encouraged as at times he felt he had no one to fully talk to about what he had been going through. He has been able to talk to his son on an emotional level about difficult topics and he feels that he is on the right track."
(Feedback from AFRUCA Psychotherapist in respect of Mr O).

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2.6 Strengthening AFRUCA's Child Protection and Family Support Service

Due to the ever evolving child protection landscape in the UK, and in view of the recent change in government, our aim is to position AFRUCA's child protection service as a key player in the UK's children's social care sector, especially in relation to Black and Ethnic children and families. This will involve:

- Increasing our capacity for service commissioning in all aspects of our child protection work (prevention, early and crisis intervention, advocacy and rehabilitation) by local authorities nation-wide through increased staffing, marketing, publicity and sectoral engagement.
- Continuing to support families during and post local authority involvement - for example, through our Family Healing and Reconciliation service and our Advocacy Service.
- Increased engagement in national child protection policy through research, policy advocacy and influencing.
- Establishing a network of parents who have experienced the child protection system to help inform policy changes.
- Establishing a network of faith and community organisations to help develop a partnership approach to change.
- Engaging Independent evaluators to evaluate the different aspects of our service delivery.

3. Child Exploitation and Youth Violence Programme

We delivered a range of services as part of our work to address child exploitation, youth violence and modern slavery across Manchester under a contract and a range of grant funding from Manchester City Council. We worked with children, young people, families and communities exposed to different forms of exploitation and youth violence from the over 20 organised criminal gangs in North Manchester and other parts of the city. We are thankful to the Manchester City Council for supporting AFRUCA to build and expand our work on child exploitation across the city.

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Figure 4 – AFRUCA's Child Exploitation and Youth Violence Programme



3.1 AFRUCA's Early Help Support For Families At Risk of Exploitation and Youth Violence

Following two years of grant funding from Manchester City Council of successful delivery of our County Lines Trafficking Family Support Service, we were delighted to have won a contract to deliver this service for another two years. This financial year marked the first year of our contract providing mix of practical one to one support and peer support for parents as well as mentoring activities for their children at risk of or involved in child criminal exploitation across Manchester. We worked with over 30 families and their 68 children during the reporting period.

All referrals to our service undergo an initial assessment. We risk assess all families to ensure they are suitable for our service and develop a care plan with parents to agree how AFRUCA would support them to meet their needs. We ensure each parent had a safe space to engage with our service. Despite challenges in their personal lives, parents took the time to participate in our one-to-one sessions at our office or in the community, and attended our monthly parental forums.

Most of our families are in the immigration system with no recourse to public funds. In working with the families, our approach has been very hands-on in supporting them to solve immediate problems in their lives which if not addressed could put their children at risk of harm, exploitation and gang involvement. In the course of the year, for example, we supported a parent and worked with their lawyer to sort out their application to the Home Office, resulting in the family being granted their leave to remain. We also supported another family who had been granted leave to find and move into a new home, without which

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they would have remained homeless. We find that parents appreciate these sorts of direct, practical and empathetic support provided by AFRUCA.

Aside the support work with parents, we also worked with their children to address issues especially in relation to conduct and performance at school, provided mentoring support and referred others to services not available at AFRUCA. We supported four young people to move to new schools outside Manchester due to risks of gang influence or exclusions. We signposted two families to our Child Protection Service at AFRUCA due to the involvement of Children's Services. We worked with four young people to return to mainstream education from alternative provisions.

We continued to work with families from a wide range of backgrounds with most being of African origin. Countries of origin included Nigeria, Ghana, Jamaica, Pakistan, Syria, Congo DR, Portugal, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Malawi. We worked with families of different compositions including two parent families, single male headed families and single female headed families.

Other Activities

- In January 2024, we organised a conference in Manchester to discuss strategies for addressing Child Exploitation and Youth Violence, with a focus on Black and Ethnic young people. This initiative directly informed the establishment of our new Manchester Network on Serious Violence and Child Exploitation, emphasising a grass root/community led approach.
- We trained over 700 young people at William Hulme Grammar school on signs and indicators of County Lines
- We facilitated a group session for young black and ethnic girls and boys on going missing from home as part of a research project by Missing People and Listen Up
- We started the process of recruiting a young person as an intern from one of the families supported. This was to enable them have a positive taste of the world of work, gain some work experience and steer them away from the streets.

3.2 The Revive Project – Working with Young Men and Boys At Risk of Exploitation

We continued our partnership with Manchester Youth Justice to deliver our project with young men and boys at risk of gang violence and exploitation across Manchester. The project aimed to rebuild their confidence, divert them from negative influences, and helped reintegrate them into their communities as positive, contributing members.

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With a new staff member in post, we reviewed the focus of the project to give young people the opportunity and confidence to discuss issues they faced without judgement or prejudice. We utilised the project to help build more trust between statutory bodies/authority, young people and the community through better education via a range of activities and group sessions. We tailored the programme to the correct needs of each young person, rather than a standard 10-week project. This was based on learning from previous year that some of the young people would prefer fewer sessions or just wanted someone to talk to.

We worked with 21 young men and boys, with referrals from a range of agencies including the Engage Panels, Youth Justice, People Referral Units and Schools. Many of our young people experienced a turbulent home environment which included domestic violence, physical chastisement, poverty and deprivation, immigration problems including no recourse to public funds, evictions, unsuitable housing or homelessness as well as neurodivergence. We found that these are push factors that contribute to young people's negative behaviour in school, making them vulnerable to grooming and recruitment by gangs and traffickers and puts them at risks of harm and exploitation. Additionally, the pervasive distrust of the police among young people involved in our project based on their personal experiences means many felt unfairly targeted and harassed, leading to reluctance to seek help or cooperate with law enforcement. Nevertheless, we were able to support young people to achieve the following:

Examples of our intervention

- Through our one to one mentoring sessions, we supported a young person with ADHD to understand the risks of knife crime and youth violence and how to avoid it. The young person is now more gainfully engaged with a Saturday job. His parents are pleased with progress made
- We supported a young man who experienced regular domestic violence in his home. Our mentoring sessions provided him with a much needed male role model, supported him to build more positive interest in music and assisted him to write his CV so he could get a job. The young man now has a job, earning regular income.

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Feedback

From parent:

"I really appreciate everything you've been doing with my son. I have noticed a lot of changes in him. Whatever it is you are doing, please continue because it is working."

From young person:

"I always knew I was good at a lot of things but because I never had anyone to direct me and keep pushing me, I just easily give up. With you on my case regularly, I feel like I can do a lot more, I really appreciate you"

3.3 The Phoenix Project – Working With Young Women And Girls At Risk of Exploitation Across Manchester

The Phoenix Project supports young women and girls age 11-18 years at risk of exploitation. Funded by the Home Office through Manchester City Council the programme addresses risks of abuse, coercive control, identity crisis, gang manipulation, exploitation and risks associated with digital spaces among vulnerable girls and young women.

27 young people in total were referred to the project, each one receiving up to 10 sessions of tailored support to address their unique circumstances. These sessions covered topics such as risk awareness, internet safety, grooming, and healthy relationships. 94.4% of the young people referred actively engaged with the programme, attending weekly or bi-weekly sessions that included one-on-one mentoring, arts and crafts, and physical activities.

Notably, the project worked directly with schools in Manchester and other community organisations like Powerhouse and Hideaway in Moss Side to ensure high engagement. The team adapted its strategy to address barriers such as financial hardship and transportation issues, offering services within schools and accessible community centres. This flexibility resulted in a high engagement rate, with many participants stating they only attended school when they had Phoenix Project sessions. The project has also helped participants improve school attendance and emotional regulation, fostering positive relationships and building a self-confident and improved self-esteem.

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The Phoenix Project has also seen marked success in its monthly group work initiatives. Creative sessions, such as DIY crafts, were delivered at monthly group event. The group sessions have also organically started to build positive peer friendships. In preparation for summer holidays in 2024, we started organising special activities for the young people. These included indoor rock climbing and snowboarding with the aim supporting the young people to have fun, socialise and engage in physical activities during their school holidays.

Project Impact and Future Goals

The numbers clearly demonstrate the project's impact. Out of the 27 young people referred, 94.4% showed consistent engagement throughout the sessions. Looking ahead, the Phoenix Project has ambitious goals for its future. Plans include strengthening ties with other organisations and increasing its capacity to support a broader group of young women and girls across Manchester. The project staff is actively working to ensure that their outreach continues to address the evolving challenges faced by vulnerable young women, especially in terms of online safety and the risks posed by social media. Collaborations with local youth justice and safeguarding organisations will play a key role in this expansion.

3.4 Manchester Network on Serious Violence and Child Exploitation

The idea of a grass-root, community led network on serious violence and child exploitation in Manchester was developed from insights at AFRUCA's round table event held on 30 January 2024.

AFRUCA held a follow up consultative meeting on 22 March 2024 at our office in Ardwick Manchester bringing together representatives from 10 community and statutory organisations who work to address youth violence and child exploitation cross the city. The primary aim was to explore the benefits and importance of creating a grassroots led, Manchester-wide Network to challenge critical issues affecting young Black people at risk of serious youth violence and exploitation.

At the consultative meeting, our discussions highlighted several key reports that underline the urgent need for this Network. We identified significant gaps in data concerning the exploitation of young women and girls, as well as a general lack of understanding of the vulnerabilities that young people face, particularly those from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, in the context of criminal exploitation. We also noted the pressing need for more resources dedicated to extracurricular activities for young people, a lack of cohesive collaboration between statutory agencies and affected communities, and an alarming misunderstanding of adultification bias amongst professionals.

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We explored the benefits and purposes of such a Network, including promoting joint-working and collaboration between affected communities and statutory agencies. Participants agreed such a Network would play a big role in bringing together affected communities, youth groups, faith organisations and statutory agencies.

We are delighted Manchester City Council is happy with our idea of a community led Network and is working with us to deliver this project through the provision of a small grant and senior level representation on the Network. We are working to ensure the growth and expansion of the Network in the next financial year.

3.5 AFRUCA's Child Exploitation and Youth Violence Programme – An Integrated Approach

Our integrated approach to addressing child exploitation and youth violence across Manchester ensured over 100 children and their parents at risk benefitted from the range of activities and services in the course of the financial year. The services were also fully complementary, ensuring no duplication with service users directed to the appropriate AFRUCA intervention that best met their needs. Hence there was a lot of synergy amongst the different projects, sometimes with different members of each family accessing a different part of the programme. Aside, our staff worked together to conduct outreach in schools, colleges and communities. Through the monthly team Newsletter, we regularly reached over 700 wider cohort of partners and stakeholders across Manchester each month, promoting different element of our work and ensuring all projects had adequate coverage and publicity.

Altogether, our staff conducted over 20 face to face events at agencies, schools and colleges across Manchester, including Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in Bury, Connell College, Loreto College, Varnar Primary School, Grange School, Sacred Heart Primary School and Didsbury High School. Through the face to face events and our newsletter, we regularly reached 5000 individuals, bringing awareness of our work to them.

In the next financial year, we aim to continue to deliver our range of child exploitation and youth violence projects across Manchester so we can continue to impact on the children, young people and their families. We are aware of the need to diversify funding for our work in this area and not continue to be dependent on Manchester City Council for funding as this is unsustainable. Hence, in the next financial year, we will explore other income streams to fund our across the city.

4. Addressing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the UK Modern Slavery Sector: The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network (BASNET)

We continued to grow the membership of our Network, The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network in the course of the financial year with a membership of 50 Black and Ethnic community organisations and 48 Associate members all spread out across the UK. Notably, our efforts in promoting membership through initiatives such as the BASNET Open Day have played a crucial role in this growth. Sadly, we also lost 8 member organisations who ceased trading due to financial difficulties.

Our members' work and interests covered different spectrums of the modern slavery and human trafficking sector – from labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and county lines trafficking. Some of our members had niche service users and audiences - from focusing mainly on anti-trafficking work with black and ethnic minority families, to young boys, young girls, survivors, asylum seekers, LGBTQI, women and specific age groups. The work of our members helped to highlight the gaps ignored or unidentified in national discourse around modern slavery and human trafficking issues that specifically affects ethnic minority communities.

In the course of the year, we worked with our members and sector partners to undertake a range of programmes and events to highlight equality issues in the sector. To foster collaboration and sector learning, BASNET facilitated Six Full Members meetings during this period with one hybrid meeting. These meetings served as platforms for sharing expertise, enhancing cooperation, and driving innovation within the sector.

4.1 BASNET Projects, Events and Activities

We were delighted to launch our research report in July 2023: ***“Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Publicly Funded Modern Slavery Research In the UK”*** in partnership with St Mary's University, Twickenham, Sheffield University and Nottingham University and with funding from the UK Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre. This piece of work is also a fulfilment of BASNET Race Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Theme on Research which called for research on EDI within the wider modern slavery research sector, to understand the challenges and barriers stopping people from all backgrounds from being able to participate effectively and make recommendations for improvements.

To celebrate Black History Month in October 2024, we held a unique online event focusing on Organ Trafficking – a subject not much discussed in the human trafficking space. Our range of international speakers explored the complex issues of organ trafficking, organ harvesting and illegal organ transplant and the intersections with race, migration, poverty and other vulnerabilities.

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We engaged in a number of collaborative projects and advocacy efforts with our members. We supported six member organisations to organise and host advocacy events addressing critical issues such as child criminal exploitation, online exploitation, and the impact of recent legislative changes on vulnerable groups. Members we worked with included Music Relief Foundation, Salaam Project, Blossom Foundation, Wonderfully Made Woman, WODIN and House of Rainbow. Following these joint events, we supported some members to apply for further funding for their advocacy work, with two successfully obtaining grants totalling £40,000.

Based on increasing concerns raised by our members about the exploitation of workers in the UK's health and care sectors, particularly under government visa schemes, in February **2024** we wrote a letter to the Home Secretary, co-signed by over 40 BASNET members and partners. We emphasised the pressing need for immediate action, framing the issue as a significant race-related problem requiring comprehensive solutions. Our letter outlined many instances of fraud, debt bondage, financial abuse and exploitation and proposed specific recommendations, including enhanced vetting for recruitment agencies and better support systems for victims. We asserted that the failure to act promptly may breach equality laws and exacerbate the already dire situation for migrant workers. We received a response to our letter from former Home Office Minister Tom Pursglove. Unfortunately election purdah in May and June 2024 meant we were unable to take forward work in this area before the end of the financial year.

To mark International Women's Day in March 2024, we organised a follow up conference on the back of our letter to the Home Secretary focusing on the Exploitation of Migrant Female Workers in the UK Health and Social Care sectors. The event served to underscore the racial dynamics, gender inequality and migrant rights issues involved in what was now being referred to as "state enabled" exploitation and modern slavery of migrant workers in the UK.

The highlight of our year at BASNET was the release of our powerful, ground-breaking report: ***"The Safe House is Not Safe"*** on **18 March 2024**. The report highlighted the harsh realities faced by survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking in government-funded Safe Houses across England. Based on first-hand experiences from 13 survivor-experts residing in these shelters, the report exposed inadequate accommodation and discrimination rooted in race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, and ethnicity.

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On 23 March 2024, we organised a sector-wide briefing to discuss the report's findings and recommendations, emphasising the voices of survivors and urging systemic change. Key stakeholders, including the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, representatives from organisations like The Salvation Army and the Care Quality Commission, and survivors themselves, participated in the dialogue. Based on the complaints by some service providers that “only 13 people took part in the research”, we decided to organise a follow up conference in October 2024 working with survivor leaders as co-producers and helping to provide wider recommendations to inform change.

In May 2024, we organised our second three day residential capacity building programme in Manchester with 14 BASNET Anti-Trafficking Innovators in attendance. This year, we invited an Associate Member of BASNET from Nigeria, Betty Abah from CEEHOPE Nigeria to join the delegates. This was aimed at helping us gauge the appetite and need for such a programme if we were to deliver it outside the UK.

We were delighted to have a range of experts in charity management and anti-trafficking join the three day session to help impact new knowledge to our participants. These included: James Clarry, CEO of Justice and Care, Vic Hancock Fell, Founder and Director of Fair Collective and Advita Patel of Comms Rebel who delivered a session on Communicating Impact.

Yet again, we received positive feedback from the CEO-participants about the impact of the residential programme on them and their work, including:

"I feel particularly privileged to have had the opportunity to attend this important training and I promise to step it down to my staff, volunteers and community contacts here in Nigeria." Betty Abah - Executive Director, CEE-HOPE

"This was a great learning experience that will help our organisation going forward". Mackenzie Lunga - Founder, Mesheba CIC

4.2 BASNET Expanded Funding and Staffing

We were very delighted to have received new funding from three different funders – Samworth Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and AB Charitable Trust. This substantial funding meant we could recruit additional staff and expand our work with our members and survivor leaders. The new grants also ensured we would be in a strong positive to continue our work for next three years. We are exceptionally grateful to our four funders for the support for BASNET.

4.3 Future Outlook and Strategic Expansion

Looking ahead, BASNET is committed to expanding our work to better meet the needs of our members and the wider modern slavery sector. Our future plans include the development of a series of Masterclasses to ensure continuous skills-building and the sustainability of anti-trafficking efforts by our members. We also aim to launch the BASNET Research Residential Programme, designed to enhance the research capabilities of Black and Ethnic leaders and those with lived experience of modern slavery.

We aim to expand BASNET Internationally by setting up an international Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Organisations. We also aim to explore the feasibility of extending both the Research Residential and Capacity Building Programme to our international members once the coalition is established.

Our strategic focus will remain on fostering a more inclusive and effective anti-trafficking sector. By building on our existing initiatives and introducing new programmes, we aim to continue driving systemic change and addressing inequities within the sector.

5. National Partnerships and External Liaison

We were quite fortunate to have worked with a range of partners locally, regionally, nationally and internationally during the course of the financial year as part of our various projects and services as detailed above. The aim of our partnership work was to raise awareness of the work of AFRUCA and our network BASNET, contribute to ongoing research, policy and advocacy efforts and help to prevent abuse, harm and exploitation through increased engagement with others.

We are delighted to have built strong partnership with colleagues at St Mary's University Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse and University of Nottingham. Both relationships have served us very well at AFRUCA, enriched our joint research programmes and helped to boost our profile in the modern slavery sector.

We continued to participate in the work of a number of Home Office Modern Slavery Policy Forums, through attendance at meetings and putting forward our position on key government policies, reflective of BASNET members' viewpoints.

We celebrated Black History Month in our London office, focusing on historical practices in the upbringing of children in Black communities. The event titled: ***"Barrel Children, Farmed Children: Exploring Historic Black UK Child Rearing Practices"*** was a captivating historic exploration of these two practices and how to impact on children who are today's parents.

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We also held other impactful events drawing participation across the child protection section. These include our event on ***“Enhancing Protection for Children in Black Faith Organisations”*** held in February 2024 and ***“Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for Black and Ethnic families in the UK Child Protection System”***. There is scope to follow up on these two activities in partnership with others.

We also continued to sit on the Manchester Children and Young People Board, providing strategic advice to the Board especially in relation to Black and Ethnic children.

We recognise how much tilted our strategic work has been on modern slavery and in Manchester. Hence in the coming financial year, we aim to strengthen our strategic work on Child Protection and become more active across London and nationally.

6. Financial Review

6.1 Summary

The Charity's results for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and the relevant notes.

The Charity's financial results shows a robust total revenue growth of 14.51% this year to £860,396 compared to £751,370 in the previous year. Of this £615,541 (2022-2023: £528,591) represents restricted income and the remaining £244,855 (2022-2023: £222,770) unrestricted income.

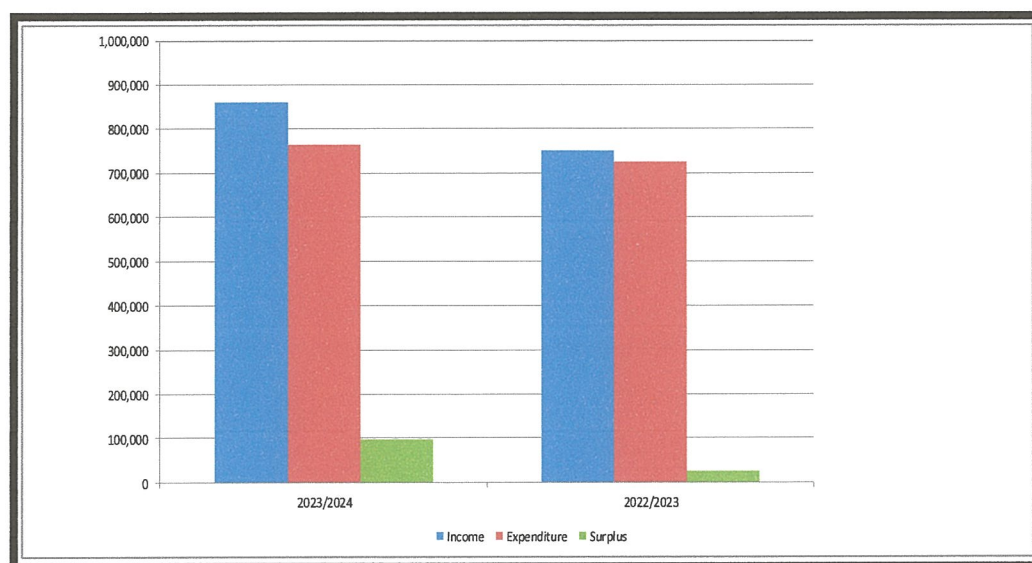
The Charity executed an expense efficiency programme proactively to control costs and ensure business growth. In line with the growth in the Charity's operations, total expenditure increased by 5.31% to £763,832 (2022-2023: £725,304), of which £ 554,676 (2022-2023: £514,698) came from restricted funds and £209,156 (2022-2023: £210,606) was unrestricted expenditure. We spent £742,970 this year (2022-2023:£706,741) on charitable activities in supported projects across the UK which had a profound impact on the lives of children, young people and families in the communities we support.

As a result, the Charity recorded an overall surplus (net income) on operating activities of £96,564 for the year (2022-2023: net income £26,066). The overall surplus recorded this year included a surplus on unrestricted funds of £35,699 (2022-2023: £12,173) and a surplus on restricted funds of £60,865 (2022-2023: £13,898).

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With the funding secured this year, the Charity was able to expand and deliver vital services to the communities and maintain the financial stability of the organisation. This demonstrates the Charity's commitment to driving sustainable business growth in challenging times.

Figure 5: Income and Expenditure: 2023-2024 and 2022-2023



6.2 Grants and Contract Income

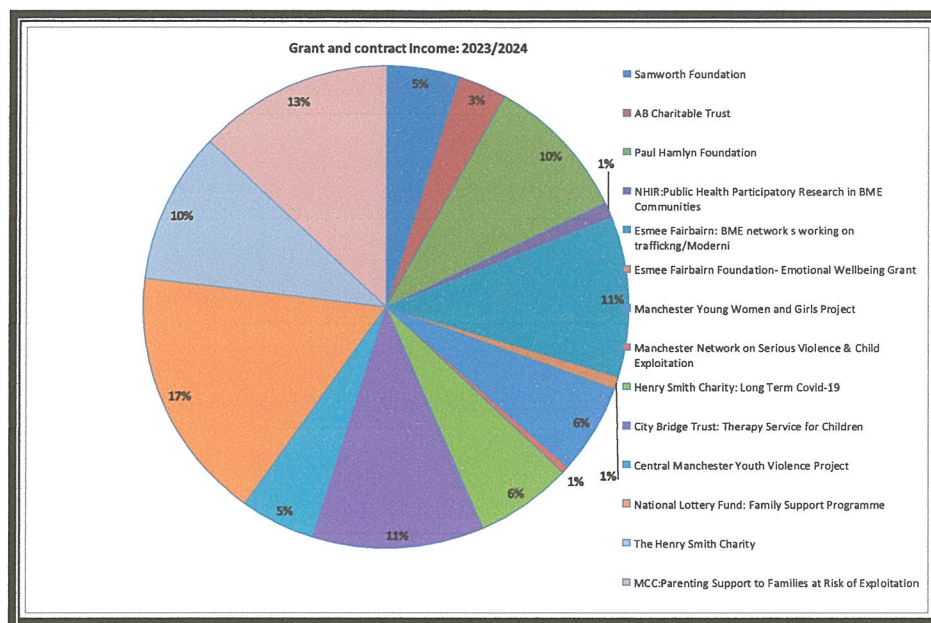
The principal funding source for the Charity continued to be from grants and contracts. Grants and contracts income increased this year by 16.45% to £615,541 (2022-2023: £528,591), which accounted for 71.54% (2022-2023: 70.35%) of the overall income of the Charity.

The increase in grant income was largely due to new funding secured this year from Paul Hamlyn Foundation, AB Charitable Trust and Samworth Foundation for the work of our Network, The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network as well as continuation funding from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. We also received continuation funding from The Henry Smith Charity for our Child Protection Community programme in Manchester.

Trustees are grateful to the following funders who supported the work of the Charity in the course of the financial year, ensuring our continued ability to deliver services – Henry Smith Charity, Samworth Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, AB Charitable Trust, Manchester City Council, Manchester Youth Justice Board, City Bridge Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund and the National Institute for Health and Care Research.

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Figure 6: Total Grant and Contract Income 2023-2024



7.

6.3 Fund Analysis

As at 30 June 2024, the Charity held total funds of £447,970 in reserves (2022-2023: £351,406). Our restricted funds carried forward at the end of the year and earmarked for projects specified by donors were £207,666 (2022-2023: £146,801) and our unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £240,304 (2022-2023: £204,605).

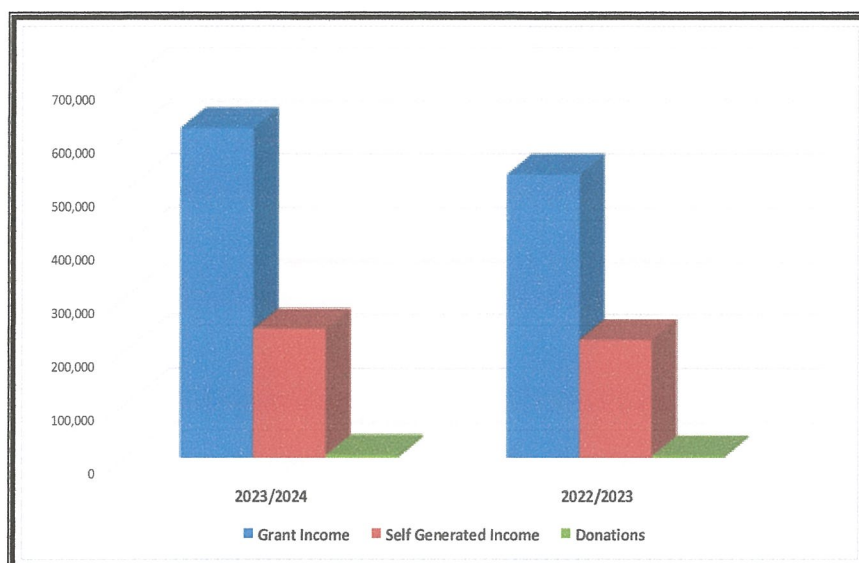
The total unrestricted funds were made up of designated funds of £21,807 (2022-2023: £21,807) and general unrestricted funds of £218,497 (2022-2023: £182,798). Our unrestricted funds continues to benefit from the growth and income generated from our child protection support service. These funds are needed to help finance the working capital required to operate the Charity and build reserves to a level that will increases our resilience and stability and mitigate any future risks. The trustees will continue to explore ways to manage operating costs efficiently and generate more income through promotion and fundraising.

On this basis, the Trustees are of the view that the Charity is a going concern because it continues to be able to meet its obligations as they fall due.

Note 13 to the financial statement shows a more detailed breakdown of the movement of funds, which includes a breakdown of restricted funds attributable to each funder.

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Figure 7: Grant and Contract Income Vs Self-Generated Income and Donations: 2023-2024 and 2022-2023



6.4 Self-Generated Income

The bar chart below demonstrates the activities the Charity engaged in to generate funds internally this year, moving forward to accomplish our objective to grow and increase the support we offer to children, young people and their families. Total funds generated internally from delivery of these activities this year were £238,034 (2022-2023: 219,532) and made up 28.5% of total income (2022-2023: 29.65%).

Referrals into our child protection service continues to increase steadily and we are seeing referrals from more local authorities across the country. We have also completed setting up our Psychotherapy Service for Children Returning Home from Foster Care and have built in a fee charging mechanism into the service. This strategy will enable the charity to generate regular income and build an element of sustainability into the service delivery when the current grant funding for the service expires.

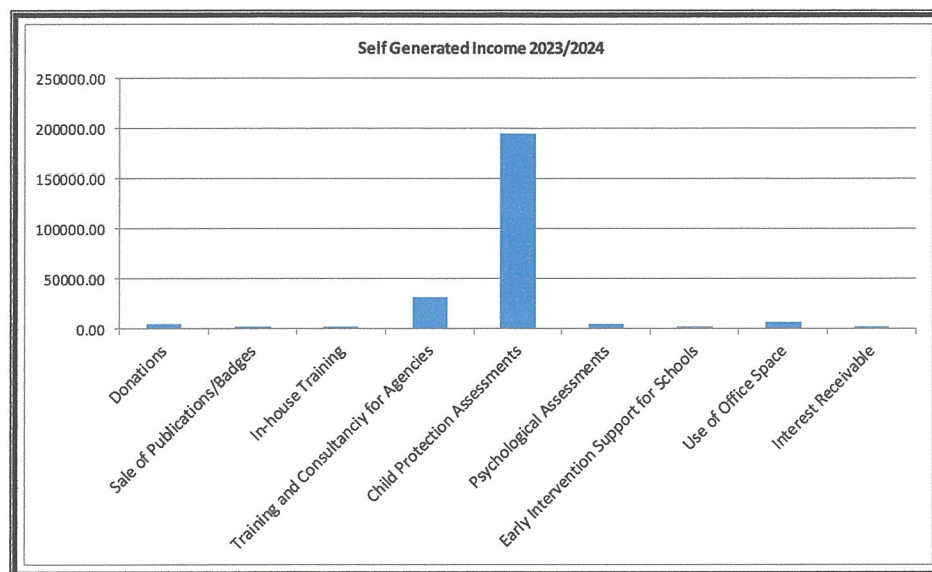
Trustees are sincerely grateful for the effort and contribution of our staff and volunteers in a variety and often innovative ways that has enable us to continue our work.

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Figure 8: Self-Generated Income: 2023-2024



6.5 Achieving Sustainability

The Charity's financial outlook remains bright as long as it can continue to capitalise on its specialism to develop and expand its range of income generating streams outside grant and contract funding. Self-generated funding must grow in line with grant funding to ensure the charity can remain sustainable. This is critical as the wider charity sector faces significant and endemic shortage of grant funding, impacting significantly on many small charities like AFRUCA.

7. Staffing, IT Infrastructure and Operations

We had fifteen full time staff members and one part time staff in post at the end of June 2024. Due to the growing staff strength and attendant challenges of managing a growing team across two office locations, we recruited a new Human Resource Advisor who started in January 2024. The Human Resource Advisor's role included helping to address the Charity's day to day staffing matters, support staff recruitment, vetting, induction and onboarding, appraisal, training and learning, disciplinary, staff policies and procedures etc.

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We continue to operate a hybrid work system with staff working from both the office and from home and rolled-out Zoom and of Microsoft Teams across the organisation to become our primary communications tool for staff. Our twice monthly staff meetings continued as before. Staff in different cohorts/teams hold weekly peer learning sessions to help work and share learning. Our social workers have additional practice supervision by an external clinical supervisor

In July 2023, we made changes to staff salaries and junior staff salaries were reviewed and increased, to support staff cope with the “cost of living” crisis, but also to enable us attract good quality staff. This meant staff members had salary increases based on their longevity and performance in post. We made similar changes to senior staff salaries in January 2024 to reflect going market rates for similar positions.

In December 2023, we held the first Well-Being Day for all staff. These practices are becoming more common and entrenched in other workplaces. We are also exploring additional benefits we can offer our staff to improve health and well-being and make AFRUCA a more attractive place to work.

We installed a new leased line in our Manchester office and our staff now have good internet connection to work with, hold meetings, communicate with other team members in London and deliver online services to our users. We have also installed CCTV for the Manchester office to strengthen security to deter unauthorised access.

8. Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the Charity’s reserves policy and determined that the minimum required level of unrestricted reserves or “free reserves” held are 25% of the current year’s expenditure. This level of unrestricted reserves is designed to ensure financial security that will enable the Charity cope with setbacks and provide working capital during the year particularly in times of funding hiatus when there is a lag between expenditure and associated income, or to take advantage of opportunities. The Charity’s policy remains continuing to increase the level of unrestricted reserves while taking a cautious approach to increasing expenditure, so as not to endanger our ability to deliver core services in a sustainable way.

9. Risk Management

The Trustees have established a register of the major strategic, business, financial and operational risks to which the Charity is exposed, and confirm that the control systems designed to respond to the risks were assessed and reviewed regularly during the year by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees believe that by monitoring the level of reserves, ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by regularly examining the operational and business risk faced by the Charity, they are satisfied that risk management is being undertaken appropriately and that effective systems and procedures are in place to mitigate those risks.

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10. Plans for the Future: Financial Year 2024-2025

We are very mindful of the difficult terrain in which many small charities like AFRUCA operate and the challenges many face in relation to sustainability. We are strengthening our efforts to increase our capacity to expand our income from both internally generated and donor funding to meet the needs of more children, young people and families in our communities. This calls for an aggressive approach to identifying and developing new work areas while strengthening current services.

11. Auditors

Goldwins Limited Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

12. Statement of the Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees Board which is supported by the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- and to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company.

As far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware.
- They have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.
- The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.
- This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees Board on 11/10/24 and signed on their behalf by:


Dr Sudhir Sethi
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of AFRUCA – Safeguarding Children (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 30 June 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 30 June 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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual 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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees 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 they 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.

Our 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 are set out below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charitable company's policies and procedures relating to:
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;

- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Anthony Epton
Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Goldwins Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

31 October 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**(incorporating Income and Expenditure Account & Statement of Total Realised Gains and Losses)****For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted General Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Designated Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM						
Donations	2	4,644	-	-	4,644	2,850
Grants and Contracts	2	-	-	615,541	615,541	528,591
Charitable Activities	3	238,034	-	-	238,034	219,532
Investment Income	4	2,177	-	-	2,177	397
TOTAL INCOME		244,855	-	615,541	860,396	751,370
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising Funds		20,861	-	-	20,861	18,563
Charitable Activities:	5	188,295	-	554,676	742,971	706,741
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		209,156	-	554,676	763,832	725,304
Net income		35,699	-	60,865	96,564	26,066
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		35,699	-	60,865	96,564	26,066
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	13					
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JULY 2023		182,798	21,807	146,801	351,406	325,340
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		218,497	21,807	207,666	447,970	351,406

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

AFRUC - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

BALANCE SHEET As at 30 June 2024

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		17,346		24,924
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	130,243		175,386	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		338,714		181,860	
		<u>468,957</u>		<u>357,246</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(38,333)		(30,764)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>430,624</u>		<u>326,482</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u><u>447,970</u></u>		<u><u>351,406</u></u>
FUNDS					
Restricted Funds	13		207,666		146,801
<u>Unrestricted Funds:</u>					
Designated Funds:	13	21,807		21,807	
General Unrestricted Funds:	13	<u>218,497</u>		<u>182,798</u>	
			<u>240,304</u>		<u>204,605</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>447,970</u></u>		<u><u>351,406</u></u>

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Board of Trustees on 11 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-

Dr Sudhir Sethi
Trustee



Company registration no. 04306536

The attached notes form part of the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	15		159,500		24,044
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Sale/ (purchase) of fixed assets			(2,646)		(19,905)
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities			(2,646)		(19,905)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			156,854		4,139
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			181,860		177,721
Cash and cash equivalents at the year end	16		<u>338,714</u>		<u>181,860</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below: The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and preceding year.

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 - effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Public benefit entity

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

Going concern

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

Income

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

Income is only deferred when: The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or for performance related grants, where these are received in advance of the performances or specific event to which they relate.

Interest receivable

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

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Designated funds have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for the purpose of purchasing a property for the charity in Manchester.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is considered all to relate to charitable activities and includes the costs of delivering services undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Allocation of support costs

Support and governance costs have been allocated between charitable activities based on estimated staff time. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 5.

Operating leases

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets with an expected life of more than one year are included at cost and depreciated over four years.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

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

Creditors and provisions

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

2. DONATIONS, GRANTS, CONTRACTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations	4,644	-	4,644	2,850
Grants and Contracts:				
Awards for All:				
Computer Coding for County Lines Trafficking Prevention	-	-	-	9,980
Manchester City Council:				
Early Help Parenting Support for Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage Families impacted by County Lines, Exploitation and Youth Violence	-	79,996	79,996	76,107
Manchester City Council:				
The Phoenix Project - Protecting Young Girls at Risk of Exploitation in	-	37,168	37,168	38,901
Manchester Youth Justice Board:				
Early Help Intervention on Youth Violence in Manchester	-	30,552	30,552	52,655
Manchester City Council:				
Network on Serious Violence & Child Exploitation	-	3,000	3,000	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation:				
The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network - to Support Community Organisations working on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery	-	66,000	66,000	66,000
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation:				
Emotional Wellbeing Grant	-	5,000	5,000	-
The Henry Smith Charity:				
Child Protection Support Programme for African Families in Gt Manchester	-	62,100	62,100	57,500
The Henry Smith Charity:				
Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities	-	39,400	39,400	39,700
City Bridge Trust:				
Culturally appropriate Therapy Service for Children being reunified with their birth Parents after a period in the care	-	70,635	70,635	9,865
National Lottery Fund:				
Safeguarding Black and Minority Ethnic Children Across London	-	104,990	104,990	104,911
Samworth Foundation:				
Core Funding for BASNET	-	30,000	30,000	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation:				
Modern Slavery/Migration EDI Policy and Research Programme	-	60,000	60,000	-
AB Charitable Trust:				
Modern Slavery/Migration EDI Policy and Research Programme	-	20,000	20,000	-
National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR):				
Public Health Participatory Research in BME Communities	-	6,700	6,700	-
Barnardo's:				
Evaluation of Requisite Parenting	-	-	-	6,632
Oxfam:				
"We move summit" to promote the BASNET Race EDI Action Plan	-	-	-	4,982
Modern Slavery PEC:				
EDI Research in Modern Slavery Project	-	-	-	37,753
Churchill Foundation:				
Residential capacity-building programme for Black/Minority Ethnic/Diaspora Anti-Trafficking Innovators from across the UK	-	-	-	23,605
	4,644	615,541	620,185	531,441

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 June 2024

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income from Service Delivery	238,034	-	238,034	219,532

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Interest receivable from: UK bank accounts	2,177	-	2,177	397
	<u>2,177</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,177</u>	<u>397</u>

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Cost of Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities £	Governance Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff Costs	20,197	542,397	11,530	11,021	585,145	551,915
Direct Project Costs	-	63,456	-	-	63,456	58,650
Premises Costs	-	71,671	-	-	71,671	69,312
IT and Communications Costs	-	22,380	-	-	22,380	19,945
Audit Costs	-	-	4,000	-	4,000	3,500
Other Costs	-	16,623	557	-	17,180	21,983
Total	<u>20,197</u>	<u>716,527</u>	<u>16,087</u>	<u>11,021</u>	<u>763,832</u>	<u>725,305</u>
Support Costs	270	10,751		(11,021)	-	-
Governance Costs	394	15,693	(16,087)		-	-
Total for the Year 2024	<u>20,861</u>	<u>742,971</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>763,832</u>	<u>725,305</u>
Total for the Year 2023	<u>18,563</u>	<u>706,741</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>725,304</u>

Of the total expenditure of £209,156 (2023- £210,606) was unrestricted expenditure, and £554,676 (2023 - £514,698) was restricted expenditure.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 June 2024

6. NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)

2024	2023
£	£

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

Audit fee	3,333	3,167
Depreciation- on owned assets	10,224	8,875

7. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Total Funds	Total Funds
2024	2023
£	£

Salary costs

Wages and salaries	514,173	482,829
Social security costs	47,664	46,514
Pension costs	23,308	22,573
	585,145	551,916

The average weekly number of staff on a head count basis was 18 (2023 - 16). The average number of staff on a full time equivalent basis was 17 (2023 - 15).

The total employee benefits including employer's pension and national insurance contributions of the two key management personnel were £134,762 (2023 - £127,142).

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

None of the trustees received any remuneration for acting as trustee (2023- the same), and none of the trustees received any payments for services rendered to the charity (2023 - the same).

During the year, no trustee was reimbursed out of pocket expenses (2023- Nil).

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2024 (2023 - none).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 June 2024

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures, fittings, and computers £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 July 2023	62,021	5,657	67,678
Additions	2,646	-	2,646
Disposals	(6,053)	(1,614)	(7,667)
At 30 June 2024	58,614	4,043	62,657
Depreciation			
At 1 July 2023	38,720	4,034	42,754
Charge for the year	9,703	521	10,224
On disposals	(6,053)	(1,614)	(7,667)
At 30 June 2024	42,370	2,941	45,311
Net book value			
At 1 July 2023	23,301	1,623	24,924
At 30 June 2024	16,244	1,102	17,346

11. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	106,729	157,468
Rent deposit	14,401	14,401
Prepayments	9,113	3,517
	<u>130,243</u>	<u>175,386</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	12,530	12,219
Social security and other taxes	15,287	10,836
Accruals	5,534	4,450
Other creditors	4,982	3,259
	<u>38,333</u>	<u>30,764</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

13. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought Forward £	Income & gains £	Expenditure & losses £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
The UK BME Anti-Slavery Network - to Support Community Organisations working on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery	42,797	66,000	(67,973)	-	40,824
Emotional Wellbeing Grant	-	5,000	(2,000)	-	3,000
Child Protection Support Programme for African Families in Gt. Manchester	267	62,100	(47,441)	-	14,926
Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities	9,982	39,400	(40,128)	-	9,254
Early Help Parenting Support for Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage Families impacted by County Lines, Exploitation and Youth Violence	12,875	79,996	(73,711)	-	19,160
The Phoenix Project - Protecting Young Girls at Risk of Exploitation in Manchester	-	37,168	(37,168)	-	-
Early Help Intervention on Youth Violence in Manchester	11,022	30,552	(32,449)	-	9,125
	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Network on Serious Violence & Child Exploitation					
Modern Slavery Community Engagement and Support Programme for Victims	6,654	-	(6,654)	-	-
Safeguarding Black and Ethnic Children Across London	55,021	104,990	(110,274)	-	49,737
Culturally appropriate Therapy Service for Children being re-united with their birth Parents after a period of Care	-	70,635	(49,235)	-	21,400
Evaluation of Requisite Parenting	3,841	-	(3,841)	-	-
EDI Research in Modern Slavery Project	4,342	-	(4,342)	-	-
Core Funding for BASNET	-	30,000	(19,005)	-	10,995
Modern Slavery/Migration EDI Policy and Research Programme	-	60,000	(36,352)	-	23,648
Modern Slavery/Migration EDI Policy and Research Programme	-	20,000	(14,403)	-	5,597
Public Health Participatory Research in BME Communities	-	6,700	(6,700)	-	-
	<u>146,801</u>	<u>615,541</u>	<u>(554,676)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>207,666</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Designated Funds	21,807	-	-	-	21,807
General Unrestricted Funds	182,798	244,855	(209,156)	-	218,497
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>204,605</u>	<u>244,855</u>	<u>(209,156)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240,304</u>
Total Funds	<u>351,406</u>	<u>860,396</u>	<u>(763,832)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>447,970</u>

Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds generated in the form of donations and grants to carry out the work of a specific project. The use of these funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of the appeal. Purposes of restricted funds are given alongside the names.

Designated funds have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for the purpose of purchasing a property for the charity in Manchester.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 June 2024

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,321	6,025	17,346
Net current assets	21,807	207,176	201,641	430,624
	<u>21,807</u>	<u>218,497</u>	<u>207,666</u>	<u>447,970</u>

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per statement of financial activities)	96,564	26,066
Depreciation	10,224	8,875
(increase)/decrease in debtors	45,143	(10,044)
increase/(decrease) in creditors	7,569	(853)
Net cash provided by / used in) operating activities	<u>159,500</u>	<u>24,044</u>

16. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 1 July 2023 £	Cash flows £	Other charges £	At 30 June 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	181,860	156,854	-	338,714
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>181,860</u>	<u>156,854</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>338,714</u>

17. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Annual commitment for operating leases, with respect to rent of office space, ending:-		
- Not later than 1 year	49,998	59,694
- Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	7,652	62,049
	<u>57,650</u>	<u>121,743</u>

18. LEGAL STATUS AND OTHER INFORMATION

AFRUC - Safeguarding Children is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England with registration number 4306536. Its registered office address is Unit 8, 290 Mare Street, London, E8 1HE. The accounts are presented in GBP rounded to £1. Each member is liable to contribute a sum not exceeding £1 in the event of the charity being wound up.

19. TAXATION

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.