

**WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

*(A company limited by guarantee)*

**REPORT AND UNAUDITED**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 MARCH 2024**

***Registered company number: - 04824324 (England and  
Wales)***

***Registered charity number: - 1101025***

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

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# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Legal and administrative information**

<b>Directors and Trustees</b>	Mrs E Crossley – Chairperson Mr R F H Minto – Treasurer Mrs K M Phillips Mrs G Binns (Resigned 28/07/2023) Miss L Larsen (Resigned 29/02/2024)
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Miss L Larsen (Appointed 01/03/2024)
<b>Working name</b>	The Liberty Centre
<b>Company registration number</b>	04824324 (England and Wales)
<b>Charity registration number</b>	1101025
<b>Registered office and principal charity address</b>	132 Sandy Lane Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 8LH
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Mr C Sawyer FCCA Sawyer Quine & Co Chartered Certified Accountants 202 Merlin Park Ringtail Road Burscough Ormskirk Lancashire L40 8JY
<b>Bankers</b>	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Drummond House (FF) Branch Customer Service Centre Drummond House 1 Redheughs Avenue Edinburgh EH12 9JN

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charitable company and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### **Governance structure**

#### *Governing document*

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 July 2003 and registered as a charity on 4 December 2003. The company is established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association; both dated 7 July 2003, as amended by Special Resolution dated 19 November 2003, 6 October 2005, 11 November 2009 and 19 August 2014. In the event of the charitable company being wound up the Trustees are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.00.

#### *Appointment of Trustees*

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as Trustees. Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are detailed on page 1, legal and administrative information.

Recruitment takes place both with targeted advertising and networking. Skills audits are conducted to identify the target population for recruitment, in order to ensure equality and a mixture of the necessary skills to govern the charitable company.

In the event of any vacancies new Trustees are elected from the membership of the charitable company at each Annual Meeting. Before standing for election anybody wishing to become a Trustee is interviewed by the Chairperson and the Chief Officer to ensure their suitability. Upon appointment all new Trustees must provide appropriate identification and sign on to become a company Director. Trustees must declare any conflicts of interest and are subject to criminal record checks.

All Trustees are required to serve for a period of three years before either retiring or offering themselves for re-election to the Board.

#### *Trustee induction and training*

New Trustees are supported through an induction process, they are provided with a substantial amount of written material to review, including a review of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and both financial and funding overviews. Each Trustee is issued with a Trustee Induction Pack that contains among other information, guidance on Trustee responsibilities, role descriptions, organisational structure, a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and appropriate literature for Trustees as published by the Charity Commission.

All Trustees are encouraged to participate in training and development, which enhances their understanding and capabilities in their role as a Trustee. This may take the form of informal training,

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **Governance structure (continued)**

#### *Trustee induction and training (continued)*

through discussion with the Chief Officer, other members of staff and other Trustees.

The organisation regularly receives information about external training courses arranged by a variety of organisations and details of these are kept in the Chief Officer's office. The Chief Officer may advise Trustees of particularly relevant courses at Board meetings, for example those which cover new or significantly changed areas of responsibility.

#### *Board functioning*

The Board of Trustees meets every other month or as needed throughout each financial year. This comprises of up to seven elected members with voting rights and up to seven nominated members without voting rights. In addition to the full committee, the Board may set up sub-committees for specific purposes, such as a Finance Sub-Committee. The full Board of Trustees will review the role and function of these sub-committees from time to time.

At the beginning of every meeting all Trustees and representatives are reminded of their obligation to declare an interest in any item and, if necessary, withdraw from further discussion and decision-making on that subject.

Decisions with implications for the organisation are brought to the Board by the Chief Officer, including organisational priorities, risk assessment issues, matters regarding significant organisational change, major initiatives and major policy changes or development.

#### *Membership*

Membership criteria have been set by the Board in keeping with the Articles of Association and the spirit of the charitable company's work. Any interested party can become a member. When an organisation applies for membership they are required to provide an outline of their aims and activities; membership would only be denied if the group did not support the aims of the charitable company and were patently involved in illegal or overtly political activity.

Membership of the charitable company is free. All members have voting rights at Annual and other general membership meetings.

#### *Risk management*

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charitable company may face and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

#### *Organisational structure*

Overall responsibility for policy and the direction of the charitable company rests with the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees have employed a Chief Officer and a team of staff to carry out the day-to-day activities of the

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **Governance structure (continued)**

#### *Organisational structure (continued)*

charitable company. To manage the charitable company effectively the Chief Officer has delegated authority for all operational, financial and human resource matters. Decisions on the day-to-day operation of the charitable company are taken by the Chief Officer. The Chief Officer is responsible to ensure that strategic and operational requirements and objectives are met and provides all operational and personnel management. All remaining staff members are employed at the refuge to help and to support and to offer advice and information to maltreated women and their children either staying at or who contact the refuge.

### **Objectives and activities**

The key objectives and activities of the charitable company are to relieve the distress and suffering by: -

- (i) Providing support for those women who have been victims or are likely to be victims of violence, including those who have suffered or are likely to suffer physical, emotional, sexual, financial harm or abuse;
- (ii) Providing support for those men who have been victims or are likely to be victims of violence, including those who have suffered or are likely to suffer physical, emotional, sexual, financial harm or abuse;
- (iii) Providing support for those children who have been victims or who are likely to be victims of violence, including those who have suffered or are likely to suffer physical, emotional, sexual harm or abuse;
- (iv) Providing hostel accommodation only to such women and their children and by any other such means as shall further the objects of the charitable company;
- (v) Assisting and encouraging such women and their children to identify their future needs, aspirations and intentions and to provide support; and
- (vi) The Liberty Centre will work with those people identified above including vulnerable families, empowering the lives of women, men and children to build confidence, self-esteem to improve and change their lives.

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance regarding public benefit and are content that the charitable company has met the requirements as a result of the objectives and activities described above.

### **Volunteers**

West Lancashire Women's Refuge Limited depends considerably on volunteers in helping the charitable company meet its objectives and to carry out its activities. Volunteers are supported by staff, with training, meetings and discussions held locally. Our thanks as always are given to all our volunteers who so freely give their time to enhance the work of West Lancashire Women's Refuge Limited.

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **Achievements and performance**

This year presented a range of interesting and successful challenges for The Liberty Centre. This report looks at our services, our organisation and reflects on our targets for the year and outlines opportunities for 2024 – 2025.

This report outlines in considerable detail the finances of the organisation and the opinion of our examiners. The Board have continued with support to projects, in addition to those with agreed funding sources and this is reflected in the financial section of this report.

We would like to thank all our funders, for recognising the importance of the services we provide, enabling us to continue delivering high quality services, benefitting service users, their families and the wider community.

#### **➤ *Services***

#### ***Successful provision***

We are happy to confirm that all our services continued to be made available and were well utilised during the year: -

- Safe Accommodation – Refuge and Eleanor House ('Move on house');
- Men's Outreach;
- Women's Outreach;
- Information Centre;
- Counselling;
- Group work;
- 24 – hour Helpline; and
- Healthy Relationships Project.

#### ***Changes***

Funding may be given to deliver specific projects which are time limited. Unfortunately, one of our projects came to an end in March 2024. The Lloyds Foundation helped us develop our Board, management structures and determine a new Business Plan.

#### ***Legacy***

All continuing projects are being assessed with future funding strategies being investigated. The Lloyds legacy has helped us recognise a new understanding of the organisation and develop a robust and challenging business plan.

#### **➤ *Organisation***

#### ***The Board***

The Board continued to meet using both traditional and Teams meetings. The Board changed from five Directors to three during the year following the appointment of Lisa Larsen to the Chief Officer post and

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

#### ***The Board (continued)***

the resignation of Gillian Binns

Recruitment initiatives are continuing to further strengthen the Board.

Our central office had major changes with the departure of our acting Chief Officer, acting Business Manager and Financial Controller. We would like to thank all our staff who have ensured the continued availability of the service and their support in introducing our revised management arrangements.

#### **➤ *Our Objectives 2023 – 2024***

As a Board we set the following challenges for the year: -

- Review financial and organisational policies, significant progress has been made;
- To finalise funding and legal requirements for the Moving on project, Eleanor House, discussions are ongoing;
- To review the Refuge Manager role, this is being finalised in the new management arrangements;
- To develop new funding streams, this has been significantly affected by staffing changes; and
- Board recruitment, this is an ongoing objective.

#### **➤ *Comments***

Feedback from our weekly group for women has been positive: -

- The group setting is welcome and friendly;
- I enjoy topics we discuss and activities we do;
- Staff are supportive and make me feel involved;
- I enjoy coming along to the groups;
- This session had a positive impact on me;
- I find the sessions useful;
- You get to socialise with other women, where you can talk freely and honestly; and
- It gets me out of the house.

We have consulted with service users about our group work and will look at future delivery.

#### **➤ *Conclusion***

From a successful, if challenging, year we retain a firm belief in the value of our services, a determination to respond to the support of our funders, continuing to maintain stringent financial and quality oversight with an ongoing programme to develop new opportunity to increase our services.



# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **Investment powers**

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charitable company has the power to make any investment, using the unrestricted general funds, which the Trustees see fit.

### **Financial review**

The principal funding sources for the charitable company are currently by way of grant and contract income from The Big Lottery, John Moores Foundation, Lancashire County Council, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Safenet Domestic Abuse Services and West Lancashire Borough Council. Funding was also received from Supporting People contract income, all from Lancashire County Council, together with Housing Benefit from West Lancashire Borough Council to cover the costs of the people staying at the refuge.

The Trustees would like to express their thanks to these bodies for their support during the financial year and also for their continuing support. However, as a result of increasing constraints on local authority expenditure the Trustees realise that for the charitable company to continue in operation it cannot be solely dependent on funding from the local authorities, and that the charitable company has to seek funding from a much broader group of agencies.

The expenditure in the year supported the key charitable objectives by enabling the refuge to provide safe and comfortable crisis accommodation to women and their children and the support and resource they need to make independent decisions about their future.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 11.

The charitable company's Balance Sheet as detailed on pages 12 and 13 shows a satisfactory position with net assets amounting to £312,324. This consists of restricted funds of £18,781 relating to specific projects, designated funds of £125,655 for specific future purposes as set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds and unrestricted general funds of £167,888 for the day-to-day general running of the charitable company.

### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees consider it prudent to attempt to maintain, as a minimum, unrestricted general funds (that is those funds not tied up as designated and restricted funds) at a level that equates to approximately twelve months expenditure. At this level the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the charitable company in the event of a significant drop in funding, and that this would provide them with sufficient funds to cover management and administration costs to respond to emergency applications for grants.

At present, unrestricted general funds, which amount to £167,888 as at 31 March 2024, do not reach this target level.

It is the Trustees policy, therefore, to build up funds to twelve months by means of annual surpluses and,

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **Reserves policy (continued)**

also, by adopting and maintaining a vigorous fundraising, publicity and marketing campaign to promote the objectives and activities of the charitable company.

The Trustees consider that the ongoing upkeep and refurbishment of both the exterior and interior of the three properties used by the charitable company to provide accommodation is of major importance. In view of this the Trustees feel that it is prudent to create and maintain a designated fund to cover these ongoing costs; the Trustees consider that £20,000 would be sufficient and that this fund should be maintained at this level at the end of each year.

The Trustees also consider that it is of paramount importance that the walk-in information centre based in Ormskirk remains open even though no funding is currently being received to support this project. In view of this the Trustees consider that it is prudent to create a designated fund which identifies the costs of the charitable company which relate to the walk-in information centre.

The Trustees have also designated £105,655; this fund identifies those funds that are not free funds as they represent the net book value of tangible fixed assets funded from general funds.

These policies are to be reviewed annually.

### **Future developments**

#### **➤ Opportunities for 2024 – 2025**

From our Strategic Plan we have identified over twenty-nine opportunities of which nine can be thought of as shorter term. To reflect changes and the sheer task involved we will initially focus on six areas. These are: -

- Obtaining quality assurance accreditation for our services;
- Creating better links between our services;
- Researching the need and potential of a children's service;
- Review our management and systems to ensure that they are robust;
- Ensure that our systems meet legal requirements; and
- Build a 'one team' culture that is collaborative and flexible.

### **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of West Lancashire Women's Refuge Limited for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities (continued)**

Company and charity law requires the 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 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 are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

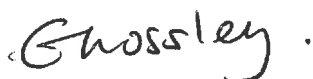
The Trustees are responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Independent Examiner**

Mr C Sawyer FCCA of Sawyer Quine & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants, has offered himself for re-appointment as Independent Examiner to the charitable company.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

### **ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD: -**



**Mrs E Crossley**  
**Chairperson**

Date: - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of West Lancashire Women's Refuge Limited**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 29.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's Trustees of the charitable company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

Since the charitable company's income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination, I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe: -

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- (3) The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Mr C Sawyer FCCA**  
**Sawyer Quine & Co**  
**Chartered Certified Accountants**  
202 Merlin Park  
Ringtail Road  
Burscough  
Ormskirk Lancashire L40 8JY



Date: - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Registered company number: -  
04824324 (England and Wales)

- 10 -

Registered charity number: -  
1101025

# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Income and expenditure	Note	Restricted funds £	Un - restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Income</b>					
Donations	3	-	22,004	22,004	10,376
Income from charitable activities: -					
- Grants and contracts for the provision of hostel accommodation, care, advice and information	4	259,181	36,025	295,206	584,506
- Residents fees for hostel accommodation and care	4	-	266,248	266,248	229,778
Income from investments: -					
- Interest receivable on bank deposits		-	<u>3,662</u>	<u>3,662</u>	<u>1,385</u>
<b>Total income</b>		<u><b>259,181</b></u>	<u><b>327,939</b></u>	<u><b>587,120</b></u>	<u><b>826,045</b></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	5	<u>266,590</u>	<u>352,909</u>	<u>619,499</u>	<u>743,093</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u><b>266,590</b></u>	<u><b>352,909</b></u>	<u><b>619,499</b></u>	<u><b>743,093</b></u>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources, net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds for the year</b>	6	<b>(7,409)</b>	<b>(24,970)</b>	<b>(32,379)</b>	<b>82,952</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds at 1 April 2023	16	<u>26,190</u>	<u>318,513</u>	<u>344,703</u>	<u>261,751</u>
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2024</b>	16	<u><b>18,781</b></u>	<u><b>293,543</b></u>	<u><b>312,324</b></u>	<u><b>344,703</b></u>

The Statement of Financial Activities contains all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	105,655	105,655
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	20,639	15,589
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>253,357</u>	<u>316,563</u>
		<u>273,996</u>	<u>332,152</u>
<b>Creditors: -</b>			
amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(67,327)</u>	<u>(93,104)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>206,669</u>	<u>239,048</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	17	<u><b>312,324</b></u>	<u><b>344,703</b></u>
<b>Funds</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>	16	18,781	26,190
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Designated funds	16	125,655	125,655
General funds	16	<u>167,888</u>	<u>192,858</u>
		<u>293,543</u>	<u>318,513</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	15, 16	<u><b>312,324</b></u>	<u><b>344,703</b></u>

For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees/Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

**WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024**

Approved by the Board of Directors on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and signed on their behalf.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD: -**



**Mr R F H Minto**  
**Treasurer**

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Operating (loss)/profit for the financial year	15	(32,379)	82,952
Adjustments for: -			
- Interest received		(3,662)	(1,385)
- (Increase) in trade and other receivables	11	(5,050)	(5,688)
- (Decrease) in trade and other payables	12	<u>(25,777)</u>	<u>(155,796)</u>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<u><b>(34,489)</b></u>	<u><b>(162,869)</b></u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest received		<u>3,662</u>	<u>1,385</u>
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<u><b>3,662</b></u>	<u><b>1,385</b></u>
<b>Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(63,206)</b>	<b>(78,532)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>316,563</u>	<u>395,095</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<u><b>253,357</b></u>	<u><b>316,563</b></u>
 <b>Analysis of changes in net debt</b>			
	At 1 April 2023 £	Cashflow £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>316,563</u>	<u>(63,206)</u>	<u>253,357</u>



# **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

## **Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **1.0 Statutory Information**

West Lancashire Women's Refuge Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on page 1, legal and administrative information.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

### **2.0 Accounting policies**

#### **2.1 Basis of preparation of accounts**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective 1 January 2015) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

#### **2.2 Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable;
- Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable;
- Income from residents fees is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable;
- Deferred income represents grants and funding received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received; and
- Investment income, comprising of interest on bank deposits, is accounted for on a receivable basis.

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 2.0 Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.3 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis. These estimates are based on staff time.

### 2.4 Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

### 2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Apart from land and buildings, all fixed assets for use by the charitable company are fully written off to resources expended in the year of purchase. Land and buildings are capitalised at cost, including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

It is the charitable company's policy to ensure that its land and buildings are maintained to a high standard by an ongoing maintenance programme, ensuring that estimated residual value exceeds net book amounts. As a consequence any element of depreciation would, in the opinion of the Trustees, be immaterial. No provision for depreciation of land and buildings has therefore been included in the accounts.

### 2.6 Fund accounting

Funds held by the charitable company are either: -

- **Restricted funds** – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes;
- **Designated funds** – these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects; and
- **Unrestricted general funds** – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

### Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

#### 2.0 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 2.7 Pension costs

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable for the year are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### 3.0 Income from donations

	Restricted funds £	Un - restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations				
- Individuals and organisations	=	<u>22,004</u>	<u>22,004</u>	<u>10,376</u>
	=	<u>22,004</u>	<u>22,004</u>	<u>10,376</u>

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 4.0 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Un - restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Grants and contracts for the provision of hostel accommodation, care, advice and information: -</b>				
The Albert Hunt Trust	-	-	-	10,000
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	44,155
The Big Lottery	150,014	-	150,014	136,668
The Clothworkers	-	-	-	30,000
Council for Voluntary Service West Lancashire	-	-	-	1,700
John Moores Foundation	-	6,667	6,667	10,000
Lancashire Community Foundation	-	-	-	78
Lancashire Contract Management Fund	-	-	-	2,397
Lancashire County Council	112,413	-	112,413	157,528
Lidl Community Fund	-	-	-	5,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	25,000	25,000	52,250
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	-	-	-	45,000
The Morrisons Foundation	-	-	-	24,800
Nationwide Charities Trust	-	-	-	30,960
Police and Crime Commissioner Fund	-	-	-	8,344
Safenet Domestic Abuse Services	34,758	-	34,758	75,378
Sainsbury's Helping Everyone Eat Better	-	-	-	1,500
The Toy Trust	-	-	-	1,500
West Lancashire Borough Council	-	4,358	4,358	11,230
West Lancashire Borough Council Household Support	-	-	-	5,000
	297,185	36,025	333,210	653,488
<b>Less: Deferred income</b>	<b>(38,004)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(38,004)</b>	<b>(68,982)</b>
	<b><u>259,181</u></b>	<b><u>36,025</u></b>	<b><u>295,206</u></b>	<b><u>584,506</u></b>

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

## 4.0 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	Restricted funds £	Un - restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Residents fees for hostel accommodation and care: -</b>				
Housing Benefit	-	168,159	168,159	158,202
Residents service charges	-	7,901	7,901	5,018
Supporting People contract income	-	<u>90,188</u>	<u>90,188</u>	<u>66,923</u>
	-	266,248	266,248	230,143
<b>Less: Deferred income</b>	-	-	-	<u>(365)</u>
	-	<u><b>266,248</b></u>	<u><b>266,248</b></u>	<u><b>229,778</b></u>

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 5.0 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Un - restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Provision of hostel accommodation, care, advice and information: -</b>				
Staff salaries and costs	228,551	170,353	398,904	390,188
Staff travel expenses	1,676	202	1,878	3,022
Rent	6,078	31,515	37,593	42,006
Rates (including water)	-	6,834	6,834	3,982
Heat and light	-	40,145	40,145	18,990
Insurance	-	6,161	6,161	5,908
Television costs	-	53	53	477
Telephones and internet costs	1,200	5,650	6,850	7,648
Printing, postage and stationery	492	4,638	5,130	4,926
Advertising	359	-	359	229
Computer and office equipment	3,764	24,668	28,432	48,099
Client and children's activities and welfare	401	18,695	19,096	15,960
Room hire	-	-	-	162
Sundry expenses	152	2,173	2,325	8,223
Repairs, renewals and refurbishment	13,413	-	13,413	138,956
Cleaning and waste disposal costs	-	3,597	3,597	4,041
Training and seminars	810	8,080	8,890	4,025
Counselling costs	-	6,430	6,430	4,800
Course delivery and raising awareness	-	332	332	-
Staff wellbeing event	-	-	-	700
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	681
Subscriptions and donations	240	3,267	3,507	1,032
	<u>257,136</u>	<u>332,793</u>	<u>589,929</u>	<u>704,055</u>

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 5.0 Expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

	Restricted funds £	Un - restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Managing and administering the charity: -</b>				
Staff salaries and costs	7,766	8,966	16,732	20,536
Staff travel expenses	88	11	99	159
Accountancy fees	200	2,440	2,640	2,640
Bookkeeping fees	1,400	-	1,400	-
Professional and legal fees	-	7,680	7,680	15,435
Staff pension charges	-	518	518	518
Bank charges	-	441	441	(301)
Credit card charges	-	60	60	30
Bank loan interest	-	-	-	21
	<u>9,454</u>	<u>20,116</u>	<u>29,570</u>	<u>39,038</u>
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<u><b>266,590</b></u>	<u><b>352,909</b></u>	<u><b>619,499</b></u>	<u><b>743,093</b></u>

### 6.0 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging: -

	2024 £	2023 £
Directors emoluments and other benefits etc (Note 7.0)	-	-
Staff salaries and costs (Note 7.0)	415,636	410,724
Accountancy fees		
Independent examination	2,640	2,640
Other services	720	540
Hire of land and buildings	37,593	42,006

## **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

### **Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### **7.0 Staff costs and numbers**

The staff costs during the year were as follows: -

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff salaries	383,763	379,616
Social security costs	24,805	24,218
Staff pensions	<u>7,068</u>	<u>6,890</u>
	<b><u>415,636</u></b>	<b><u>410,724</u></b>

No employee received emoluments, as defined for taxation purposes, amounting to more than £60,000 in either period.

The average number of full-time equivalent employees employed by the charitable company during the year was made up as follows: -

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Hostel accommodation and care	14	15
Advice and information	3	3
Management and administration	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	<b><u>19</u></b>	<b><u>21</u></b>

#### **8.0 Related party transactions and Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise and did not receive any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind, nor reimbursed expenses in either period.

#### **9.0 Taxation**

West Lancashire Women's Refuge Limited has charitable status, registered number 1101025, and is not subject to taxation by HM Revenue and Customs.



# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 10.0 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
As at 1 April 2023		
and as at 31 March 2024	<u>105,655</u>	<u>105,655</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
As at 31 March 2024	<u>105,655</u>	<u>105,655</u>
As at 31 March 2023	<u>105,655</u>	<u>105,655</u>

The charitable company had capital commitments at 31 March 2024 amounting to £Nil (2023: - £Nil).

### 11.0 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	18,019	13,004
Prepayments	<u>2,620</u>	<u>2,585</u>
	<u>20,639</u>	<u>15,589</u>

### 12.0 Creditors: - amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	13,870	10,194
Other taxes and PAYE	5,459	6,212
Accrued expenses	9,994	7,351
Deferred income (Note 13.0)	<u>38,004</u>	<u>69,347</u>
	<u>67,327</u>	<u>93,104</u>

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 13.0 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance at 1 April 2023	69,347	221,596
Amount deferred in year	38,004	69,347
Released to Statement of Financial Activities	<u>(69,347)</u>	<u>(221,596)</u>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b><u>38,004</u></b>	<b><u>69,347</u></b>

Deferred income comprises funding which the donor has specified must be used in future accounting periods.

### 14.0 Legal status of the charitable company

The charitable company is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £10.00.

### 15.0 Reserves

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Balance at 1 April 2023	344,703	261,751
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year	<u>(32,379)</u>	<u>82,952</u>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b><u>312,324</u></b>	<b><u>344,703</u></b>

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 16.0 Statement of funds

#### Analysis of movements in funds – current year

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>161 Adaption and Refuge</i>					
<i>Refurbishment fund</i>	26,190	-	(12,613)	-	13,577
<i>Big Lottery fund</i>	-	112,246	(107,042)	-	5,204
<i>Client Welfare and Support fund</i>	-	368	(368)	-	-
<i>Healthy Relationships fund</i>	-	5,812	(5,812)	-	-
<i>Outreach Worker fund</i>	-	28,710	(28,710)	-	-
<i>Staff Salaries fund</i>	-	<u>112,045</u>	<u>(112,045)</u>	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b><u>26,190</u></b>	<b><u>259,181</u></b>	<b><u>(266,590)</u></b>	<b>=</b>	<b><u>18,781</u></b>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
<i>Fixed Assets fund</i>	105,655	-	-	-	105,655
<i>Information Centre fund</i>	-	-	(21,840)	21,840	-
<i>Refurbishment fund</i>	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
<b>General funds</b>	<u>192,858</u>	<u>327,939</u>	<u>(331,069)</u>	<u>(21,840)</u>	<u>167,888</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b><u>318,513</u></b>	<b><u>327,939</u></b>	<b><u>(352,909)</u></b>	<b>=</b>	<b><u>293,543</u></b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b><u>344,703</u></b>	<b><u>587,120</u></b>	<b><u>(619,499)</u></b>	<b>=</b>	<b><u>312,324</u></b>

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 16.0 Statement of funds (continued)

#### Analysis of movements in funds – previous year

	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>161 Adaption and Refuge</i>					
<i>Refurbishment fund</i>	-	161,510	(135,320)	-	26,190
<i>Big Lottery fund</i>	2,368	99,957	(102,325)	-	-
<i>Children's Activities and Toy fund</i>	-	1,500	(1,615)	115	-
<i>Children and Young People's</i>					
<i>Advocate fund</i>	6,244	44,155	(50,399)	-	-
<i>Client Welfare and Support fund</i>	-	4,900	(4,900)	-	-
<i>Complex Needs fund</i>	-	71,746	(71,746)	-	-
<i>Counselling Programme fund</i>	-	8,344	(8,344)	-	-
<i>Garden Refurbishment fund</i>	-	78	(78)	-	-
<i>Healthy Eating fund</i>	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
<i>Healthy Relationships fund</i>	-	26,084	(26,084)	-	-
<i>Household Support fund</i>	-	12,054	(12,054)	-	-
<i>Outreach Worker fund</i>	-	37,003	(37,003)	-	-
<i>Safe House fund</i>	-	936	(936)	-	-
<i>Staff Salaries fund</i>	-	68,097	(68,097)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b><u>8,612</u></b>	<b><u>537,864</u></b>	<b><u>(520,401)</u></b>	<b><u>115</u></b>	<b><u>26,190</u></b>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
<i>Fixed Assets fund</i>	105,655	-	-	-	105,655
<i>Information Centre fund</i>	-	-	(19,727)	19,727	-
<i>Refurbishment fund</i>	20,000	-	(9,338)	9,338	20,000
<b>General funds</b>	<b><u>127,484</u></b>	<b><u>288,181</u></b>	<b><u>(193,627)</u></b>	<b><u>(29,180)</u></b>	<b><u>192,858</u></b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b><u>253,139</u></b>	<b><u>288,181</u></b>	<b><u>(222,692)</u></b>	<b><u>(115)</u></b>	<b><u>318,513</u></b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b><u>261,751</u></b>	<b><u>826,045</u></b>	<b><u>(743,093)</u></b>	<b><u>=</u></b>	<b><u>344,703</u></b>

*161 Adaption and Refuge Refurbishment fund* – This represents funding received from The Albert Hunt Trust, The Clothworkers, Lancashire County Council, Lidl Community Fund, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, The Morrisons Foundation and Nationwide Charities Trust. Funding has been used to allow work on refurbishing the property owned by the charitable company and to convert this into a 'halfway house', therefore allowing the charitable

## WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

### Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

#### 16.0 Statement of funds (continued)

company to offer more supported accommodation to families staying at the refuge. In addition, funding has been used to refurbish the properties used by the charitable company to provide safe and secure refuge for women and their children seeking refuge and support. The balance on the fund will be used to fund future refurbishment works.

**Big Lottery fund** – This represents funding received from the Big Lottery to fund the 'West Lancashire Domestic Abuse Service'; funding has been used to fund staff salaries and associated costs together with related running costs. The balance on the fund will be used to fund the future costs of the project.

**Client Welfare and Support fund** – This represents funding received from Lancashire County Council; funding has been used for the purchase of groceries and food vouchers and other day-to-day necessities to help and provide support for women and their children staying at the refuge.

**Healthy Relationships fund** – This represents funding received from Safenet Domestic Abuse Services; funding has been used to fund staff salaries and associated costs together with related running costs. Working with local schools this has added to the provision of services to children and young people whilst raising awareness of the many aspects of domestic abuse.

**Outreach Worker fund** – This represents funding received from Safenet Domestic Abuse Services; funding has been used to fund staff salaries and associated costs together with related running costs and to provide specialist services to victims of domestic abuse in the community.

**Staff Salaries fund** – This represents funding received from Lancashire County Council; funding has been used to fund staff salaries and associated costs.

**Fixed assets fund** – This fund identifies those funds that are not free funds as they represent the net book value of tangible fixed assets funded from general funds.

**Information Centre fund** – The Trustees consider that it is of paramount importance that the walk-in information centre based in Ormskirk remains open even though no funding is currently being received to support this project. This fund identifies the costs of the charitable company which relate to the walk-in centre. The deficit incurred on this fund has been transferred to unrestricted general funds at the year end.

**Refurbishment fund** – The Trustees consider that the ongoing and long-term upkeep and refurbishment of both the exterior and interior of the three properties used by the charitable company to provide accommodation is of major importance. In view of this the Trustees feel that it is prudent to create a designated fund to cover these ongoing costs; the Trustees consider that £20,000 would be sufficient.

**General funds** – These represent the free funds of the charitable company and are not designated for any particular purpose.

# WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 17.0 Analysis of net assets between funds

#### Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by: -</b>				
Fixed assets	-	105,655	-	105,655
Current assets	61,415	20,000	192,581	273,996
Creditors	<u>(42,634)</u>	=	<u>(24,693)</u>	<u>(67,327)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>18,781</u></b>	<b><u>125,655</u></b>	<b><u>167,888</u></b>	<b><u>312,324</u></b>

#### Previous year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by: -</b>				
Fixed assets	-	105,655	-	105,655
Current assets	76,989	20,000	235,163	332,152
Creditors	<u>(50,799)</u>	=	<u>(42,305)</u>	<u>(93,104)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>26,190</u></b>	<b><u>125,655</u></b>	<b><u>192,858</u></b>	<b><u>344,703</u></b>

### 18.0 Guarantees and other financial commitments

The amounts payable in the next year in respect of operating leases are shown below, analysed according to the expiry date of the leases: -

	2024		2023	
	Land and buildings £	Other £	Land and buildings £	Other £
Expiring: -				
Within one year	<u>28,219</u>	=	<u>28,219</u>	=
	<b><u>28,219</u></b>	=	<b><u>28,219</u></b>	=

## **WEST LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S REFUGE LIMITED**

### **Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### **19.0 Pension commitments**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the members of staff. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company, being invested with insurance companies. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Financial Activities represent the contributions payable by the charitable company in the year.

At the balance sheet date unpaid contributions of £2,335 (2023: - £1,142) were due to the fund. They are included in other creditors.

#### **20.0 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company was controlled throughout the year by the Directors and Trustees holding office.