

WIRRAL WOMEN & CHILDRENS' AID

England & Wales · Charity number 1106399

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [05250366](#)

Registered 2004-10-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Po Box 14
Birkenhead
CH41 6PX

Phone 0151 643 9766

Email helen@wwaca.org

Website www.wwaca.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND AND NORTH WALES (THE AREA OF BENEFIT) BY THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF POVERTY, SICKNESS AND DISTRESS OF ALL PERSONS INCLUSIVE OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE SUFFERED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MALTREATMENT OR ABUSE.

Activities: We provide a place of safety for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We will provide information, support and guidance to resident and non-resident families. We empower women to enable them to begin a new life with their children in a non-violent environment. We are a trauma informed service that uses Cognitive Analytical Therapy to aid in the recovery of women and children affected by DA.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WIRRAL, MERSEYSIDE.
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£792,461	£727,474	£405,938	14
2024-03-31	£698,689	£661,760	£340,951	12
2023-03-31	£654,543	£616,435	£304,022	13
2022-03-31	£502,559	£554,910	£265,914	12
2021-03-31	£575,971	£561,579	£318,265	13

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MEG MARSHALL	Chair	2016-05-09
ALISON JO BEECH		
CAROLE MARY ROSS		
DIANE ROSEMARY BENNETT		
Iris Batman		2024-09-12
Katherine Rigby		2018-04-01
Lee Parry		2022-06-01

WIRRAL WOMEN & CHILDRENS' AID

England & Wales - Charity number 1106399

Accounts

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2025

Registered Charity Number : 1106399

Company Number : 05250366

**HAILWOOD & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Charity registration number 1106399
Company number 05250366

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Chair

M Marshall

Treasurer

D Bennett

Directors

M Marshall

D Bennett

A Beech

V Beech

C Ross

K Rigby

L Parry

I Batman

Appointed 12/09/24

PATRONS

Dr Katy Kidd

Dame Lorna Muirhead DCVO DBE

Stephen R Ross

Samantha Hillas KC

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

P O Box 14
Birkenhead
CH41 6PX

REGISTERED OFFICE

392-394 Hoylake Road
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 6DF

AUDITORS

Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
392-394 Hoylake Road
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 6DF

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Chair of Trustees' Report
for the year ending 31 March 2025

This year has been one of significant growth, reflection, and resilience across all areas of our work. We are proud to have supported an increasing number of individuals and families through our services, while continuing to adapt to the evolving needs of our community.

Growth and Reach

Our eight Dispersed Houses have accommodated 17 adults and 13 children over the year. In addition, our Outreach Workers have engaged with an impressive 105 adults and their families. These figures highlight the ever-growing demand for our services and the strength of our response.

Within our Refuge, we have supported 35 women and 43 children, and a further 25 women and 18 children have accessed our emergency bed provision.

For more detail, I encourage you to read both the Outreach Workers' Report and the Project Workers' Report, which give deeper insights into our work and the complex needs of the families we support.

Staff Achievements and Development

We continue to invest in our team, whose professionalism and dedication remain a cornerstone of our success. Notable achievements this year include:

- A staff member achieving AAT Level 2 in Accounting
- Our Family Link Worker receiving a Student Award for their Dissertation while completing their degree

Staff continue to build their knowledge and apply trauma-informed, reflective practice, with a particular focus on coercive control and the diverse, complex needs of the families we serve.

Sharing and Expertise

Our team has extended its impact by delivering training to other agencies, including a well-received course on the Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children.

This work is grounded in the understanding, reflected in the Children's Commissioner's Report, that children are not just witnesses to abuse but victims in their own right.

Our Family Link Workers' Report offers further insight into the valuable support they provide to both children and their parents.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Chair of Trustees' Report
for the year ending 31 March 2025

Finances and Sustainability

We remain financially resilient thanks to a combination of:

- Grants and donations
- Income from our well-run shop

These income streams allow us to maintain a high standard of care and service delivery.

Governance and Leadership

We welcomed a new trustee, Iris, who brings valuable experience in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Our team continues to work with exceptional cohesion and shared purpose, supported by strong leadership from our Head of Service, who has skillfully balanced the needs of our families with the demands of managing personnel and organisational change.

Looking Ahead

We are committed to building on this year's successes by focusing on:

- Listening to families and acting on their feedback
- Strengthening collaboration with staff to respond to emerging needs
- Feeding into our Business Plan to align strategy with lived experience
- Embedding trauma-informed practice even more deeply, especially in work with children
- Identifying and addressing any barriers to delivering domestic abuse training to all professionals working with children
- Ensuring trustee meetings include space for strategic development

Partnerships and Purpose

Our collaborative work with partners—including Wirral Methodist Housing and Wirral Local Authority—remains vital to achieving our mission. Alongside our amazing volunteers, we will continue to support every person seeking a life free from abuse, with compassion, hope, and professionalism.

Thank you to every member of our team for your unwavering commitment. You each bring unique skills, and together, we are stronger.

Meg Marshall
Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Introduction

Since 1981, we have provided a place of safety for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. As an independent Wirral-based charity, we work closely with our local communities to offer a trusted, comprehensive support pathway for both local families and those forced to flee from other areas due to risk. We help families reclaim their futures with dignity, strength and hope.

Aims and objectives for the public benefit

The Board of Trustees confirms that it has had full regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in shaping our objectives and future plans.

Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is to provide a supportive family environment so that those who are overcoming the trauma of domestic abuse and seeking a place of safety, do not have to face the hardest of times alone. By doing this, we are helping to empower women and children so that they can start a new life of independence, free from harm and fear.

We do this by providing high quality accommodation and intensive, tailored and trauma-informed support to women aged 18 and over (and their children) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse, to enable them to reach their potential and improve their health and wellbeing, including the addressing of complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse issues, whilst always promoting recovery and resilience.

We will work to engage and educate the wider community to challenge perceptions around domestic abuse. We will continue to be an innovative refuge, to provide a safe, therapeutic and trauma informed place for women and children, within which they will be supported and educated to enable them to break the cycles around domestic abuse.

We provide a supportive environment for staff who are valued, respected and protected.

Our values: P and the 3 R's

- Protect
- Relate
- Regulate
- Reflect

These values guide us daily—helping us build lasting, trusting relationships with residents, staff, and partners, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Aims and objectives for the public benefit

Since we began in 1981, we have accommodated 3,641 women and 6,350 children and young people within the Refuge (excluding use of the emergency bed space), all of whom have endured domestic abuse. While our primary focus remains women and children affected by domestic abuse living on the Wirral, we also respond to high-risk referrals from further afield. Whilst the Refuge continues to be a female only accommodation space, due to the funding under the Domestic Abuse Act, we are now able to support anyone fleeing domestic abuse through our outreach and dispersed accommodation options. We value inclusivity and welcome people from all groups in society including those with disabilities and complex needs. We provide interpreters, adaptations and any other specialist support required to meet their needs.

Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers

The registered name of the Charity is Wirral Women and Children's Aid, charity number 1106399, company number 525036.

All Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 1, along with details of the registered office and the charity's professional advisers

Constitution and Organisation

The Charity was established in 1981 as The Women's Refuge and later renamed to Wirral Women and Children's Aid (WWACA) to reflect our vital work with children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. The company was registered with the Charity Commission on 21 October 2004 and is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its memorandum and articles of association, incorporated on 5 October 2004.

The Management Committee meet at least six times per year, with delegated authority given to the Head of Service for operational decisions. Subcommittees are formed as needed.

The Management Committee appoints new trustees, following an open process to ensure the board maintains a diverse and skilled team. Information packs are available from the Business Manager.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Risk management

We take risk seriously. The Management Committee oversees a robust system of internal controls, budgeting, and quarterly performance reviews. Risks—whether from current operations or future plans—are regularly reviewed and mitigated with evolving policies and practices.

Financial Review

Results

Total incoming resources were £792,461 whilst total resources expended were £727,474 resulting in a net surplus for the year of £64,987. Total funds at 31 March 2025 were £405,938, comprising £34,754 restricted funds, £71,101 in fixed assets and the balance is the charity's general fund of £300,083.

Principal policies

The Management Committee expect to maintain a position whereby the combination of fund-raising, fees charged for accommodation and grants received are at least equal to operational expenses.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been developed following the guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and applies to the free reserves, excluding restricted and designated funds. Details of the various funds are given in notes 9 and 11 to the accounts.

Reserves are held for three distinct reasons: working capital reserve sufficient to avoid financial difficulties in the event that income is significantly reduced in the short term; cessation reserve to enable costs in a winding up situation to be covered i.e. redundancy costs; and opportunity reserve for new initiatives.

Our policy is for working capital reserves to be maintained at between 3 and 6 months of operating expenditure (between £110,000 and £220,000), costs of cessation are estimated at £58,750 and we currently have no opportunity reserve.

The actual free reserves at 31 March 2025 (being unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets and excluding the designated Hardship Fund) were £279,935, comfortably covering both working capital and cessation reserves.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial Review

Funding

Supporting People provide a grant which, together with the rental income from Housing Benefits, comprises the core funding of the Refuge. It is based on the maximum capacity of 12 women and up to 28 children being accommodated at any one time. This combined income funds the basic staff costs and day to day running costs. There are staff on site 24/7.

Since the end of the two-year pilot project, which provided dispersed accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and specialist floating support for those placed in temporary accommodation, we have continued to provide this service through a combination of Intensive Housing Management funding and ongoing funding from the local authority for the specialist floating support.

Our two part-time Family Link workers have been substantially funded by Wirral Borough Council to meet its obligations under new Domestic Abuse legislation for work with children fleeing domestic abuse or who have experienced domestic abuse. We also received a grant from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity towards the work in schools. The balance of the funding for the Family Link activities comes from donations – this includes enriching experiences for Refuge residents and ex-residents and families in dispersed and temporary accommodation such as trips to Chester Zoo, Ottersghoul, cinema, circus and park trips with picnic and games.

Other funding sources during the year included NatWest Circle Fund, Tesco Stronger Starts and Women's Aid Federation England (WAFE) which enable us to provide additional support in specific circumstances as determined by the grant conditions.

Achievements and Performance 2024-2025

Trauma informed approach

Our trauma-informed practices have continued to evolve with the support of ongoing TISKUK supervision, working on ensuring that our assessments, support planning and interventions do not retraumatise those we work with. This is grounded in reflective practice which continues to enhance staff understanding of trauma, emotional regulation and resilience.

We have also been working on the further development of our Domestic Abuse Toolkit, ensuring it is more trauma-informed and focused on recovery. Our aim is to provide meaningful support to women and children without re-triggering past trauma. The revised toolkit will support staff in adopting practices that promote safety, understanding, and healing throughout the family's journey in refuge

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and Performance 2024-2025

Numbers supported

During 2024-2025 we accommodated 35 women and 43 children within the Refuge with an occupancy rate of 97.4%. In addition, we utilised our emergency bedspace for 186 nights, accommodating a further 17 women and 13 children in the Refuge to ensure their immediate safety. We were subsequently able to move 6 of these families into a room in the Refuge and 1 family into our dispersed accommodation. In total we provided 7,025 accommodation nights during the year across the Refuge, emergency bed spaces and dispersed properties.

During the year, our specialist floating support team dealt with 105 cases who had been placed in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation by the local authority due to a lack of alternative suitable accommodation locally. The team also supported 25 adults and 33 children who were housed in one of our 8 dispersed properties. The dispersed accommodation allows us to support men fleeing abuse as well as those women and children for whom the Refuge is not an appropriate sanctuary. It also allows us to manage risk at the Refuge effectively, moving a lower risk person into the dispersed accommodation and freeing up space in the Refuge for a woman at higher risk. Over the year, the team supported 9 men housed in either temporary accommodation or in a dispersed property, 15 families were moved from temporary accommodation to a dispersed property and there were 17 move-on's from the dispersed properties – all supported throughout their journey by the Outreach team.

There were 360 referrals made to all the services provided by WWACA, of which we were unable to support 64 cases due to a lack of capacity at the time of referral. We supported women with increasingly complex needs, including those experiencing multiple forms of abuse, mental health challenges, insecure immigration status and poverty. There has been an increase in women accessing our services who are foreign nationals, often residing in the UK on spousal visas. Many of these women either do not speak English or do not have English as their first language and in 11 of our referrals an interpreter was required. We have invested in translation headphones which is a developing solution and we have good working relationships with local organisations who support these families including Asylum Link Liverpool.

Other services provided:

- Our Family Link Workers continue to provide holistic, trauma-informed support to children and families affected by domestic abuse both in Refuge and in schools. The work covers direct one-to-one support and group interventions as well as professional training delivery and multi-agency collaboration

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and Performance 2024-2025

Other services provided:

- A weekly group for older children (11+) is a new initiative offering peer connection through pamper sessions, movie nights, games and positive affirmation work and baking and cooking.
- There were a total of 55 children and young people supported during the year (35 girls and 20 boys) with outreach work undertaken across 15 schools. The team are flexible in a crisis and offer responsive support such as engaging with a child refusing to attend school and providing wraparound support. A confidential and trauma-informed space is provided to explore emotions, process experiences and develop regulation techniques using talking, art, sand play and story-telling.
- Part of Wirral Council's Level 2 Domestic Abuse training, delivered to professionals across sectors, covering trauma-informed working and with a dedicated section on *The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children*.
- 24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline
- Our website www.wwaca.org explains what we do, provides contact information and shows our facilities.

Since the year end

Funding for both the part time Family Link workers and the specialist floating support workers has been extended for a further 12 months.

We have secured a three year grant from the P H Holt Foundation Action on Abuse programme which will cover additional Family Link worker hours from 1 September 2025 (they will be working full time) and trauma-informed therapy and counselling services for women, children and staff in refuge.

We have been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity for days out for the women and children over the next two years.

We have successfully supported women who had insecure immigration status when they came into our service with two families securing Indefinite Leave to Remain and one family with no recourse to public funds being placed in one of the dispersed properties and funded by Wirral Social Care while their case is processed.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Future plans

To enhance our service delivery, the staff team came up with the idea of each member developing a personal specialism which would complement the existing support provided. Suggestions include Immigration, Children's Advocacy, Art Therapy, Social work. This is supported by the Trustees and provision has been made in the 2025/26 budget for the associated training and resource costs.

To make some short videos with the women and children in the Refuge around coming into refuge, what to expect and safety planning with children.

Conclusion

Sharing the feedback from a social worker who returned for the Christmas party after spending a week at the Refuge as part of her placement with the DA Hub provides a heart-warming testimony to how we achieve our mission and vision:

"Seeing them all having a lovely party and experiencing what every child should have the right to expect at Christmas: magic, time, kindness and the joy of spending time with those who love them most in the world. I never had that for so many of my Christmas's and I gave up believing that it was possible with my home life being so fractured and rooted in abuse and control masqueraded as routine and discipline. Seeing what you ladies do at refuge and what you create together as a strong united team is literally life affirming and hope inducing. I used to pray for that sense of warmth, hope and peace.

You've taught me so much at refuge. The importance of teamwork and 'togetherness' and what it means to really care about women. Centering their voices, and the critical difference that specialist support and intervention can make. Thank you for allowing me in again, and giving me redemption; erasing my negative past experiences of existing in a domestically abusive household and replacing them with feelings of warmth, joy and the knowledge and reassurance that you can find yourself in desperate intractable situations and still find happiness in places like yours."

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

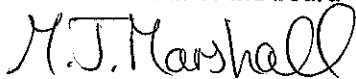
Conclusion

Our service has continued to expand as we now have more options than ever before to support anyone (women or men, with or without children) fleeing domestic abuse as reflected in the 7,025 nights of accommodation provided in the year within the Refuge and the 8 dispersed properties (2024 – 6,051 nights).

We are incredibly grateful to our donors, volunteers and friends whose generosity makes our work possible. With your continued support, we will stand firm in our mission to **Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect**, offering a future full of possibility and peace for women and children in crisis.

This report has been prepared in accordance with special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

11 September 2025

On behalf of the board

Meg Marshall - Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES****for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's examiner is unaware;
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

On behalf of the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report**to the members of Wirral Women & Children's Aid**

I report to the trustees of Wirral Women and Children's Aid on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise of the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the 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 company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. 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 statement

Since the company's gross 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 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with these records; or
- 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
- 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.

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.



Adam French B.Eng FCA
Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

11 September 2025
Moreton, Wirral

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Income		781,943	691,243
Interest and investment income		10,518	7,446
Total income		<u>792,461</u>	<u>698,689</u>
Expenditure		723,501	658,154
Depreciation		3,973	3,606
Total expenditure		<u>727,474</u>	<u>661,760</u>
Net income for the year	10	<u><u>64,987</u></u>	<u><u>36,929</u></u>

Movements in reserves are shown in note 9.

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial periods.

There are no recognised gains and losses in the year ended 31 March 2025 or the year ended 31 March 2024 other than the surplus for each year.

Total income comprises £643,360 for unrestricted funds and £149,101 for restricted funds. A detailed analysis of income by source is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 15 which together with the notes to the accounts on pages 17 to 25, provides full information on the movement during the year on all the funds.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Income from:					
Donations		42,037	-	42,037	34,425
Other trading activities		48,580	-	48,580	44,812
Investment income		10,518	-	10,518	7,446
Charitable activities		542,225	149,101	691,326	612,006
Total income	2	643,360	149,101	792,461	698,689
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	3	449,598	233,459	683,057	619,282
Raising funds	4	44,417	-	44,417	42,478
Total expenditure		494,015	233,459	727,474	661,760
Net incoming resources before transfers		149,345	(84,358)	64,987	36,929
Transfers between funds	9	(18,173)	18,173	-	-
Net movement in funds		131,172	(66,185)	64,987	36,929
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	9	240,012	100,939	340,951	304,022
Total funds carried forward	9	371,184	34,754	405,938	340,951

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

BALANCE SHEET

As At 31 March 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		71,101		69,900
Current assets					
Debtors	7	36,814		37,286	
Cash at bank and in hand		384,639		278,919	
		<u>421,453</u>		<u>316,205</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(86,616)</u>		<u>(45,154)</u>	
Net current assets			334,837		271,051
Net assets	11		<u>405,938</u>		<u>340,951</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds	9		371,184		240,012
Restricted income funds	9		34,754		100,939
			<u>405,938</u>		<u>340,951</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 14 to 25 were approved by the Trustees on 11 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

M Marshall - Chair

D Bennett - Treasurer

Company Number : 05250366

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules and comply with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 but does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

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

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The company has no share capital.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

General funds comprise funds which represent accumulated surpluses and deficits in the Statement of Financial Activities, after transfers to/from the designated funds.

The purposes and uses of all funds are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Income

All donations, sundry income and rental income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants are recognised in the period to which they relate, and are allocated to either the restricted fund they are intended for, or to unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

The cost headings comprise expenditure, including staff costs, directly attributable to the organisation's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Improvements to property	1% of Cost
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	15% of Net Book Value
Office equipment	15% of Net Book Value
Computers	33.33% of Net Book Value
Play equipment	15% of Net Book Value

All significant assets are reviewed annually for impairment and provision made where considered necessary.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
2 Income				
Donations	42,037	-	42,037	34,425
Interest receivable	10,518	-	10,518	7,446
Fundraising trading	48,580	-	48,580	44,812
Grants receivable	-	149,101	149,101	161,803
Rental income	539,232	-	539,232	449,545
Income from other operating activities	2,993	-	2,993	658
	<u>643,360</u>	<u>149,101</u>	<u>792,461</u>	<u>698,689</u>
3 Charitable activities				
Salaries and related costs	286,853	119,137	405,990	389,892
Rent and rates	47,101	44,373	91,474	78,483
Light and heat	14,946	3,062	18,008	17,277
Insurance	4,029	1,771	5,800	5,492
Sundry expenses	12,008	15,244	27,252	27,739
Grant expenditure	-	45,416	45,416	41,907
Training costs	10,293	2,770	13,063	1,603
Repairs and maintenance	28,975	710	29,685	10,298
Rent arrears written off	2,889	-	2,889	4,294
Management fees	18,408	-	18,408	15,060
Printing and stationery	3,674	-	3,674	3,307
Telephone and postage	4,105	-	4,105	4,115
Travel and car expenses	4,050	659	4,709	5,222
Bank charges	320	-	320	310
Legal and professional fees	2,224	317	2,541	5,137
Accountancy fees	5,750	-	5,750	5,540
Depreciation: Property improvements	686	-	686	686
Depreciation: Furniture, fixtures and fittings	1,234	-	1,234	1,284
Depreciation: Play equipment	978	-	978	582
Depreciation: Office equipment	169	-	169	198
Depreciation: Computer equipment	906	-	906	856
	<u>449,598</u>	<u>233,459</u>	<u>683,057</u>	<u>619,282</u>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
4 Raising funds				
Salaries and wages	27,991	-	27,991	26,590
Rent and rates	8,500	-	8,500	8,500
Light and heat	1,394	-	1,394	1,082
Insurance	1,037	-	1,037	999
Repairs and maintenance	4,191	-	4,191	4,353
Printing, postage and stationery	-	-	-	1
Telephone	935	-	935	634
Sundry expenses	369	-	369	319
	<u>44,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,417</u>	<u>42,478</u>

5 Salaries and wages	2025 No	2024 No
Average number of full time equivalent employees	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
Staff costs for the above:	£	£
Wages and salaries	393,966	379,121
Employers' national insurance	31,240	28,908
Employers' pension	8,775	8,453
	<u>433,981</u>	<u>416,482</u>

There were no employees earning a salary in excess of £60,000 in either year.

The trustees received no remuneration or expenses in either year.

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Property improvements £	Furniture fixtures & fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Play equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
1 April 2024	68,552	40,271	3,708	9,689	10,296	132,516
Additions	-	950	-	1,008	3,216	5,174
Disposals	-	-	-	(5,825)	(5,427)	(11,252)
31 March 2025	68,552	41,221	3,708	4,872	8,085	126,438
Depreciation						
1 April 2024	12,094	32,992	2,583	7,952	6,995	62,616
Charge for year	686	1,234	169	906	978	3,973
Disposals	-	-	-	(5,825)	(5,427)	(11,252)
31 March 2025	12,780	34,226	2,752	3,033	2,546	55,337
Net book amount						
31 March 2025	55,772	6,995	956	1,839	5,539	71,101
31 March 2024	56,458	7,279	1,125	1,737	3,301	69,900

	2025 £	2024 £
7 Debtors		
Rent and service charges receivable	18,336	11,581
Sundry debtors and prepayments	18,478	25,705
	36,814	37,286

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Creditors due within one year			2025	2024
			£	£
PAYE and national insurance			7,813	7,795
Sundry creditors and accruals			78,803	37,359
			<u>86,616</u>	<u>45,154</u>
9 Funds				
	Balance			Balance
	at 1 April	Incoming	Outgoing	at 31 March
	2024	resources	resources	2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
P H Holt Foundation	185	-	185	-
Claude Ballard	2,340	-	855	1,485
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	95,582	91,254	155,562	31,274
WAFE Emergency Fund	1,790	2,150	3,940	-
Family Link Activities	-	50,697	68,870	18,173
Other funds	1,042	5,000	4,047	1,995
	<u>100,939</u>	<u>149,101</u>	<u>233,459</u>	<u>34,754</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	84,194	593,780	448,549	41,780
Charity Shop	65,721	48,580	44,417	(61,154)
Hardship Fund	20,197	1,000	1,049	-
Capital Fund	69,900	-	-	1,201
	<u>240,012</u>	<u>643,360</u>	<u>494,015</u>	<u>(18,173)</u>
	<u><u>240,012</u></u>	<u><u>643,360</u></u>	<u><u>494,015</u></u>	<u><u>(18,173)</u></u>
			<u>18,173</u>	<u>371,184</u>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2025****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted fund - Claude Ballard**

We received a grant of £2,970 from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity in September 2023 for the cost of training sessions for our staff to allow them to maintain their accreditation in Trauma and Mental Health for the next three years. A further £855 was spent this year leaving a balance of £1,485 to cover the training sessions to August 2026.

Restricted fund - Dispersed Accommodation and Floating Support/Outreach Fund

As previously reported, we signed agreements with Wirral Borough Council as its preferred partner for the delivery of both a Domestic Abuse specialist floating support service and a Domestic Abuse dispersed accommodation scheme for a two year period which commenced on 1 April 2022. At the expiration of the pilot scheme, WWACA was asked to continue providing these services and we received a further 6 months grant for the accommodation scheme and then transferred these properties to Intensive Housing Management with effect from 1 October 2024. We also received a further 12 months funding for the floating support service.

We now have 8 dispersed properties across Wirral and there have been 17 move-ons in the year. A total of 2,575 accommodation nights were provided during the year in the dispersed properties to 25 adults (22 women and 3 men) and 33 children. This included 4 families who moved out of the refuge and into a dispersed property.

The floating support service provided by our outreach workers is not tied to any specific unit of accommodation. During the year there were 105 cases supported in temporary accommodation by the outreach workers in addition to those supported in the dispersed properties.

There remains a balance on this restricted fund at the year end which will be spent on the delivery of the specialist domestic abuse floating support and dispersed properties in the coming year in accordance with the terms of the funding.

Restricted fund - WAFE Advocacy Fund

During the year we applied to Women's Aid Federation England for grants to help two individual residents with specific costs. The amount of funding available in each round is limited and different criteria apply each time so we prioritise the cases submitted.

The grants received in March 2024 were spent in April 2024.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2025****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted Fund - Family Link Activities**

Family Link activities were previously classified under Unrestricted Funds as there was no statutory funding and the work that was undertaken over many years with children and young people (and their mothers) was covered by the generous donations received, our reserves and any other grants applied for.

This year, Wirral Borough Council identified WWACA as its preferred partner to meet its obligations under new Domestic Abuse legislation for the delivery of two Family Link workers who work within the Refuge and community working with children fleeing domestic abuse or who have experienced domestic abuse. The grant of £48,297 was for 12 months to 31 March 2025 and is classified as a Restricted Fund.

The service works with children using neuroscientific techniques, such as PACE, to improve and help with those who are: unable to attend school, have a fight/flight/freeze response, poor school performance, risk taking behaviours, are unable to connect with their emotions, have a heightened fear, panic/grief system due to it being repeatedly activated, getting into fights and/or becoming withdrawn. The children and those surrounding them will learn how to protect, regulate and reflect.

The qualitative outcome will be children are happier, feel safe, have their care and play seeking systems activated, be able to perform better in school and be able to engage educationally and socially in a way they have not been able to before. This will in turn have profound effect as they move into adulthood, help to break the repeating cycle of abuse and improve their economic circumstances.

A grant of £2,400 was received from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity towards the work in schools. Both this grant and the Wirral Borough Council grant did not fully cover the cost of all the Family Link activities and the deficit of £18,173 has been covered by donations received which are included in unrestricted general funds.

The funding from Wirral Borough Council has been renewed for the year ending 31 March 2026 enabling this essential work to continue.

Charity Shop

Our shop in Upton Road, Moreton is open 5 days per week and generated a turnover of £48,580 and a surplus of £4,163 this year.

Since the shop opened for trading on 3 June 2014, a total of £61,154 has been transferred from the charity shop bank account to the Refuge bank account. These transfers have not been reflected in the analysis of the designated funds until this year.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

9 Funds (continued)

Hardship Fund

This is a designated fund to be used at the discretion of the Management Committee. It has been used to cover the housing costs of women whose circumstances prevent them from claiming full state benefits and to provide short term financial support where required.

During the year £1,049 of the Hardship Fund has been used in respect of one woman, leaving a balance in the fund at the year end of £20,148.

Capital Fund

This is a fund, designated by the trustees, which represents the net book value of fixed assets.

10 Income and expenditure account

	£
1 April 2024	340,951
Surplus for the year	64,987
	405,938
31 March 2025	405,938

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted Funds			
Claude Ballard	-	1,485	1,485
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	-	31,274	31,274
Other Funds	-	1,995	1,995
	<u>-</u>	<u>34,754</u>	<u>34,754</u>
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	-	271,205	271,205
Charity Shop	-	8,730	8,730
Hardship Fund	-	20,148	20,148
Capital Fund	71,101	-	71,101
	<u>71,101</u>	<u>300,083</u>	<u>371,184</u>
Unrestricted Funds	<u>71,101</u>	<u>300,083</u>	<u>371,184</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>71,101</u></u>	<u><u>334,837</u></u>	<u><u>405,938</u></u>

12 Related parties

There were no related party transactions during the year.

13 Financial Commitments

At 31 March 2025 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Expiry date:		
Within one year	-	7,792
Between one and five years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,792</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,792</u></u>

WIRRAL WOMEN & CHILDRENS' AID

England & Wales - Charity number 1106399

Accounts

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2024

Registered Charity Number : 1106399

Company Number : 05250366

**HAILWOOD & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Charity registration number 1106399

Company number 05250366

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Chair

M Marshall

Treasurer

D Bennett

Directors

M Marshall

D Bennett

A Beech

V Beech

C Ross

K Rigby

A Birchall

Resigned 02/05/2024

L Parry

PATRONS

Dr Katy Kidd

Dame Lorna Muirhead DCVO DBE

Stephen R Ross

Samantha Hillas KC

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

P O Box 14

Birkenhead

CH41 6PX

REGISTERED OFFICE

392-394 Hoylake Road

Moreton

Wirral

CH46 6DF

AUDITORS

Hailwood & Co.

Chartered Accountants

392-394 Hoylake Road

Moreton

Wirral

CH46 6DF

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Chair of Trustees' Report
for the year ending 31 March 2024

Attitudes which enable and excuse domestic abuse are still worryingly prevalent in the UK as highlighted in Women's Aid's 'Come together Campaign'. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains endemic in our society.

Women's Aid's recent publication 'Influencers and Attitudes: How will the next generation understand Domestic Abuse?' discovered that 61% of children and young people said they were unsure, or did not know, where to go for support, if affected by domestic abuse.

Tragically, the work of WWACA remains critical.

This year we have expanded our service to include six dispersed housing units which are ably supported by members of our team.

During the last twelve months, our service has accommodated thirty four women and forty five children in the Refuge. In addition, the emergency bed space was occupied for 274 nights, supporting a further twenty four women and fourteen children. This takes our occupancy rate to 99%.

The team has answered two hundred and seventeen telephone calls from women and professionals seeking refuge space. A further two hundred and seventy five calls were from individuals requesting advice and guidance.

The staff have also supported one hundred and forty ex residents who called on our helpline.

Sadly, we were unable to accommodate one hundred and forty one women for whom we received referrals. However, we were able to redirect requests to other forms of support.

One of our longest serving patrons, The Right Honourable The Lord Field of Birkenhead, sadly died this year. Frank was a staunch and vocal supporter of our work; his influence and character are greatly missed by individuals and our wider community.

Achievements and Performance

As ever, our achievements have been many and varied during the last twelve months. They include:

- Continued outreach work with children and young people in schools.
- Continuous supervision for all staff from TISUK (Trauma Informed Services UK.)
- Enrichment activities for all families, from swimming to places of cultural interest.
- Establishing and managing dispersed housing units.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Chair of Trustees' Report
for the year ending 31 March 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

- Working with the local authority on a two year pilot project to offer dispersed accommodation.
- Continuing to be a link in the community via our charity shop which also raises a consistently positive revenue.
- With the help of our landlord, Wirral Methodist Housing Association, we continue to enhance and maintain the best possible environment for our families.

Future Plans

Our detailed Business Plan and subsequent action plan, give more details of our priorities which include:

- Evaluating the Pilot Project for dispersed housing.
- Continuing our focus on preventative work with children and young people.
- Continuing to explore sources of funding.
- Continuing to develop and induct our staff, trustees and volunteers.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of WWACA. We have received an incredible £34K from individuals, churches, community groups, businesses and trusts over the year.

The commitment of so many people, means that hundreds of adults and children are able to start new lives without violence.

Meg Marshall

Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Introduction

Since 1981, we have provided a place of safety for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We are an independent Wirral based charity with close partnership links with our local communities to provide a comprehensive, trusted pathway of support to local families.

Aims and objectives for the public benefit

The Board of Trustees confirms that it has referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the organisation's aims and objectives, and in formulating future plans.

Our Mission and Vision

It is our mission to provide a supportive family environment so that those who are overcoming the trauma of domestic abuse and seeking a place of safety, do not have to face the hardest of times alone.

By doing this, we are helping to empower women and children so that they can start a new life of independence, free from harm and fear.

We do this by providing high quality accommodation and intensive support to women aged 16 and over and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to enable them to reach their potential and improve the health and wellbeing of women, children and staff, including the addressing of complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse issues.

We will work to engage and educate the wider community to challenge perceptions around domestic abuse. We will continue to be an innovative refuge, to provide a safe, therapeutic and trauma informed place for women and children, within which they will be supported and educated to enable them to break the cycles around domestic abuse.

We provide a supportive environment for staff who are valued, respected and protected.

Our values: P and the 3 R's

- Protect
- Relate
- Regulate
- Reflect

Our values help us to respond in tough situations. We need values to forge lasting relationships with those around us, including residents, staff and stakeholders. Values are important because they act as a set of guidelines for the events we encounter in life.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Aims and objectives for the public benefit (continued)

Since we began in 1981, we have accommodated 3,606 women and 6,307 children and young people, all of whom have endured domestic abuse. Whilst our priority is to support women and children affected by domestic abuse living on the Wirral, we also have some flexibility to support women from other areas who have to flee due to high-risk circumstances. Whilst the Refuge continues to be a female only accommodation space, due to the funding under the Domestic Abuse Act, we are now able to support anyone fleeing domestic abuse through outreach and our dispersed properties. We value inclusivity and welcome people from all groups in society including those with disabilities and complex needs. We provide interpreters, adaptations and any other specialist support required to meet their needs.

Details of the charity, its Trustees and Advisers

The registered name of the Charity is Wirral Women and Children's Aid, charity number 1106399, company number 525036.

All Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 1, along with details of the registered office and the charity's professional advisers

Constitution and Organisation

The Charity was established in 1981 as The Women's Refuge and later changed its name to Wirral Women and Children's Aid to reflect the work done with children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. The company was registered with the Charity Commission on 21 October 2004 and is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its memorandum and articles of association, incorporated on 5 October 2004.

The Management Committee meet at least six times per year with other sub committees set up to consider and report back to the Management Committee as required. Day to day operational decisions are delegated to the Head of Service.

The Management Committee appoints all new trustees, based on selection criteria which ensure that collectively it maintains a broad range of relevant skills and experience. Nominations are sought from interested organisations and individuals. An application pack is available on request from the Business Manager.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Risk management

The Management Committee has overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity. However, such a system can provide only reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against errors and fraud. The charity operates a comprehensive budgeting process which is approved by the Management Committee. Reports of actual financial receipts against budget are made to the Management Committee at the end of each quarter, including linking financial performance with resource and activity levels.

The charity has risk management policies and procedures throughout, in which risks arising from the existing operations and strategic developments are identified and evaluated. All major risks to which the charity is exposed have been reviewed and the systems implemented to mitigate these risks are continually being developed or enhanced.

Financial Review

Results

Total incoming resources were £698,689 whilst total resources expended were £661,760 resulting in a net surplus for the year of £36,929. Total funds at 31 March 2024 were £340,951 of which £100,939 are restricted funds, £69,900 represents fixed assets and the balance is the charity's general fund of £170,112.

Principal policies

The Management Committee expect to maintain a position whereby the combination of fund-raising, fees charged for accommodation and grants received are at least equal to operational expenses.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been developed following the guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and applies to the free reserves, excluding restricted and designated funds. Details of the various funds are given in notes 9 and 11 to the accounts.

Reserves are held for three distinct reasons: working capital reserve sufficient to avoid financial difficulties in the event that income is significantly reduced in the short term; cessation reserve to enable costs in a winding up situation to be covered i.e. redundancy costs; and opportunity reserve for new initiatives.

Our policy is for working capital reserves to be maintained at between 3 and 6 months of operating expenditure (between £110,000 and £220,000), costs of cessation are estimated at £46,800 and we currently have no opportunity reserve.

The actual free reserves at 31 March 2024 (being unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets and excluding the designated Hardship Fund) were £149,915 which is just below our target figure for working capital and cessation reserves.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Financial Review (continued)

Funding

Supporting People provide a grant which, together with the rental income from Housing Benefits, comprises the core funding of the Refuge. It is based on the maximum capacity of 12 women and up to 28 children being accommodated at any one time. This combined income funds the basic staff costs and day to day running costs. There are staff on site 24/7. The children's costs are not covered by the Supporting People grant or Housing benefits so we are dependent on charitable fundraising, donations and applications for specific grants.

A significant proportion of our donations income is used for our Family Link work. Fun activities are organised such as swimming and messy play which provide excellent opportunities for attachment games and confidence building for mothers. Trips out provide memorable experiences that families cherish for a long time. Donations income has also enabled us to arrange professional counselling sessions for some residents and has been used to top-up the Hardship Fund which is used to support residents when they do not have access to benefits or are working and which results in a shortfall in their rent.

We have sourced some grants from independent organisations which help with the costs of the work in schools undertaken by our Family Link workers.

We continue to work in partnership with the Local Authority and Wirral Methodist Housing Association (WMHA) developing a service which offers dispersed accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and specialist floating support for those placed in temporary accommodation. This is a two year pilot project and we have reviewed the outcomes to date with the funders and are discussing how this service can be continued in the future.

Achievements and Performance 2023-2024

Numbers supported

During 2023-2024 we supported and accommodated 34 women and 45 children within the Refuge with an occupancy rate of 99%. In addition, we utilised our emergency bedspace for 274 nights, accommodating a further 24 women and 14 children in the Refuge to ensure their immediate safety. We were subsequently able to move 6 of these families into a room in the Refuge and 3 families into our dispersed accommodation. In total we provided 6,051 accommodation nights during the year across the Refuge, emergency bed spaces and dispersed properties.

The majority of the families were from the Wirral but 12 were from out of area and one from outside the UK. We were unable to accommodate 141 women for whom we received referrals, mostly due to lack of space in either the Refuge (including our emergency bedspace) or the dispersed properties at the time of referral. However, we have strong links with partner agencies and other refuges across the country and were able to assist in finding alternative safe accommodation.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and Performance 2023-2024 (continued)

During the year, our specialist floating support dealt with 75 cases who had been placed in bed and breakfast accommodation by the local authority due to a lack of alternative suitable accommodation locally. The dispersed accommodation allows us to potentially accommodate men fleeing abuse as well as those women and children for whom the Refuge is not an appropriate sanctuary. It also allows us to manage risk effectively, moving a lower risk person into the dispersed accommodation and freeing up space in the Refuge for a woman at higher risk.

There were 305 individuals who received support from our service in 2023-24. These covered 294 women and children, 6 men and 5 from the LGBTQI+ community. Within this data, 190 of the cases had specialist characteristics which include drug and alcohol needs, mental health, physical disabilities, offending history and BAME. These additional complexities are managed by the staff team using our trauma-informed practices, addressing the unique needs of individuals with tailored approaches.

During the year, we had two women in the Refuge, one with a child, who did not have recourse to public funds when they arrived. We were able to support these women, with the help of interpreters where necessary, to successfully apply for MDVAC/domestic violence concessions whilst their immigration application was applied for. They now have successfully moved on from Refuge accommodation to live independently.

24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline

Our Domestic Abuse Helpline, which is answered 24 hours a day, took over 2,250 calls in the year. Calls included 217 calls from women or professionals searching for refuge space and 275 requesting advice or guidance or just a chat and 140 from ex-residents whom we continue to support.

Trauma informed approach

We have continued to develop our trauma informed practice with ongoing supervision from TISKUK, which is enhancing the support provided to families, helping us to meet their individual needs and prevent re-traumatisation. The supervision also supports our staff in managing the vicarious trauma associated with their daily working environment. Staff have completed "Systemic Practice" training which aligns the trauma-informed practices adopted by the local authority with the aim of all services working cohesively to provide consistent care to mutual clients.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and Performance 2023-2024 (continued)

Other services provided:

- Our Family Link Workers provide specialist support and coordinate a range of activities and therapies and support children experiencing domestic abuse in Refuge and via outreach. They work with the mums as well as the children to encourage consistency and help the mums understand how to respond to signs of trauma. Programmes delivered include: An attachment programme - 'Mummy and Me', Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs, Drawing and Talking[®] and therapeutic sensory play, using our purpose built sensory area in the playroom.
- Our Family Link Workers also deliver outreach work and this year worked with 17 children and young people in 4 different schools who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse and who are referred by their school, social worker, family member or other professional. Connection is also maintained with previous outreach children through check-in letters, accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes for responses, reassuring children that they are still thought about and have not been forgotten.
- Delivering Level 2 Domestic Abuse training for the local authority, covering trauma-informed working and working with children who have experienced domestic abuse.
- Our website www.wwaca.org explains what we do, provides contact information and shows our facilities.

Since the year end

Funding has been secured for two move-on properties (in addition to the six dispersed properties) which have been provided by WMHA and have already been occupied following decoration, furnishing and installation of CCTV. Having eight properties provides more flexibility to manage the high-risk cases in Refuge, especially with the ongoing housing shortage, so families who need Refuge can access safe accommodation. For the first time, we have been able to accommodate men who have experienced domestic abuse, moving them out of B&B's and into our dispersed or move-on properties.

We have received a further 12 months funding for the specialist floating support workers which is an extension of the pilot project so that we can continue to support individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse who are housed in either temporary accommodation or the dispersed and move-on properties. One of these staff has started her IDVA (Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate) training with Safe Lives which includes improving safety planning for families in the community.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Since the year end (continued)

We will be able to continue the work with children who have experienced domestic abuse, particularly the work in schools but also in the Refuge, as the salary costs of the two Family Link workers has been funded for the next year by the local authority.

We have had some success in sourcing other funding including from NatWest Circle Fund (£6,000 over 3 years) and from WAFE's Future Fund.

Future plans

The two year pilot project for the dispersed accommodation is due to complete later this year. It has been a success and has enabled us to bring new high-risk cases into Refuge whilst continuing to provide some support to those women and their families who are ready to move towards independent living in the community. We have applied for IHM (Intensive Housing Management) funding for both the dispersed and move-on properties to enable this work to continue.

We will be working with the Home Office and Immigration Services to secure settled status for families at risk. Since the year end, we have had three families who do not have right to remain status and are involved in asylum claims and have been victims of domestic abuse. These families have recourse to public funds whilst their immigration claims are ongoing but there is a severe lack of capacity for solicitors dealing with these cases.

We are planning a refurbishment of the garden and outside play area at the Refuge. Access to safe outside space is much appreciated by our residents and has been used for barbeques and pizza nights as well as play and general relaxation. We also need to replace the Jungle Gym which is loved by the children and extremely well used and we will be launching an appeal for this on our social media.

Conclusion

Our service has seen a significant expansion this year due to the pilot project coming fully on stream and we now have more options than ever before to support anyone (women or men, with or without children) fleeing domestic abuse as reflected in the 6,051 nights of accommodation provided in the year within the Refuge and in dispersed properties. This will continue to increase with the addition of the move-on properties since the year end.

Our Refuge continues to stand as a beacon of hope for countless women who have sought solace from the trauma of domestic violence and abuse. We are proud that our Refuge is a place of safety, warmth and understanding where the voices of survivors are not only heard but empowered to rise above adversity.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Conclusion (continued)

Our staff report that the trauma-informed training and ongoing supervision has been invaluable, deepening their understanding of the complexities of trauma and enabling them to respond more empathetically and effectively to all our families. Our trauma-informed practices are now deeply embedded in the organisation's ethos, have enhanced our credibility with educational and other professionals, ensuring that we deliver support in a compassionate way.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous donors, friends, and volunteers whose unwavering support has enabled us to continue providing vital resources to those in need. Your contributions have directly impacted lives and we thank you.

Our refuge stands resolute in its mission to Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect and to support and uplift women, to empower them with the tools to rebuild their lives.

This report has been prepared in accordance with special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

12 September 2024

Meg Marshall - Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES****for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's examiner is unaware;
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

On behalf of the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report

to the members of Wirral Women & Children's Aid

I report to the trustees of Wirral Women and Children's Aid on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise of the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the 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 company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. 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 statement

Since the company's gross 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 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with these records; or
- 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
- 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.

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.

12 September 2024
Moreton, Wirral

Adam French B.Eng FCA
Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Income		691,243	652,626
Interest and investment income		7,446	1,917
Total income		<u>698,689</u>	<u>654,543</u>
Expenditure		658,154	613,969
Depreciation		3,606	2,466
Total expenditure		<u>661,760</u>	<u>616,435</u>
Net income for the year	10	<u><u>36,929</u></u>	<u><u>38,108</u></u>

Movements in reserves are shown in note 9.

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial periods.

There are no recognised gains and losses in the year ended 31 March 2024 or the year ended 31 March 2023 other than the surplus for each year.

Total income comprises £546,886 for unrestricted funds and £151,803 for restricted funds. A detailed analysis of income by source is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 15 which together with the notes to the accounts on pages 17 to 25, provides full information on the movement during the year on all the funds.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Income from:					
Donations		34,425	-	34,425	52,718
Other trading activities		44,812	-	44,812	40,926
Investment income		7,446	-	7,446	1,917
Charitable activities		460,203	151,803	612,006	558,982
Total income	2	546,886	151,803	698,689	654,543
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	3	495,265	124,017	619,282	573,018
Raising funds	4	42,478	-	42,478	43,417
Total expenditure		537,743	124,017	661,760	616,435
Net incoming resources before transfers		9,143	27,786	36,929	38,108
Transfers between funds	9	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		9,143	27,786	36,929	38,108
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	9	230,869	73,153	304,022	265,914
Total funds carried forward	9	240,012	100,939	340,951	304,022

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

BALANCE SHEET

As At 31 March 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		69,900		63,490
Current assets					
Debtors	7	37,286		33,240	
Cash at bank and in hand		278,919		329,945	
		<u>316,205</u>		<u>363,185</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(45,154)</u>		<u>(122,653)</u>	
Net current assets			271,051		240,532
Net assets	11		<u>340,951</u>		<u>304,022</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds	9		240,012		230,869
Restricted income funds	9		100,939		73,153
			<u>340,951</u>		<u>304,022</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 14 to 25 were approved by the Trustees on 12 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

M Marshall - Chair

D Bennett - Treasurer

Company Number : 05250366

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules and comply with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 but does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

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

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The company has no share capital.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

General funds comprise funds which represent accumulated surpluses and deficits in the Statement of Financial Activities, after transfers to/from the designated funds.

The purposes and uses of all funds are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Income

All donations, sundry income and rental income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants are recognised in the period to which they relate, and are allocated to either the restricted fund they are intended for, or to unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

The cost headings comprise expenditure, including staff costs, directly attributable to the organisation's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Improvements to property	1% of Cost
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	15% of Net Book Value
Office equipment	15% of Net Book Value
Computers	33.33% of Net Book Value
Play equipment	15% of Net Book Value

All significant assets are reviewed annually for impairment and provision made where considered necessary.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
2 Income				
Donations	34,425	-	34,425	52,718
Interest receivable	7,446	-	7,446	1,917
Fundraising trading	44,812	-	44,812	40,926
Grants receivable	10,000	151,803	161,803	119,552
Rental income	449,545	-	449,545	439,274
Income from other operating activities	658	-	658	156
	<u>546,886</u>	<u>151,803</u>	<u>698,689</u>	<u>654,543</u>
3 Charitable activities				
Salaries and related costs	331,779	58,113	389,892	385,170
Rent and rates	56,323	22,160	78,483	26,800
Light and heat	16,413	864	17,277	10,444
Insurance	4,519	973	5,492	4,841
Sundry expenses	27,739	-	27,739	28,008
Grant expenditure	-	41,907	41,907	24,373
Training costs	1,603	-	1,603	6,587
Repairs and maintenance	10,298	-	10,298	39,430
Rent arrears written off	4,294	-	4,294	869
Management fees	15,060	-	15,060	16,080
Printing and stationery	3,307	-	3,307	3,469
Telephone and postage	4,115	-	4,115	3,669
Travel and car expenses	5,222	-	5,222	6,545
Bank charges	310	-	310	345
Legal and professional fees	5,137	-	5,137	9,296
Accountancy fees	5,540	-	5,540	4,626
Depreciation: Property improvements	686	-	686	686
Depreciation: Furniture, fixtures and fittings	1,284	-	1,284	288
Depreciation: Play equipment	582	-	582	231
Depreciation: Office equipment	198	-	198	234
Depreciation: Computer equipment	856	-	856	1,027
	<u>495,265</u>	<u>124,017</u>	<u>619,282</u>	<u>573,018</u>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
4 Raising funds				
Salaries and wages	26,590	-	26,590	25,246
Rent and rates	8,500	-	8,500	8,500
Light and heat	1,082	-	1,082	(142)
Insurance	999	-	999	907
Repairs and maintenance	4,353	-	4,353	8,001
Printing, postage and stationery	1	-	1	-
Telephone	634	-	634	619
Sundry expenses	319	-	319	286
	<u>42,478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,478</u>	<u>43,417</u>

5 Salaries and wages	2024 No	2023 No
Average number of full time equivalent employees	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
Staff costs for the above:	£	£
Wages and salaries	379,121	373,411
Employers' national insurance	28,908	29,311
Employers' pension	8,453	7,694
	<u>416,482</u>	<u>410,416</u>

There were no employees earning a salary in excess of £60,000 in either year.

The trustees received no remuneration or expenses in either year.

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Property improvements £	Furniture fixtures & fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Play equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
1 April 2023	68,552	33,339	3,708	9,180	7,721	122,500
Additions	-	6,932	-	509	2,575	10,016
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2024	68,552	40,271	3,708	9,689	10,296	132,516
Depreciation						
1 April 2023	11,408	31,708	2,385	7,096	6,413	59,010
Charge for year	686	1,284	198	856	582	3,606
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2024	12,094	32,992	2,583	7,952	6,995	62,616
Net book amount						
31 March 2024	56,458	7,279	1,125	1,737	3,301	69,900
31 March 2023	57,144	1,631	1,323	2,084	1,308	63,490

	2024 £	2023 £
7 Debtors		
Rent and service charges receivable	11,581	17,628
Sundry debtors and prepayments	25,705	15,612
	37,286	33,240

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

			2024	2023
			£	£
8 Creditors due within one year				
PAYE and national insurance			7,795	8,300
Sundry creditors and accruals			37,359	114,353
			<u>45,154</u>	<u>122,653</u>
9 Funds				
	Balance			Balance
	at 1 April	Incoming	Outgoing	at 31 March
	2023	resources	resources	2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
P H Holt Foundation	185	-	-	185
Claude Ballard	-	2,970	630	2,340
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	71,502	142,240	118,160	95,582
One Wirral TechKnow	1,466	3,093	3,517	1,042
WAFE Emergency Fund	-	3,500	1,710	1,790
	<u>73,153</u>	<u>151,803</u>	<u>124,017</u>	<u>100,939</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
Family Link Activities	-	40,000	65,279	25,279
General Fund	83,840	461,074	429,031	(31,689)
Charity Shop	63,387	44,812	42,478	-
Hardship Fund	20,152	1,000	955	-
Capital Fund	63,490	-	-	6,410
	<u>230,869</u>	<u>546,886</u>	<u>537,743</u>	<u>240,012</u>

In some cases where the charity has received restricted funding in the past, the trustees continue to fund that activity from unrestricted funds once the restricted funding has run out. This is the case with the first unrestricted fund above.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2024****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted fund - Claude Ballard**

We applied for a grant of £2,970 from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity for the cost of training sessions for our Family Link workers to allow them to maintain their accreditation in Trauma and Mental Health for the next three years. The grant was received in September 2023 and £630 was spent in the current year.

Restricted fund - Pilot Scheme Dispersed Accommodation and Floating Support

Last year we signed agreements with Wirral Borough Council as its preferred partner for the delivery of both a Domestic Abuse specialist floating support service and a Domestic Abuse dispersed accommodation scheme. The grants for the schemes total £127,479 and £155,486 respectively for a two year period.

Under the dispersed accommodation scheme (which commenced on 1 October 2022) we now have 6 properties and there have been 12 move-ons in the year so we are well on the way to achieving the target of each property having 5 move-ons within the two year pilot scheme period. There is an unspent balance on the grant at the year end due to the delays in securing suitable properties with only the first property being occupied at the start of this year.

The floating support service provided by our Outreach workers is not tied to any specific unit of accommodation. During the year there were 75 referrals of which 13 were moved from temporary accommodation into the dispersed properties. In addition, advocacy support was provided to 63 children in temporary and dispersed accommodation.

Restricted fund - One Wirral TechKnow

Our two year partnership agreement with One Wirral TechKnow for digital inclusion has continued this year. We received the balance of the total grant of £8,674 this year which will cover our maintenance contract until July 2024. The overhaul of our wifi configuration and purchase of equipment for use by residents was completed last year. The wifi connection in the building is now very much improved, so that connections are no longer being lost during meetings and residents can now independently access their benefits, welfare rights, housing options and support networks. In conclusion, the receipt of this grant has improved digital access for all our staff and residents plus the numerous professionals who visit the Refuge, all of whom need a reliable wifi connection.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2024****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted fund -WAFE Emergency Fund**

Women's Aid Federation England have provided grants to help 3 individual residents with specific costs. The amount of funding available in each round is limited and different criteria apply each time so we prioritise the cases submitted. A grant of £750 was received in May 2023 and fully spent while the other grants were received in March 2024 and were not fully spent by the year end. These grants have now been spent and a further grant has been received since the year end.

Family Link Activities

We currently receive no statutory funding for the work we undertake with children and young people which comprises a significant part of the service we provide. However, we receive many generous donations which we are able to use to support the work with all our residents.

We were able to source a grant of £10,000 from the P H Holt Foundation towards the Family Link staff costs for this year.

The Family Link workers organise events inside the Refuge, such as shared cooking and meals, movie nights and gardening and trips out including to Crocky Trail, Bewilderwood, Blackpool, Chester Zoo and other activity centres. Family swim sessions remain popular along with the messy play sessions both of which provide opportunities for attachment games and confidence building for mothers.

We have been able to fund professional counselling for individual residents which they would otherwise have to wait much longer for.

Family Link also covers therapeutic outreach work on an individual basis with children and young people in schools who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse. A variety of age appropriate techniques are utilised to cover areas such as understanding thoughts and emotions, having your voice heard, building healthy attachments, processing past or current traumas. Weekly sessions in the school last for between 12 to 16 weeks and support is also offered to the parents and other professionals.

Contact is maintained with children and young people after the sessions have been completed if required, including attending social care meetings.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

9 Funds (continued)

Charity Shop

Our shop in Upton Road, Moreton is open 5 days per week and generated a turnover of £44,812 and a surplus of £2,334 this year.

The successful operation of the shop is dependent on the team of volunteers and dedication of the manager, as well as the generosity of our regular customers and donors.

Hardship Fund

This is a designated fund to be used at the discretion of the Management Committee. It has been used to cover the housing costs of women whose circumstances prevent them from claiming full state benefits and to provide short term financial support where required.

During the year £955 of the Hardship Fund has been used in respect of 2 women, leaving a balance in the fund at the year end of £20,197.

Capital Fund

This is a fund, designated by the trustees, which represents the net book value of fixed assets.

10 Income and expenditure account

	£
1 April 2023	304,022
Surplus for the year	36,929
	340,951
31 March 2024	340,951

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted Funds			
P H Holt Foundation	-	185	185
Claude Ballard	-	2,340	2,340
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	-	95,582	95,582
One Wirral TechKnow	-	1,042	1,042
WAFE Emergency Fund	-	1,790	1,790
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	100,939	100,939
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds			
Family Link Activities	-	-	-
General Fund	-	84,194	84,194
Charity Shop	-	65,721	65,721
Hardship Fund	-	20,197	20,197
Capital Fund	69,900	-	69,900
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds	69,900	170,112	240,012
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Net Assets	69,900	271,051	340,951
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

12 Related parties

There were no related party transactions during the year.

13 Financial Commitments

At 31 March 2024 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Expiry date:		
Within one year	7,792	8,500
Between one and five years	-	7,792
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,792	16,292
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

WIRRAL WOMEN & CHILDRENS' AID

England & Wales - Charity number 1106399

Accounts

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2023

Registered Charity Number : 1106399

Company Number : 05250366

**HAILWOOD & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Charity registration number 1106399
Company number 05250366

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Chair

M Marshall

Treasurer

D Bennett

Directors

M Marshall

D Bennett

A Beech

V Beech

C Ross

K Rigby

A Birchall

L Parry

Appointed 11/06/2022

PATRONS

The Rt Hon. The Lord Field of Birkenhead CH DL

Dr Katy Kidd

Dame Lorna Muirhead DCVO DBE

Stephen R Ross

Samantha Hillas KC

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

P O Box 14
Birkenhead
CH41 6PX

REGISTERED OFFICE

19 Hamilton Square
Birkenhead
CH41 6AY

AUDITORS

Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
392-394 Hoylake Road
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 6DF

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES****for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's examiner is unaware;
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

On behalf of the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report
to the members of Wirral Women & Children's Aid

I report to the trustees of Wirral Women and Children's Aid on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise of the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the 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 company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross 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 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with these records; or
- 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
- 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.

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.

7 September 2023
Moreton, Wirral

Adam French B.Eng FCA
Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Income		652,626	501,524
Interest and investment income		1,917	1,035
Total income		<u>654,543</u>	<u>502,559</u>
Expenditure		613,969	553,007
Depreciation		2,466	1,903
Total expenditure		<u>616,435</u>	<u>554,910</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	10	<u><u>38,108</u></u>	<u><u>(52,351)</u></u>

Movements in reserves are shown in note 9.

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial periods.

There are no recognised gains and losses in the year ended 31 March 2023 or the year ended 31 March 2022 other than the surplus/ (deficit) for each year.

Total income comprises £534,991 for unrestricted funds and £119,552 for restricted funds. A detailed analysis of income by source is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 15 which together with the notes to the accounts on pages 17 to 25, provides full information on the movement during the year on all the funds.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:					
Donations		52,718	-	52,718	32,835
Other trading activities		40,926	-	40,926	40,956
Investment income		1,917	-	1,917	1,035
Charitable activities		439,430	119,552	558,982	427,733
Total income	2	534,991	119,552	654,543	502,559
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	3	512,838	60,180	573,018	516,971
Raising funds	4	43,417	-	43,417	37,939
Total expenditure		556,255	60,180	616,435	554,910
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(21,264)	59,372	38,108	(52,351)
Transfers between funds	9	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(21,264)	59,372	38,108	(52,351)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	9	252,133	13,781	265,914	318,265
Total funds carried forward	9	230,869	73,153	304,022	265,914

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

BALANCE SHEET

As At 31 March 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		63,490		62,647
Current assets					
Debtors	7	33,240		54,220	
Cash at bank and in hand		329,945		215,242	
		<u>363,185</u>		<u>269,462</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(122,653)</u>		<u>(66,195)</u>	
Net current assets			240,532		203,267
Net assets	11		<u>304,022</u>		<u>265,914</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds	9		230,869		252,133
Restricted income funds	9		<u>73,153</u>		<u>13,781</u>
			<u>304,022</u>		<u>265,914</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 14 to 25 were approved by the Trustees on 7 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

M Marshall - Chair D Bennett - Treasurer

Company Number : 05250366

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules and comply with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 but does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

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

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The company has no share capital.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

General funds comprise funds which represent accumulated surpluses and deficits in the Statement of Financial Activities, after transfers to/from the designated funds.

The purposes and uses of all funds are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Income

All donations, sundry income and rental income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants are recognised in the period to which they relate, and are allocated to either the restricted fund they are intended for, or to unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

The cost headings comprise expenditure, including staff costs, directly attributable to the organisation's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Improvements to property	1% of Cost
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	15% of Net Book Value
Office equipment	15% of Net Book Value
Computers	33.33% of Net Book Value
Play equipment	15% of Net Book Value

All significant assets are reviewed annually for impairment and provision made where considered necessary.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Restricted		2023	2022
	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£
2 Income				
Donations	52,718	-	52,718	32,835
Interest receivable	1,917	-	1,917	1,035
Fundraising trading	40,926	-	40,926	40,956
Grants receivable	-	119,552	119,552	26,249
Rental income	439,274	-	439,274	401,183
Income from other operating activities	156	-	156	301
	<u>534,991</u>	<u>119,552</u>	<u>654,543</u>	<u>502,559</u>
3 Charitable activities				
Salaries and related costs	350,128	35,042	385,170	333,551
Rent and rates	26,800	-	26,800	24,013
Light and heat	9,919	525	10,444	20,488
Insurance	4,601	240	4,841	4,382
Sundry expenses	28,008	-	28,008	31,281
Grant expenditure	-	24,373	24,373	17,797
Training costs	6,587	-	6,587	9,617
Repairs and maintenance	39,430	-	39,430	30,749
Rent arrears written off	869	-	869	2,216
Management fees	16,080	-	16,080	14,208
Printing and stationery	3,469	-	3,469	3,878
Telephone and postage	3,669	-	3,669	4,501
Travel and car expenses	6,545	-	6,545	6,968
Bank charges	345	-	345	293
Legal and professional fees	9,296	-	9,296	4,192
Accountancy fees	4,626	-	4,626	6,934
Depreciation: Property improvements	686	-	686	686
Depreciation: Furniture, fixtures and fittings	288	-	288	339
Depreciation: Play equipment	231	-	231	272
Depreciation: Office equipment	234	-	234	35
Depreciation: Computer equipment	1,027	-	1,027	571
	<u>512,838</u>	<u>60,180</u>	<u>573,018</u>	<u>516,971</u>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Restricted		2023	2022
	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£
4 Raising funds				
Salaries and wages	25,246	-	25,246	23,620
Rent and rates	8,500	-	8,500	8,500
Light and heat	(142)	-	(142)	847
Insurance	907	-	907	784
Repairs and maintenance	8,001	-	8,001	3,417
Printing, postage and stationery	-	-	-	100
Telephone	619	-	619	516
Sundry expenses	286	-	286	155
	<u>43,417</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,417</u>	<u>37,939</u>

5 Salaries and wages	2023	2022
	No	No
Average number of full time equivalent employees	13	12
	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>
Staff costs for the above:	£	£
Wages and salaries	373,411	327,258
Employers' national insurance	29,311	23,550
Employers' pension	7,694	6,363
	<u>410,416</u>	<u>357,171</u>

There were no employees earning a salary in excess of £60,000 in either year.

The trustees received no remuneration or expenses in either year.

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Property improvements £	Furniture fixtures & fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Play equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
1 April 2022	68,552	33,339	2,352	7,227	7,721	119,191
Additions	-	-	1,356	1,953	-	3,309
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2023	68,552	33,339	3,708	9,180	7,721	122,500
Depreciation						
1 April 2022	10,722	31,420	2,151	6,069	6,182	56,544
Charge for year	686	288	234	1,027	231	2,466
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2023	11,408	31,708	2,385	7,096	6,413	59,010
Net book amount						
31 March 2023	57,144	1,631	1,323	2,084	1,308	63,490
31 March 2022	57,830	1,919	201	1,158	1,539	62,647

7 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Rent and service charges receivable	17,628	22,222
Sundry debtors and prepayments	15,612	31,998
	33,240	54,220

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

			2023	2022
			£	£
8 Creditors due within one year				
PAYE and national insurance			8,300	7,950
Sundry creditors and accruals			114,353	58,245
			<u>122,653</u>	<u>66,195</u>
9 Funds				
	Balance			Balance
	at 1 April	Incoming	Outgoing	at 31 March
	2022	resources	resources	2023
	£	£	£	£
			Transfers	
			£	
Restricted Funds				
P H Holt Foundation	7,781	-	7,596	-
Claude Ballard	6,000	-	6,000	-
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	-	113,969	42,467	-
One Tech Wirral	-	5,583	4,117	-
	<u>13,781</u>	<u>119,552</u>	<u>60,180</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>13,781</u>	<u>119,552</u>	<u>60,180</u>	<u>73,153</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
Family Link Activities	-	40,000	59,545	19,545
General Fund	107,375	449,065	452,212	(20,388)
Charity Shop	65,878	40,926	43,417	-
Hardship Fund	16,233	5,000	1,081	-
Capital Fund	62,647	-	-	843
	<u>252,133</u>	<u>534,991</u>	<u>556,255</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>252,133</u>	<u>534,991</u>	<u>556,255</u>	<u>230,869</u>

In some cases where the charity has received restricted funding in the past, the trustees continue to fund that activity from unrestricted funds once the restricted funding has run out. This is the case with the first unrestricted fund above.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2023****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted fund - P H Holt Foundation**

As reported last year, a grant was applied for from the Resilience Fund of the P H Holt Foundation in July 2021 to cover the costs of trauma training to provide staff with insights into the psychology of mental ill-health and challenging behaviour, providing tools and techniques for responding to a child's narrative of painful life events. A grant of £15,606 was awarded which covered the costs of 12 staff completing their level 5 diploma in Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools and Communities.

The staff have now all achieved their diplomas and application for accreditation as a fully trauma informed service will be made shortly with the remaining grant being used towards the cost. Staff have reported finding the training and tools really useful in helping residents to talk about their trauma and to begin their healing process.

Restricted fund - Claude Ballard

We received a grant of £6,000 from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity last year which has been used this year to support our work in schools by one of the Family Link workers. 11 children have been worked with this year, with many more on the waiting list.

Restricted fund - Pilot Scheme Dispersed Accommodation and Support

We signed agreements with Wirral Borough Council as its preferred partner for the delivery of both a Domestic Abuse specialist floating support service and a Domestic Abuse dispersed accommodation scheme. The grants for the schemes total £127,479 and £155,486 respectively for a two year period.

The dispersed accommodation scheme anticipates a total of 6 properties being secured, with each property having 5 move-ons within the two year pilot scheme period (which commenced on 1 October 2022). At the year end, only one property was in use (although a second property was occupied soon after and five properties have now been secured), resulting in the unspent balance on the grant.

The floating support service is not tied to any specific unit of accommodation and support has been provided to 26 families by the outreach staff since the scheme started on 1 April 2022.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2023****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted fund - One Wirral TechKnow**

We were approached by Resilient (NW)CIC to apply for a One Wirral TechKnow grant in connection with digital inclusion projects across Wirral. We entered into a two year partnership agreement which includes training and participation in networking events with other organisations who are part of the digital inclusion project. A total grant of £8,674 was awarded which will be paid over two years to cover the overhaul of our wifi configuration, purchase of equipment for use by residents and a maintenance contract for two years. The wifi connection in the building was very unstable, resulting in connections frequently being lost during meetings and residents being unable to independently access their benefits, welfare rights, housing options and support networks. It is anticipated that this grant will improve digital access for nearly 100 staff and residents over the two year period plus the numerous professionals who visit the Refuge and need a reliable wifi connection.

Family Link Activities

We currently receive no statutory funding for the work we undertake with children and young people which comprises a significant part of the service we provide. However, we receive many generous donations which we are able to use to support the work with all our residents.

The Family Link workers organise events inside the Refuge, such as shared cooking and meals, and trips out including to Southport, Chester Zoo, activity centres and science museums. Visits to the beach included attachment games between mums and children in the sand, crab racing and picnics. Completion of the Trauma Informed diploma has enhanced the support provided, encouraging families to activate their play seeking systems which will improve their trust and help them build healthy relationships.

We have been able to fund professional counselling for individual residents which they would otherwise have to wait much longer for.

Family Link also covers therapeutic outreach work on an individual basis with children and young people in schools who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse. A variety of age appropriate techniques are utilised to cover areas such as understanding thoughts and emotions, having your voice heard, building healthy attachments, processing past or current traumas. Weekly sessions in the school last for between 12 to 16 weeks and support is also offered to the parents and other professionals.

Contact is maintained with children and young people after the sessions have been completed if required, including attending social care meetings. As noted above, we received some specific funding to support this work from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

9 Funds (continued)

Charity Shop

Our shop in Upton Road, Moreton is open 5 days per week and generated a turnover of £40,926. A small deficit of £2,491 was sustained this year due to unexpected roof repairs of over £4,000. The successful operation of the shop is dependent on the team of volunteers and dedication of the manager, as well as the generosity of our regular customers and donors.

Hardship Fund

This is a designated fund to be used at the discretion of the Management Committee. It has been used to cover the housing costs of women whose circumstances prevent them from claiming full state benefits and to provide short term financial support where required.

During the year £1,081 of the Welfare Hardship Fund has been used in respect of seven women, leaving a balance in the fund at the year end of £20,152.

Capital Fund

This is a fund, designated by the trustees, which represents the net book value of fixed assets.

10 Income and expenditure account

	£
1 April 2022	265,914
Surplus for the year	38,108
	304,022
31 March 2023	304,022

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted Funds			
P H Holt Foundation	-	185	185
Claude Ballard	-	-	-
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	-	71,502	71,502
One Tech Wirral	-	1,466	1,466
	-	73,153	73,153
Unrestricted Funds			
Family Link Activities	-	-	-
General Fund	-	83,840	83,840
Charity Shop	-	63,387	63,387
Hardship Fund	-	20,152	20,152
Capital Fund	63,490	-	63,490
Unrestricted Funds	63,490	167,379	230,869
Total Net Assets	63,490	240,532	304,022

12 Related parties

There were no related party transactions during the year.

13 Financial Commitments

At 31 March 2023 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Expiry date:		
Within one year	8,500	7,792
Between one and five years	8,500	17,000
	17,000	24,792

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grants receivable		119,552		23,086
Grants receivable - JRS		-		496
Grants receivable - Small business support		-		2,667
Donations		52,718		32,835
Rental income		439,274		401,183
Interest		1,917		1,035
Shop income		40,926		40,956
Other income		156		301
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		654,543		502,559
Less Admin & Support Costs				
Salaries and related costs	385,170		357,171	
Rent and rates	26,800		24,013	
Light and heat	10,444		20,488	
Insurance	4,841		4,382	
Sundry expenses	28,008		31,281	
Grant expenditure	24,373		17,797	
Training costs	6,587		9,617	
Repairs and maintenance	39,430		30,749	
Printing and stationery	3,469		3,878	
Telephone and postage	3,669		4,501	
Travel and car expenses	6,545		6,968	
Depreciation	2,466		1,903	
Bank charges	345		293	
Legal and professional fees	9,296		4,192	
Accountancy fees	4,626		6,934	
Shop expenses	43,417		14,319	
Rent arrears written off	869		2,216	
Management fees	16,080		14,208	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		616,435		554,910
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<hr/>		<hr/>
		38,108		(52,351)
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

WIRRAL WOMEN & CHILDRENS' AID

England & Wales - Charity number 1106399

Accounts

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2022

Registered Charity Number : 1106399

Company Number : 05250366

**HAILWOOD & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

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Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Charity registration number 1106399

Company number 05250366

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Chair

M Marshall

Treasurer

D Bennett

Directors

M Marshall

D Bennett

A Beech

V Beech

C Ross

K Rigby

A Birchall

L Parry

Appointed 11/06/2022

PATRONS

The Rt Hon. The Lord Field of Birkenhead CH DL

Dr Katy Kidd

Dame Lorna Muirhead DCVO DBE

Stephen R Ross

Samantha Hillas QC

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

P O Box 14

Birkenhead

CH41 6PX

REGISTERED OFFICE

19 Hamilton Square

Birkenhead

CH41 6AY

AUDITORS

Hailwood & Co.

Chartered Accountants

392-394 Hoylake Road

Moreton

Wirral

CH46 6DF

Wirral Women and Children's Aid
Chair of Trustees Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Life for everyone involved with our Service is returning to normal. One of the changes the staff team agreed to make to their way of working during the pandemic was to work 24 hour rotas. This pattern of working has proved to have advantages for our families as the staff are able to offer greater consistency.

The entire team has enrolled on a diploma course in Trauma and Mental Health. This professional development opportunity is designed to inform and empower staff so that they can respond effectively to those who have experienced trauma. Those staff who have completed the course report that the skills they have learned, and the additional resources they now have, are proving really useful. Our families are being supported to speak about their trauma and so begin their healing process.

We continue to struggle to find suitable housing for our families who are 'moving on'. However, over the next 12 months we will be piloting a project funded by the local authority where we will be looking at dispersed accommodation. We aim to offer specialist support to families placed in emergency accommodation. Our new outreach worker will be liaising with Wirral Methodist Housing Association and the local authority, to action this project.

Our Family Link Workers continue to offer programmes and activities for our families. A positive example of success is the organised trips to the swimming pool. Following the staff taking the families, some families now attend the pool independently. Additionally, a weekly timetable of activities such as jewellery making and baking, enabled further opportunities for the staff to model positive relationships, and indeed for the parents to lead the sessions.

Our staff's roles continually adapt according to the needs of our families; we also optimise the skills of our team. Consequently, we now have an outreach worker who works with children. We take referrals from schools, social workers, family members and other professionals. The children usually have weekly access to therapeutic work for up to ten weeks. We know that these sessions are impacting positively on the children.

We continue to benefit from the generous support from our community; without their generosity we would not be able to offer the rich and varied opportunities we afford our families.

Thank you once again to a wonderful team of dedicated staff.

Meg Marshall

Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Introduction

Since 1981, we have provided a place of safety for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We are an independent Wirral based charity with close partnership links with our local communities to provide a comprehensive, trusted pathway of support to local families.

Aims and objectives for the public benefit

The Board of Trustees confirms that it has referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the organisation's aims and objectives, and in formulating future plans.

Our Mission and Vision

It is our mission to provide a supportive family environment so that those who are overcoming the trauma of domestic abuse and seeking a place of safety, do not have to face the hardest of times alone. By doing this, we are helping to empower women and children so that they can start a new life of independence, free from harm and fear.

We do this by providing high quality accommodation and intensive support to women aged 16 and over and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to enable them to reach their potential and improve the health and wellbeing of women, children and staff, including the addressing of complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse issues.

We will work to engage and educate the wider community to challenge perceptions around domestic abuse. We will continue to be an innovative refuge, to provide a safe, therapeutic and trauma informed place for women and children, within which they will be supported and educated to enable them to break the cycles around domestic abuse. We provide a supportive environment for staff who are valued, respected and protected.

Our values

We have an acronym to summarise our values – **PROTECTING**

Protection
Resilience
Outreach
Trust
Empowerment
Collaboration
Training
Inclusivity
Normality
Governance

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Aims and objectives for the public benefit (continued)

Our values help us to respond in tough situations. We need values to forge lasting relationships with those around us, including residents, staff and stakeholders. Values are important because they act as a set of guidelines for the events we encounter in life. Life is not black and white.

Since we began in 1981, we have accommodated 3,542 women and 6,227 children and young people, all of whom have endured domestic abuse. Whilst our priority is to support women and children affected by domestic abuse living on the Wirral, we also have some flexibility to support women from other areas who have to flee due to high-risk circumstances. We value inclusivity and welcome women from all groups in society who identify as female, including BME and LGBTQ+ groups, and women with disabilities and complex needs. We provide interpreters, adaptations and any other specialist support required to meet their needs.

We recognise that there are also male victims of domestic abuse and any men calling our domestic abuse helpline are always given advice and signposted to appropriate support services.

Details of the charity, its Trustees and Advisers

The registered name of the Charity is Wirral Women and Children's Aid, charity number 1106399, company number 525036.

All Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 1, along with details of the registered office and the charity's professional advisers

Constitution and Organisation

The Charity was established in 1981 as The Women's Refuge and later changed its name to Wirral Women and Children's Aid to reflect the work done with children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. The company was registered with the Charity Commission on 21 October 2004 and is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its memorandum and articles of association, incorporated on 5 October 2004.

The Management Committee meet at least six times per year with other sub committees set up to consider and report back to the Management Committee as required. Day to day operational decisions are delegated to the Head of Service, Emma Clark.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Constitution and Organisation (continued)

The Management Committee appoints all new trustees, based on selection criteria which ensure that collectively it maintains a broad range of relevant skills and experience. Nominations are sought from interested organisations and individuals. An application pack is available on request from the Business Manager.

Risk management

The Management Committee has overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity. However, such a system can provide only reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against errors and fraud. The charity operates a comprehensive budgeting process which is approved by the Management Committee. Reports of actual financial receipts against budget are made to the Management Committee at the end of each quarter, including linking financial performance with resource and activity levels.

The charity has risk management policies and procedures throughout, in which risks arising from the existing operations and strategic developments are identified and evaluated. All major risks to which the charity is exposed have been reviewed and the systems implemented to mitigate these risks are continually being developed or enhanced.

Financial Review

Results

Total incoming resources were £502,559 whilst total resources expended were £554,910 resulting in a net deficit for the year of £52,351. Total funds at 31 March 2022 were £265,914 of which £13,781 were restricted funds, £62,647 represents fixed assets and the balance is the charity's general fund of £189,486.

Principal policies

The Management Committee expect to maintain a position whereby the combination of fund-raising, fees charged for accommodation and grants received are at least equal to operational expenses

Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been developed following the guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and applies to the free reserves, excluding restricted and designated funds. Details of the various funds are given in notes 9 and 11 to the accounts.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Financial Review (continued)

Reserves are held for three distinct reasons: working capital reserve sufficient to avoid financial difficulties in the event that income is significantly reduced in the short term; cessation reserve to enable costs in a winding up situation to be covered i.e. redundancy costs; opportunity reserve for new initiatives in line with the current business plan which covers the period 2020 – 2023.

The policy is for working capital reserves to be maintained at between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure, costs of cessation are estimated at £45,000 and the opportunity reserve currently equates to around 2.5% of total free reserves, a reduction from last year due to expenditure on new activities. The target range for reserves is between £173,000 and £297,000.

The actual free reserves at 31 March 2022 (being unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets and excluding the designated Hardship Fund) were £173,253 which is within the target range.

Funding

Supporting People provide a grant which, together with the rental income from Housing Benefits, comprises the core funding of the Refuge. It is based on the maximum capacity of 12 women and up to 28 children being accommodated at any one time. This combined income funds the basic staff costs and day to day running costs. There are staff on site 24/7. The children's costs are not covered by the Supporting People grant or Housing benefits so we are dependent on charitable fundraising, donations and applications for specific grants.

A significant proportion of our donations income is used for our Family Link work. This includes arranging fun activities, both within the refuge and externally, enabling mums and children to start creating new happy memories. Donations income has also enabled us to arrange professional counselling sessions for some residents and has been used to top-up the Hardship Fund which is used to support residents when they do not have access to benefits.

Other grant income was significant last year as a result of additional funding being available to support the service through the COVID pandemic. Grants are applied for to cover the costs of new projects in line with our mission, vision and values.

The Wirral Women & Children's Aid charity shop, situated in Moreton, generates a surplus which is used for the benefit of all the families in the Refuge.

Occupancy

We have maintained an occupancy rate of around 97% over the year, a slight increase over last year which was impacted by COVID safety measures when one room was kept vacant in case a family needed to self-isolate away from other residents and staff.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and Performance 2021-2022 (continued)

Number of women and children supported

During 2021-2022 we supported 27 women and 26 children within the refuge and 37 adults in the community. We also utilised our emergency bedspace for 77 nights, accommodating a further 11 women and 3 children in the refuge to ensure their immediate safety. We were subsequently able to move 5 of these women into a room in the Refuge. The majority of the families were from the Wirral, but we also housed families from across the country.

We accepted five referrals for women and their families without recourse to benefits. We were able to help these women, with the help of interpreters where necessary, to successfully apply for domestic violence concessions so that they now have recourse to public benefits which they will need when they move on from Refuge accommodation to live independently.

24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline

This year our 24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline took over 1,450 calls including 246 calls from women or professionals searching for refuge space and 233 requesting advice or guidance or just a chat. We also continued to support 113 ex-residents who called the helpline. Due to our available bed space capacity, we were unable to accommodate 219 women for whom we received referrals. However, we have strong links with partner agencies and other refuges across the country and were able to assist in finding alternative safe accommodation.

Therapies

Our service is unique to the Wirral and is a trauma informed service. We use a Cognitive Analytical Therapy (CAT) model which uses a relational approach in the care of hard-to-help individuals with complex presentations and/or offending behaviour. Our CAT approach helps us to build positive relationships and break down barriers to accessing services, preventing the cycle of repeated access to temporary accommodations and other services. The use of CAT concepts and reformulation allows the staff to focus on the "here and now" enactments of developmentally derived reciprocal roles and procedures, exploring the relational origins of personality, difficulty and trauma.

Other support delivered by the team includes Combined Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit, Hope2Recovery, for in depth risk assessing. Understanding Relational and Developmental Trauma assists in the work undertaken by staff to support both vulnerable women and children.

We also offer psychological support to any resident, including CBT and EMDR as appropriate, provided by both male and female therapists.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and Performance 2021-2022 (continued)

Services provided in addition to our refuge provision and helpline:

- Our highly trained staff team provides a trauma-led package of support to women and children to provide them with the necessary coping skills and recovery. Support includes: one-to one and group work around domestic abuse, practical advice around money, debt, budgeting, independence, parenting and health and wellbeing advice.
- Our Family Link Workers provide specialist support and coordinate a range of activities and therapies and support children experiencing domestic abuse in refuge and via outreach. They work with the mums as well as the children to encourage consistency and help the mums understand how to respond to signs of trauma. Programmes delivered include: An attachment programme - 'Mummy and I', Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs, Drawing and Talking[®] and therapeutic sensory play, using our new, purpose built sensory area in the playroom
- Outreach work with children and young people in schools who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse and who are referred by their school, social worker, family member or other professional. Covering therapeutic work around understanding our thoughts and emotions, allowing their voices to be heard, building healthy attachments, processing past and current traumas. Usually working with the individual for 10 weeks but longer if required.
- We support families to find move-on accommodation when they are ready for independence.
- Our website www.wwaca.org explains what we do, provides contact information and shows our facilities.

Since the year end

The first group of staff have completed their Level 5 Trauma Informed Practice and Mental Health Diploma and are now trauma informed practitioners. The second group have started their training and once completed, the Refuge will apply for Trauma Informed accreditation and become the first Refuge to have this achievement. The course is informed by the latest research into trauma recovery and the team have already utilised the skills and resources from the training, helping residents to talk about their trauma and begin their healing process.

Future plans

The new Domestic Abuse Bill and Statutory Housing Duty has come into effect. We will work to implement changes in line with the new legislation and work with the local authority in delivering the changes.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Future plans (continued)

We are working with the local authority and Wirral Methodist Housing Association on a pilot project for dispersed accommodation for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse. This will enable some residents to move on from Refuge whilst still accessing specialist support as vulnerable tenants. In addition, the staff working on the project will provide specialist support to women and children who have experienced domestic abuse and have been placed in temporary accommodation who are not accessing refuge accommodation. The project will be fully operational shortly, starting with three properties and scaling up to six before the end of the pilot scheme.

Conclusion

This year has again been challenging for all with some major pandemic restrictions still present particularly in the first six months. However, our staff and residents rose to these challenges with fortitude and good humour and as with last year there is much to be proud of.

We are proud of:

- Our staff for being flexible in adapting their working practices which keep them and our women and children safe.
- Engendering a real sense of belonging within the refuge.
- Continuing to develop and integrate our skills and knowledge in Trauma based therapy.
- Planning maintenance and developments to ensure the refuge continues to be a safe, secure and comfortable place for our residents.

The Trustees would like to thank our staff team who continually go above and beyond expectations and all those who continue to or have for the first time this year supported Wirral Women and Children's Aid with their time, very generous donations, buildings support and a huge amount of goodwill. Your support is invaluable and it hugely enhances and enriches the lives of our women and children whilst they are with us.

This report has been prepared in accordance with special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

11 August 2022

Meg Marshall - Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES****for the year ended 31 March 2022**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's examiner is unaware;
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

On behalf of the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report

to the members of Wirral Women & Children's Aid

I report to the trustees of Wirral Women and Children's Aid on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise of the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the 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 company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross 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 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with these records; or
- 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
- 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.

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.

11 August 2022
Moreton, Wirral

Adam French B.Eng FCA
Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Income		501,524	574,555
Interest and investment income		1,035	1,416
Total income		<u>502,559</u>	<u>575,971</u>
Expenditure		553,007	559,972
Depreciation		1,903	1,607
Total expenditure		<u>554,910</u>	<u>561,579</u>
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	10	<u>(52,351)</u>	<u>14,392</u>

Movements in reserves are shown in note 9.

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial periods.

There are no recognised gains and losses in the year ended 31 March 2022 or the year ended 31 March 2021 other than the surplus/ (deficit) for each year.

Total income comprises £479,473 for unrestricted funds and £23,086 for restricted funds. A detailed analysis of income by source is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 13 which together with the notes to the accounts on pages 15 to 23, provides full information on the movement during the year on all the funds.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Income from:					
Donations		32,835	-	32,835	72,406
Other trading activities		40,956	-	40,956	46,159
Investment income		1,035	-	1,035	1,416
Charitable activities		404,647	23,086	427,733	455,990
Total income	2	479,473	23,086	502,559	575,971
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	3	499,174	17,797	516,971	525,222
Raising funds	4	37,939	-	37,939	36,357
Total expenditure		537,113	17,797	554,910	561,579
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(57,640)	5,289	(52,351)	14,392
Transfers between funds	9	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(57,640)	5,289	(52,351)	14,392
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	9	309,773	8,492	318,265	303,873
Total funds carried forward	9	252,133	13,781	265,914	318,265

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

BALANCE SHEET

As At 31 March 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		62,647		63,148
Current assets					
Debtors	7	54,220		22,837	
Cash at bank and in hand		215,242		283,392	
		<u>269,462</u>		<u>306,229</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(66,195)</u>		<u>(51,112)</u>	
Net current assets			203,267		255,117
Net assets	11		<u>265,914</u>		<u>318,265</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds	9		252,133		309,773
Restricted income funds	9		<u>13,781</u>		<u>8,492</u>
			<u>265,914</u>		<u>318,265</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 12 to 23 were approved by the Trustees on 11 August 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

M Marshall - Chair

D Bennett - Treasurer

Company Number : 05250366

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules and comply with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 but does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

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

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The company has no share capital.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

General funds comprise funds which represent accumulated surpluses and deficits in the Statement of Financial Activities, after transfers to/from the designated funds.

The purposes and uses of all funds are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Income

All donations, sundry income and rental income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants are recognised in the period to which they relate, and are allocated to either the restricted fund they are intended for, or to unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

The cost headings comprise expenditure, including staff costs, directly attributable to the organisation's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Improvements to property	1% of Cost
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	15% of Net Book Value
Office equipment	15% of Net Book Value
Computers	33.33% of Net Book Value
Play equipment	15% of Net Book Value

All significant assets are reviewed annually for impairment and provision made where considered necessary.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
2 Income				
Donations	32,835	-	32,835	72,406
Interest receivable	1,035	-	1,035	1,416
Fundraising trading	40,956	-	40,956	46,159
Grants receivable	3,163	23,086	26,249	69,773
Rental income	401,183	-	401,183	384,120
Income from other operating activities	301	-	301	2,097
	<u>479,473</u>	<u>23,086</u>	<u>502,559</u>	<u>575,971</u>
3 Charitable activities				
Salaries and related costs	333,551	-	333,551	328,057
Rent and rates	24,013	-	24,013	23,794
Light and heat	20,488	-	20,488	16,433
Insurance	4,382	-	4,382	4,239
Sundry expenses	31,281	-	31,281	25,540
Grant expenditure	-	17,797	17,797	19,164
Training costs	9,617	-	9,617	12,208
Repairs and maintenance	30,749	-	30,749	56,305
Rent arrears written off	2,216	-	2,216	2,183
Management fees	14,208	-	14,208	13,932
Printing and stationery	3,878	-	3,878	4,594
Telephone and postage	4,501	-	4,501	4,402
Travel and car expenses	6,968	-	6,968	4,524
Bank charges	293	-	293	215
Legal and professional fees	4,192	-	4,192	3,051
Accountancy fees	6,934	-	6,934	4,974
Depreciation: Property improvements	686	-	686	686
Depreciation: Furniture, fixtures and fittings	339	-	339	398
Depreciation: Play equipment	272	-	272	320
Depreciation: Office equipment	35	-	35	42
Depreciation: Computer equipment	571	-	571	161
	<u>499,174</u>	<u>17,797</u>	<u>516,971</u>	<u>525,222</u>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
4 Raising funds				
Salaries and wages	23,620	-	23,620	23,129
Rent and rates	8,500	-	8,500	8,500
Light and heat	847	-	847	961
Insurance	784	-	784	824
Repairs and maintenance	3,417	-	3,417	1,980
Printing, postage and stationery	100	-	100	-
Telephone	516	-	516	522
Sundry expenses	155	-	155	441
	<u>37,939</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,939</u>	<u>36,357</u>

5 Salaries and wages	2022 No	2021 No
Average number of full time equivalent employees	12	13
	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
Staff costs for the above:	£	£
Wages and salaries	327,258	320,228
Employers' national insurance	23,550	24,419
Employers' pension	6,363	6,539
	<u>357,171</u>	<u>351,186</u>

There were no employees earning a salary in excess of £60,000 in either year.

The trustees received no remuneration or expenses in either year.

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Property improvements £	Furniture fixtures & fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Play equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
1 April 2021	68,552	33,339	2,352	5,825	7,721	117,789
Additions	-	-	-	1,402	-	1,402
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2022	68,552	33,339	2,352	7,227	7,721	119,191
Depreciation						
1 April 2021	10,036	31,081	2,116	5,498	5,910	54,641
Charge for year	686	339	35	571	272	1,903
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2022	10,722	31,420	2,151	6,069	6,182	56,544
Net book amount						
31 March 2022	57,830	1,919	201	1,158	1,539	62,647
31 March 2021	58,516	2,258	236	327	1,811	63,148

7 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Rent and service charges receivable	22,222	6,969
Sundry debtors and prepayments	31,998	15,868
	54,220	22,837

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

			2022	2021
			£	£
8 Creditors due within one year				
PAYE and national insurance			7,950	5,348
Sundry creditors and accruals			58,245	45,764
			<u>66,195</u>	<u>51,112</u>
9 Funds				
	Balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance
	at 1 April	resources	resources	at 31 March
	2021			2022
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
P H Holt Foundation	-	15,606	7,825	-
Other funds	8,492	7,480	9,972	-
	<u>8,492</u>	<u>23,086</u>	<u>17,797</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
Family Link Activities	-	20,000	18,558	(1,442)
General Fund	170,951	410,354	475,873	1,943
Charity Shop	59,698	44,119	37,939	-
Hardship Fund	15,976	5,000	4,743	-
Capital Fund	63,148	-	-	(501)
	<u>309,773</u>	<u>479,473</u>	<u>537,113</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>309,773</u></u>	<u><u>479,473</u></u>	<u><u>537,113</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

In some cases where the charity has received restricted funding in the past, the trustees continue to fund that activity from unrestricted funds once the restricted funding has run out. This is the case with the first two unrestricted funds above.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2022****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted fund - P H Holt Foundation**

A grant was applied for from the Resilience Fund of the P H Holt Foundation in July 2021 to cover the costs of trauma training to provide staff with insights into the psychology of mental ill-health and challenging behaviour, providing tools and techniques for responding to a child's narrative of painful life events. A grant of £15,606 was awarded which will cover the costs of 12 staff completing their level 5 diploma in Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools and Communities.

The first group of 6 staff started their training in November 2021. The training is delivered online in 2 day blocks over 5 months and is completed with individual presentations on how they have used the training within their role.

Once all the staff have achieved their diplomas, we will qualify for accreditation as a fully trauma informed service. Staff have reported finding the training and tools really useful in helping residents to talk about their trauma and to begin their healing process.

Restricted fund - Other funds

The balance of the grants received last year from five different organisations, to provide additional support for our families during the pandemic, have been spent during this year. We received a grant of £6,000 from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity which will be used next year to support our work in schools.

Family Link Activities

We currently receive no statutory funding for the work we undertake with children and young people which comprises a significant part of the service we provide. However, we receive many generous donations which we are able to use to support the work with all our residents.

This year, the Family Link workers have been working more closely with parents on a one-to-one basis to promote sensory and positive experiences with their children. Activities organised in the refuge include baking and cooking sessions, jewellery making, gardening yoga, etc. but staff have also encouraged mum's to lead sessions as they gain in confidence and provide opportunities for activities to continue outside the structured classes, yoga and 'It's a Knockout' style fun days. They also facilitated celebrations for sessions. Weekly family swimming lessons have been very popular and is an activity that can be continued when families move on from the refuge. Locally based days out (seaside, park, cinema) and celebrations for birthdays and holidays continue to be organised by the team.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2022****9 Funds (continued)****Family Link Activities (continued)**

We have been able to fund professional counselling for individual residents which they would otherwise have to wait much longer for.

Family Link also covers outreach work on an individual basis with children and young people in schools who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse. Therapeutic work includes understanding thought and emotions, having your voice heard, building healthy attachments and processing past or current traumas and a variety of age appropriate techniques are utilised. Weekly sessions in the school usually last for 10 weeks and the feedback on changed behaviours provided by teachers, social workers and family members has been overwhelmingly positive. As noted above, we have now received some specific funding to support this work.

Charity Shop

Our shop in Upton Road, Moreton continued to open 4 days per week after lockdown rules were finally lifted in April 2021 and generated a surplus of £6,180 which will be used for the benefit of families in refuge. The successful operation of the shop is dependent on the team of volunteers and dedication of the manager, as well as the generosity of our regular customers and donors. Since the year end, opening times have been extended with the shop now open on Saturday.

Hardship Fund

This is a designated fund to be used at the discretion of the Management Committee. It has been used to cover the housing costs of women whose circumstances prevent them from claiming full state benefits and to provide short term financial support whilst residents are waiting for their claims to be processed.

During the year £4,743 of the Welfare Hardship Fund has been used in respect of four women, leaving a balance in the fund at the year end of £16,233.

Capital Fund

This is a fund, designated by the trustees, which represents the net book value of fixed assets.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

10 Income and expenditure account

	£
1 April 2021	318,265
Deficit for the year	(52,351)
	<hr/>
31 March 2022	265,914
	<hr/> <hr/>

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted Funds			
P H Holt Foundation	-	7,781	7,781
Other funds	-	6,000	6,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	13,781	13,781
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds			
Family Link Activities	-	-	-
General Fund	-	107,375	107,375
Charity Shop	-	65,878	65,878
Hardship Fund	-	16,233	16,233
Capital Fund	62,647	-	62,647
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds	62,647	189,486	252,133
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Net Assets	62,647	203,267	265,914
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

12 Related parties

There were no related party transactions during the year.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

13 Financial Commitments

At 31 March 2022 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022	2021
Expiry date:	£	£
Within one year	7,792	-
Between one and five years	17,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24,792	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grants receivable		23,086		58,200
Grants receivable - JRS		496		21,803
Grants receivable - Small business support		2,667		19,431
Donations		32,835		72,406
Rental income		401,183		384,120
Interest		1,035		1,416
Shop income		40,956		16,498
Other income		301		2,097
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		502,559		575,971
Less Admin & Support Costs				
Salaries and related costs	357,171		351,186	
Rent and rates	24,013		23,794	
Light and heat	20,488		16,433	
Insurance	4,382		4,239	
Sundry expenses	31,281		25,540	
Grant expenditure	17,797		19,164	
Training costs	9,617		12,208	
Repairs and maintenance	30,749		56,305	
Printing and stationery	3,878		4,594	
Telephone and postage	4,501		4,402	
Travel and car expenses	6,968		4,524	
Depreciation	1,903		1,607	
Bank charges	293		215	
Legal and professional fees	4,192		3,051	
Accountancy fees	6,934		4,974	
Shop expenses	14,319		13,228	
Rent arrears written off	2,216		2,183	
Management fees	14,208		13,932	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		554,910		561,579
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
		(52,351)		14,392

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

**FAMILY LINK ACTIVITIES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations		20,000		50,000
Grants receivable - MHCLG		-		14,178
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Income		20,000		64,178
 Expenditure				
Salaries and related costs	-		55,825	
Light and heat	1,434		1,150	
Insurance	438		424	
Sundries	3,098		1,928	
Outings and celebrations	4,900		7,899	
Work in schools	991		-	
Other activities	6,142		3,216	
Sensory room	-		22,629	
External counselling services	1,555		-	
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		18,558		93,071
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,442		(28,893)
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

CHARITY SHOP
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Shop trading income		40,956		16,498
Grants receivable - JRS		496		10,230
Grants receivable - Small business support		2,667		19,431
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Income		44,119		46,159
 Expenditure				
Salaries and related costs	23,620		23,129	
Rent and rates	8,500		8,500	
Light and heat	847		961	
Insurance	784		824	
Repairs and waste disposal	3,417		1,980	
Printing, postage and stationery	100		-	
Telephone and internet	516		522	
Sundry	155		441	
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		37,939		36,357
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Surplus for the year		6,180		9,802
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

**P H HOLT FOUNDATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grants receivable - P H Holt Foundation		15,606		-
		<u>15,606</u>		<u>-</u>
Total Income		15,606		-
Expenditure				
Training costs	7,825		-	
	<u>7,825</u>		<u>-</u>	
		<u>7,825</u>		<u>-</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u><u>7,781</u></u>		<u><u>-</u></u>

WIRRAL WOMEN & CHILDRENS' AID

England & Wales - Charity number 1106399

Accounts

WIRRAL

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2021

Registered Charity Number : 1106399

Company Number : 05250366

HAILWOOD & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Balance sheet	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 to 25

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Charity registration number 1106399
Company number 05250366

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Chair
M Marshall

Treasurer
D Bennett

Directors
M Marshall
D Bennett
A Beech
V Beech
C Ross
T Goodson Resigned 21/10/2020
K Rigby
A Birchall Appointed 11/05/2021

PATRONS

The Rt Hon Frank Field DL
Dr Katy Kidd
Dame Lorna Muirhead DCVO DBE
Stephen R Ross

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

P O Box 14
Birkenhead
CH41 6PX

REGISTERED OFFICE

19 Hamilton Square
Birkenhead
CH41 6AY

AUDITORS

Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
392-394 Hoylake Road
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 6DF

Wirral Women and Children's Aid
Chair of Trustees Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

This is actually our 40th year. We plan to hold an event next year to thank individuals and groups who have enabled so many women and children to break the cycle of abuse.

I am incredibly proud of the way our staff and families have coped with the challenges of lockdown. The team have been willing to alter their roles and shift patterns in order to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19. However, the quality of our service has not been hindered. In fact, many have reported some benefits of the changes which will, therefore, be maintained.

The restrictions caused by the pandemic meant that families were unable to 'Move On'. Again there were advantages to the increase in time that the families spent in the refuge. Staff and residents reported that the additional time together enabled self esteem to grow.

The additional grants we received during the pandemic ensured that families were able to receive additional food and essential items. Birkenhead Rotary Club obtained a grant for the children to have laptops so that they could access on-line learning. We have developed our IT infrastructure which means remote working is enabled. We also have a new website which provides a route for women in danger to access support and advice. It also permits individuals to make donations. We raised £6k through this facility which contributed to the donations that we have used to create a sensory room for the children.

Once again, we have been at full capacity. We have housed twenty four women and their families, with a further nine women needing to use the emergency bed in the lounge. Unfortunately, 288 women were referred to our service who could not be accommodated. The team ensured that they were signposted to other relevant agencies. Our 24 hour helpline took at least 700 calls during the year.

The Domestic Abuse Act has, at last, come into force. It aims to raise awareness of the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families. Our team has attended various sessions in order to become familiar with the Act, and what it means for our service.

The staff have also received further training so that they can offer 1:1 therapeutic support for children. Our Family Support Worker often delivers these sessions in local schools. All of our staff will shortly begin their Level 5 diploma in Trauma and Mental Health.

Wirral Women and Children's Aid
Chair of Trustees Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

The generosity of the community during the pandemic has been overwhelming; our families were not forgotten. We were able to provide much needed additional resources, activities and days out. Thank you for everyone's continued commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. J. Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and 'J'.

Meg Marshall
Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Introduction

Since 1981, we have provided a place of safety for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We are an independent Wirral based charity with close partnership links with our local communities to provide a comprehensive, trusted pathway of support to local families.

Our support includes help around budgeting, accessing services such as health, cultural and legal, gaining independence, trauma recovery and confidence with education and employment opportunities.

With the support of our donors, we arrange lots of fun activities which is a great way for the mums and children to start creating new happy memories.

This year we have reached our 40-year milestone of supporting women and children to escape from abuse and empower them to start their new lives free from fear in a non-violent environment. It is quite an achievement and we are so proud of what we have created and what it means for the women and children.

Aims and objectives for the public benefit

The Board of Trustees confirms that it has referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the organisation's aims and objectives, and in formulating future plans.

Our Mission and Vision

It is our mission to provide a supportive family environment so that those who are overcoming the trauma of domestic abuse and seeking a place of safety, do not have to face the hardest of times alone. By doing this, we are helping to empower women and children so that they can start a new life of independence, free from harm and fear.

We do this by providing high quality accommodation and intensive support to women aged 16 and over and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to enable them to reach their potential and improve the health and wellbeing of women, children and staff, including the addressing of complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse issues.

We will work to engage and educate the wider community to challenge perceptions around domestic abuse. We will continue to be an innovative refuge, to provide a safe, therapeutic and trauma informed place for women and children, within which they will be supported and educated to enable them to break the cycles around domestic abuse. We provide a supportive environment for staff who are valued, respected and protected.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Aims and objectives for the public benefit (continued)

Our values

We have an acronym to summarise our values – **PROTECTING**

Protection
Resilience
Outreach
Trust
Empowerment
Collaboration
Training
Inclusivity
Normality
Governance

Our values help us to respond in tough situations. We need values to forge lasting relationships with those around us, including residents, staff and stakeholders. Values are important because they act as a set of guidelines for the events we encounter in life. Life is not black and white.

Since we began in 1981, we have accommodated 3,515 women and 6,201 children and young people, all of whom have endured domestic abuse. Whilst our priority is to support women and children affected by domestic abuse living on the Wirral, we also have some flexibility to support women from other areas who have to flee due to high-risk circumstances. We value inclusivity and welcome women from all groups in society who identify as female, including BME and LGBTQ+ groups, and women with disabilities and complex needs. We provide interpreters, adaptations and any other specialist support required to meet their needs.

We recognise that there are also male victims of domestic abuse and any men calling our domestic abuse helpline are always given advice and signposted to appropriate support services.

Details of the charity, its Trustees and Advisers

The registered name of the Charity is Wirral Women and Children's Aid, charity number 1106399, company number 525036.

All Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 1, along with details of the registered office and the charity's professional advisers

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Constitution and Organisation

The Charity was established in 1981 as The Women's Refuge and later changed its name to Wirral Women and Children's Aid to reflect the work done with children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. The company was registered with the Charity Commission on 21 October 2004 and is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its memorandum and articles of association, incorporated on 5 October 2004.

The Management Committee meet at least six times per year with other sub committees set up to consider and report back to the Management Committee as required. Day to day operational decisions are delegated to the Head of Service, Emma Clark.

The Management Committee appoints all new trustees, based on selection criteria which ensure that collectively it maintains a broad range of relevant skills and experience. Nominations are sought from interested organisations and individuals. An application pack is available on request from the Business Manager.

Risk management

The Management Committee has overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity. However, such a system can provide only reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against errors and fraud. The charity operates a comprehensive budgeting process which is approved by the Management Committee. Reports of actual financial receipts against budget are made to the Management Committee at the end of each quarter, including linking financial performance with resource and activity levels.

The charity has risk management policies and procedures throughout, in which risks arising from the existing operations and strategic developments are identified and evaluated. All major risks to which the charity is exposed have been reviewed and the systems implemented to mitigate these risks are continually being developed or enhanced.

Financial Review

Results

Total incoming resources were £575,971 whilst total resources expended were £561,579 resulting in a net surplus for the year of £14,392. Total funds at 31 March 2021 were £318,265 of which £8,492 were restricted funds, £63,148 represents fixed assets and the balance is the charity's general fund of £246,625.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Financial Review (continued)

Principal policies

The Management Committee expect to maintain a position whereby the combination of fund-raising, fees charged for accommodation and grants received are at least equal to operational expenses

Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been developed following the guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and applies to the free reserves, excluding restricted and designated funds. Details of the various funds are given in notes 9 and 11 to the accounts.

Reserves are held for three distinct reasons: working capital reserve sufficient to avoid financial difficulties in the event that income is significantly reduced in the short term; cessation reserve to enable costs in a winding up situation to be covered i.e. redundancy costs; opportunity reserve for new initiatives in line with the current business plan which covers the period 2020 – 2023.

The policy is for working capital reserves to be maintained at between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure, costs of cessation are estimated at £40,000, whilst the opportunity reserve equates to around 15% of total free reserves. The target range for reserves is between £195,000 and £315,000.

The actual free reserves at 31 March 2021 (being unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets and excluding the designated Welfare Hardship Fund) were £230,649 which is within the target range.

Funding

Supporting People provide a Grant which, together with the rental income, comprises the core funding of the Refuge. It is based on the maximum capacity of twelve women and up to 28 children being accommodated at any one time. This combined income funds the basic staff costs and day to day running costs. The children's costs are not funded other than by charitable fund raising. Our staff team are on site 24/7.

A large portion of our income from donations received is ringfenced for our Family Link work. As well as providing activities and days out, our Family Link Workers focus strongly on trauma therapy, sensory play and attachment programmes, and work with the mums so they can continue to support the children's recovery and nurture strong, healthy relationships once they move on from refuge in line with our mission, vision and values.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and Performance 2020-2021

COVID-19 Impact

The COVID-19 crisis changed the way in which we work. During the various lockdown periods, the non-project workers (family link, complex needs, training and development) joined a rota with the project workers, each working a 24-hour shift at the Refuge and working from home for the rest of their time, answering helpline calls, delivering keywork sessions, planning activities for their next shift, etc. Weekly virtual team meetings were introduced which worked well. The Refuge was treated as a single household, and this was assessed to be the best way to keep our residents and staff safe whilst minimising external contacts but continuing to provide our vital services.

Through grants and donations received, we were able to upgrade our technology to support remote working, cover additional staffing costs, increase capacity and support accelerated move-on for some families in order to free up bed space for new residents, by supplying essential items they would not otherwise have been able to afford at the time.

Along with other domestic abuse services, we saw an increase in women contacting our helpline for advice and support due to rising levels of coercive control and increased pressure of being 'locked down' together.

The staff and residents complied with restrictions and have been fully vaccinated.

Our charity shop was closed during the lockdown periods and required much re-organisation of the internal layout to make it COVID secure for re-opening. With the Job Retention Scheme and Small Business Support Grants, we were able to mitigate lost takings and generate a surplus to support the ongoing work of the Refuge.

Occupancy

We have maintained an occupancy rate of around 95% over the year. This was lower than the previous year due to COVID-19 safety measures put in place, including keeping one room vacant in case a family needed to self-isolate away from other residents and staff.

Number of women and children supported

During 2020-2021 we supported 34 women and 42 children within the refuge and 89 adults in the community. We have also placed a further 9 women and 11 children in our emergency bedspace in the refuge to ensure their immediate safety. The majority of the families were from the Wirral, but we also housed families from across the country.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and Performance 2020-2021 (continued)

24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline

This year our 24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline took over 700 calls. Demand for our services is huge and we received 288 requests for refuge. We received 254 calls from women who needed advice, guidance or just a chat. We continued to support 175 ex-residents who called the helpline. Due to our available bed space capacity, we were unable to accommodate many women seeking refuge. However, we have strong links with partner agencies and other refuges across the country and were able to assist in finding alternative safe accommodation.

Stakeholders

We have worked closely with our stakeholders and partner agencies to provide a wrap-around support service and manage the risk posed by the perpetrators.

We collected feedback questionnaires from stakeholders to help us evaluate the service and identify areas for improvement.

Therapies

Our service is unique to the Wirral and is a trauma informed service. We use a Cognitive Analytical Therapy (CAT) model which uses a relational approach in the care of hard-to-help individuals with complex presentations and/or offending behaviour. Our CAT approach helps us to build positive relationships and break down barriers to accessing services, preventing the cycle of repeated access to temporary accommodations and other services. The use of CAT concepts and reformulation allows the staff to focus on the "here and now" enactments of developmentally derived reciprocal roles and procedures, exploring the relational origins of personality, difficulty and trauma.

Other support delivered by the team includes Combined Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit, Hope2Recovery, DASH Masterclass for in depth risk assessing, Understanding Relational and Developmental Trauma, Trauma and Dissociative Identity Disorder. Staff have a high level of safeguarding training.

Via an external provider, we have offered psychotherapy sessions for women who require additional support.

Services provided in addition to our refuge provision and helpline:

- Our highly trained staff team provides a trauma-led package of support to women and children to provide them with the necessary coping skills and recovery. Support includes: one-to one and group work around domestic abuse, practical advice around money, debt, budgeting, independence, parenting and health and wellbeing advice.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and Performance 2020-2021 (continued)

- Our Family Link Workers provide specialist support and coordinate a range of activities and therapies and support children experiencing domestic abuse in refuge, via outreach and in primary schools where they deliver one-to-one sessions. They work with the mums as well as the children to encourage consistency and help the mums understand how to respond to signs of trauma. Programmes delivered by Family Link Workers include: An attachment programme-'Mummy and I', Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs, Drawing and Talking[®] and therapeutic sensory play.
- We support families to find move-on accommodation when they are ready for independence.
- Our website www.wwaca.org explains what we do, provides contact information, and shows our facilities.

Since the year end

The Family Link workers have developed their outreach work for children in schools and designed a new sensory area in the playroom which has now been installed following the funding appeal on our website which resulted in many generous donations. We are looking forward to adding the finishing touches and sharing photographs with our supporters.

Future plans

Future plans include improving our move on accommodation through Intensive Housing Management. There is a lack of suitable accommodation in the local area for properties which also provide the support required for vulnerable tenants in addition to their housing needs. Before the lockdown, we were in negotiation regarding a management agreement with a local RSL for the use of one of their properties and we will continue with this later in the year.

We plan for staff to complete a level 5 Diploma in Trauma and Mental Health which will allow us to gain accreditation as a fully trauma informed service.

We will develop our impact measurement for quality assurance to ensure we are providing the best possible service.

We will increase our provision of psychological support to offer a range of therapies, including CBT and EMDR as appropriate, by both male and female therapists.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid
Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Future plans (continued)

The new Domestic Abuse Bill and Statutory Housing Duty has come into effect. We will work to implement changes inline with the new legislation.

Through an Employee Assistance Programme, we will provide additional support and counselling to staff to reduce the effect of vicarious trauma and burnout.

Conclusion

In what has been a highly unusual year with a huge level of disruption to our normal services due to the pandemic there is still so much for us to be proud of.

We are proud of:

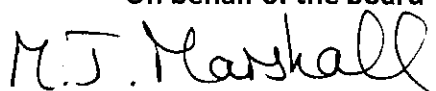
- Our staff for being flexible in adapting their working practices which kept them and our women and children safe.
- Successfully accessing a range of financial support.
- Engendering a real sense of belonging within the refuge.
- Continuing to develop skills and knowledge in Trauma based therapy

We are very much looking forward to a less disrupted 2021 -2022 but the pandemic has brought out the best of us and we are sure that whatever the coming year has in store it will not affect the protection and safety we provide.

The Trustees would like to thank our staff team who have gone above and beyond expectations this year and all those who continue to or have for the first time this year supported Wirral Women and Children's Aid with their time, very generous donations, buildings support and a huge amount of goodwill. Your support is invaluable and it hugely enhances and enriches the lives of our women and children whilst they are with us.

This report has been prepared in accordance with special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

10 August 2021

On behalf of the board

Meg Marshall - Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES****for the year ended 31 March 2021**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's examiner is unaware;
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

On behalf of the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report**to the members of Wirral Women & Children's Aid**

I report to the trustees of Wirral Women and Children's Aid on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise of the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the 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 company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross 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 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with these records; or
- 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
- 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.

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.

10 August 2021
Moreton, Wirral



Adam French B.Eng FCA
Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Income		574,555	484,566
Interest and investment income		1,416	1,312
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		575,971	485,878
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure		559,972	507,625
Depreciation		1,607	1,820
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure		561,579	509,445
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	10	<u>14,392</u>	<u>(23,567)</u>

Movements in reserves are shown in note 9.

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial periods.

There are no recognised gains and losses in the year ended 31 March 2021 or the year ended 31 March 2020 other than the surplus/ (deficit) for each year.

Total income comprises £517,771 for unrestricted funds and £58,200 for restricted funds. A detailed analysis of income by source is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 15 which together with the notes to the accounts on pages 17 to 25, provides full information on the movement during the year on all the funds.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 £	2020 £
Income from:					
Donations		72,406	-	72,406	35,962
Other trading activities		46,159	-	46,159	43,435
Investment income		1,416	-	1,416	1,312
Charitable activities		397,790	58,200	455,990	405,169
Total income	2	517,771	58,200	575,971	485,878
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	3	475,514	49,708	525,222	474,250
Raising funds	4	36,357	-	36,357	35,195
Total expenditure		511,871	49,708	561,579	509,445
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers					
		5,900	8,492	14,392	(23,567)
Transfers between funds	9	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		5,900	8,492	14,392	(23,567)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	9	303,873	-	303,873	327,440
Total funds carried forward	9	309,773	8,492	318,265	303,873

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

BALANCE SHEET

As At 31 March 2021


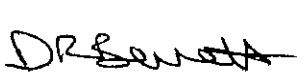
	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		63,148		64,755
Current assets					
Debtors	7	22,837		27,713	
Cash at bank and in hand		283,392		235,470	
		<u>306,229</u>		<u>263,183</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(51,112)</u>		<u>(24,065)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>255,117</u>		<u>239,118</u>
Net assets	11		<u>318,265</u>		<u>303,873</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds	9		309,773		303,873
Restricted income funds	9		8,492		-
			<u>318,265</u>		<u>303,873</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 14 to 25 were approved by the Trustees on 10 August 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

 
M Marshall - Chair D Bennett - Treasurer

Company Number : 05250366

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules and comply with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 but does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

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

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The company has no share capital.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

General funds comprise funds which represent accumulated surpluses and deficits in the Statement of Financial Activities, after transfers to/from the designated funds.

The purposes and uses of all funds are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Income

All donations, sundry income and rental income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants are recognised in the period to which they relate, and are allocated to either the restricted fund they are intended for, or to unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

The cost headings comprise expenditure, including staff costs, directly attributable to the organisation's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Improvements to property	1% of Cost
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	15% of Net Book Value
Office equipment	15% of Net Book Value
Computers	33.33% of Net Book Value
Play equipment	15% of Net Book Value

All significant assets are reviewed annually for impairment and provision made where considered necessary.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Restricted		2021	2020
	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£
2 Income				
Donations	72,406	-	72,406	35,962
Interest receivable	1,416	-	1,416	1,312
Fundraising trading	46,159	-	46,159	43,435
Grants receivable	11,573	58,200	69,773	-
Rental income	384,120	-	384,120	383,973
Income from other operating activities	2,097	-	2,097	21,196
	<u>517,771</u>	<u>58,200</u>	<u>575,971</u>	<u>485,878</u>
3 Charitable activities				
Salaries and related costs	297,513	30,544	328,057	323,208
Rent and rates	23,794	-	23,794	32,815
Light and heat	16,433	-	16,433	12,847
Insurance	4,239	-	4,239	3,303
Sundry expenses	25,540	-	25,540	25,221
Grant expenditure	-	19,164	19,164	-
Training costs	12,208	-	12,208	10,905
Repairs and maintenance	56,305	-	56,305	19,587
Rent arrears written off	2,183	-	2,183	4,338
Management fees	13,932	-	13,932	11,712
Printing and stationery	4,594	-	4,594	5,674
Telephone and postage	4,402	-	4,402	4,713
Travel and car expenses	4,524	-	4,524	8,639
Bank charges	215	-	215	331
Legal and professional fees	3,051	-	3,051	4,184
Accountancy fees	4,974	-	4,974	4,953
Depreciation: Property improvements	686	-	686	686
Depreciation: Furniture, fixtures and fittings	398	-	398	469
Depreciation: Play equipment	320	-	320	376
Depreciation: Office equipment	42	-	42	49
Depreciation: Computer equipment	161	-	161	240
	<u>475,514</u>	<u>49,708</u>	<u>525,222</u>	<u>474,250</u>

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 £	2020 £
4 Raising funds				
Salaries and wages	23,129	-	23,129	22,424
Rent and rates	8,500	-	8,500	8,500
Light and heat	961	-	961	1,265
Insurance	824	-	824	631
Repairs and maintenance	1,980	-	1,980	1,435
Printing, postage and stationery	-	-	-	141
Telephone	522	-	522	557
Travel and car expenses	-	-	-	65
Sundry expenses	441	-	441	177
	<u>36,357</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,357</u>	<u>35,195</u>

5 Salaries and wages	2021 No	2020 No
Average number of full time equivalent employees	13	14
Staff costs for the above:	£	£
Wages and salaries	320,228	316,996
Employers' national insurance	24,419	22,346
Employers' pension	6,539	6,290
	<u>351,186</u>	<u>345,632</u>

There were no employees earning a salary in excess of £60,000 in either year.

The trustees received no remuneration or expenses in either year.

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Property improvements £	Furniture fixtures & fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Play equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
1 April 2020	68,552	33,339	2,352	5,825	7,721	117,789
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2021	68,552	33,339	2,352	5,825	7,721	117,789
Depreciation						
1 April 2020	9,350	30,683	2,074	5,337	5,590	53,034
Charge for year	686	398	42	161	320	1,607
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 March 2021	10,036	31,081	2,116	5,498	5,910	54,641
Net book amount						
31 March 2021	58,516	2,258	236	327	1,811	63,148
31 March 2020	59,202	2,656	278	488	2,131	64,755

7 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Rent and service charges receivable	6,969	10,818
Sundry debtors and prepayments	15,868	16,895
	22,837	27,713

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

				2021	2020
				£	£
8 Creditors due within one year					
PAYE and national insurance				5,348	7,093
Sundry creditors and accruals				45,764	16,972
				<u>51,112</u>	<u>24,065</u>
9 Funds					
	Balance	Incoming	Outgoing		Balance
	at 1 April	resources	resources	Transfers	at 31 March
	2020				2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
MHCLG	-	45,080	45,080	-	-
Other funds	-	13,120	4,628	-	8,492
	<u>-</u>	<u>58,200</u>	<u>49,708</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,492</u>
Unrestricted Funds					
Family Link Activities	-	50,000	78,893	28,893	-
Specialist Worker Posts	-	451	21,810	21,359	-
General Fund	171,194	421,161	372,759	(48,645)	170,951
Charity Shop	49,896	46,159	36,357	-	59,698
Welfare Hardship Fund	18,028	-	2,052	-	15,976
Capital Fund	64,755	-	-	(1,607)	63,148
	<u>303,873</u>	<u>517,771</u>	<u>511,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>309,773</u>

In some cases where the charity has received restricted funding in the past, the trustees continue to fund that activity from unrestricted funds once the restricted funding has run out. This is the case with the first two unrestricted funds above.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2021****9 Funds (continued)****Restricted fund - MHCLG**

A grant was applied for from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) at the start of the pandemic with assistance from Womens' Aid. We were awarded £45,080 to cover expenditure during the period April to October 2020. The main purpose of the funding was to expedite the move-on process for women in refuge so that new bed spaces would become available sooner. The money was spent on funding two Outreach posts (max 6 months), removal costs, essential furniture and goods for move-on, plus additional cleaning and PPE within the Refuge with the purpose of maintaining our current service provision.

Restricted fund - Other funds

Grants totalling £13,120 were received from five different organisations during the year to provide additional support for our families during the pandemic, including paying for essential items and decoration costs for move on accommodation. Some of these grants were received later in the year and had not been spent in full by the year end.

Family Link Activities

There is no statutory funding for the work that is done by WWACA with children and young people but we are fortunate to receive many generous donations, some of which are designated to provide services for the children, young people and families. Our appeal for the Sensory room launched on the website was very successful, increasing the income allocated to Family Link activities this year. The use of these donations is detailed below.

The Family Link workers lead activities with the children and mums; baking, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and sensory play including music group, gardening and messy play. They took the families on outdoor adventures and days out in the fresh air between lockdowns and arranged activities in the garden such as barbeques, pool days, karaoke, crafts, dance classes, yoga and 'It's a Knockout' style fun days. They also facilitated celebrations for birthdays, theme nights, Easter, Halloween and a Christmas grotto party.

During lock down, the Family Link Workers held sessions with the children by video call so that they could continue with their therapeutic work and stay consistent with the children's routines. They have since started working with children one-on-one in schools and via outreach to create assessments around sensory needs which will be a focus of our work in the future. This allows them to build trusting relationships with children who have experienced domestic abuse, helping them to develop their emotional wellbeing and resilience. Therapies delivered include the Domestic Abuse Toolkit, the ACE's Programme, Drawing and Talking ®, an attachment programme 'Mummy and I' and sensory play, depending on the unique needs of each child.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid**NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****for the year ended 31 March 2021****9 Funds (continued)****Specialist Workers Posts**

We have continued to self-fund the Complex Needs worker post although the role has evolved with the changing needs of the refuge this year and in future will focus on outreach work, particularly with post-Refuge residents who still need support. 28 referrals were received, 14 of which engaged in support via video call. Support provided included risk assessing, emotional encouragement and signposting to other organisations to provide tailored wrap around recovery and safety support.

Homelessness training with the Chartered Institute of Housing was undertaken to better support the move-on process and also outreach work with women to prepare them for refuge accommodation. Also the Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit training, which is integrated into our key work programmes, helping women to develop coping strategies and their response to trauma and life events.

The Training and Development Worker post ceased in May 2020 as we were unable to secure sufficient funding for the post to be viable.

Charity Shop

The pandemic posed a significant challenge to our shop in Upton Road, Moreton which had to close during lockdown periods. Through the Government's Job Retention Scheme and Small Business grants, we were able to mitigate losses resulting from closure and generated a surplus of £9,802 which will be used for the benefit of families in refuge. Our residents are also invited to select clothing, toys, household goods and other items from the shop as they need. The successful operation of the shop is dependent on the team of volunteers and dedication of the manager, as well as the generosity of our regular customers and donors.

Welfare Hardship Fund

This is a designated fund to be used at the discretion of the Management Committee. It has been used to cover the housing costs of women whose circumstances prevent them from claiming full state benefits and to clear historic arrears where these prevent new tenancies being secured.

During the year £2,052 of the Welfare Hardship Fund has been used in respect of six women, leaving a balance in the fund at the year end of £15,976.

Capital Fund

This is a fund, designated by the trustees, which represents the net book value of fixed assets.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

10 Income and expenditure account

	£
1 April 2020	303,873
Surplus for the year	14,392
	<hr/>
31 March 2021	318,265
	<hr/> <hr/>

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted Funds			
MHCLG	-	-	-
Other funds	-	8,492	8,492
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	8,492	8,492
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds			
Family Link Activities	-	-	-
Specialist Worker Posts	-	-	-
General Fund	-	170,951	170,951
Charity Shop	-	59,698	59,698
Welfare Hardship Fund	-	15,976	15,976
Capital Fund	63,148	-	63,148
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds	63,148	246,625	309,773
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Net Assets	63,148	255,117	318,265
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

12 Related parties

There were no related party transactions during the year.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

13 Financial Commitments

At 31 March 2021 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021	2020
Expiry date:	£	£
Within one year	-	7,792
Between one and five years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	7,792
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>