NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

England & Wales · Charity number 1122969

Details

Other names	SIXTYEIGHTYTHIRTY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06431269
Registered	2008-02-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Unit 3 Waterhouse Burn Lane Hexham Northumberland NE46 3HN
Phone	01434608030
Email	admin@nda.services
Website	nda.services

Activities

Objects: To relieve the distress and suffering of people in Northumberland who have experienced domestic abuse.

Activities: NDAS provides practical and emotional support to all survivors of domestic abuse in Northumberland at any time in their lives. We can offer practical help and emotional support, see www.nda.services for more information, or telephone us on 01434 608030.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NORTHUMBERLAND.
- Northumberland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£352,037	£390,016	-	-
2024-03-31	£483,353	£383,151	-	-
2023-03-31	£440,843	£323,812	-	-
2022-03-31	£294,925	£300,418	-	-
2021-03-31	£257,484	£253,176	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Helen Milner	Chair	2023-09-27
ALISON RICHARDSON		2017-11-02
Caroline Faye Jackson		2026-05-01
Claire Seeley		2023-09-27
Diana Barkes		2023-09-27
Julia Brown		2023-09-27
Pamela Perry		2026-05-01
Patricia Ann Oliver		2020-08-20
SALLY ANN DODGSON		2026-05-01
Susan Jane Pikett Timperley		2024-10-16

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NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1122969

Accounts

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number	1122969
Company Number	06431269
Registered Office	Unit 3 Waterhouse, Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3HN

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows;

H Milner	(Chair)
A Richardson	
R Swinburne	
P Oliver	
D Barkes	
J Brown	
C Seeley	
J Pikett	Appointed 16 October 2024
B Harrison	Resigned 17 April 2024
C Marchant	Resigned 17 April 2024

Key Management Personnel

Sharon Brown	Chief Executive

Our advisors

Independent Examiners	S&W Audit 17 Queens Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RN

Legal Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. In the event of a winding up, every member (who is a trustee) undertakes to contribute to the payment of liabilities such amount as may be required not exceeding the total of £1.

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Last Year, across Northumberland NDAS:

- ✓ **Referrals increased by 7% from the previous year**
- ✓ **Supported 555 adult victims/survivors of domestic abuse**
- ✓ **The number of men supported increased by 33% from the previous year**
- ✓ **31 children supported by our children's counsellor**
- ✓ **Over 3,500 children and young people have attended our prevention sessions, an increase of 75% from the previous year**
- ✓ **More than 60% of people supported have reported to have a disability**

- We protect and then empower all victims/survivors of domestic abuse by providing flexible, professional, free support throughout Northumberland.
- Our work with victims/survivors of DA enables them to recognise the DA they have suffered, as identified under the umbrella of CCB.
- Our personalised and sensitive interaction with victims/survivors creates a trusting relationship, where people feel supported and able to share their experiences.
- With support victims/survivor are able to identify, address and overcome their unique practical and emotional challenges, enabling them to cope with and recover from the abuse they have suffered.
- The impact of our support is often far-reaching not only for the victim but also their children and wider families.
- Our timely therapeutic support for children and young people will reduce the likelihood of ongoing psychological trauma that can adversely affect their relationships and long-term life chances.
- Our focus on collaborative approach with partners creates a coordinated multi-agency personalised package of accessible support.
- Our historic footprint across the county including rural and isolated areas means that there is widespread knowledge of our services and how to access support.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial performance

The financial statements for the year to 31 March 2025 report a deficit of £37,979 (2024 surplus- £100,202). The deficit primarily relates to the timing of when income on restricted funds has been received during the current year versus when the funds have been spent.

Reserves policy

NDAS believes it is important to maintain a reserves policy to ensure effective resource management, and to enable financial viability and longer-term sustainability. In line with the reserves policy, The Board of Trustees aim for a minimum of 3 months of core and operating costs, this equates to approximately £252,000. As of 31 March 2025, the charity held free reserves of £328,133.

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The vast majority of NDAS clients are victims/survivors of coercive control behaviour (CCB) which is an umbrella for all forms of domestic abuse. The increased awareness of CCB and the now well recognised pattern of abuse is helpful for us in understanding the risks of escalation and in informing our work with clients and when and how to intervene. with its intention to subjugate a partner or family member is increasingly recognised as the umbrella for all forms of domestic abuse. It is a pattern of behaviour that can be difficult to identify and can have long-lasting effects on victims – see below The Umbrella of Coercive Control by Professor Jane Monckton Smith.
Coercive Controlling Behaviour (CCB):

- Traps people in relationships,
- Creates a state of subjugation,
- Creates what has been described as a kind of hostage situation,
- Reduces choices and space for action,
- Manipulates compliance,
- Creates a relationship hierarchy.

Funding - There is uncertainty facing all charities because of changing criteria amongst some grant funders, and with both PCC and NCC recommissioning during 2025-26. NDAS have developed a 3-year Fundraising Strategy that is looking at varying income sources to increase public giving and corporate relationships, and investigating opportunities to raise a trading income.

Partnerships and Networking
NDAS work collectively to identify gaps and collaborate to promote domestic abuse and sexual violence services across Northumberland. For NDAS collaboration with our statutory and voluntary sector partners is essential to achieving our aims to support all victims/survivors of abuse and ensure resources are not duplicated. We are part of Northumberland Integrated Partnership (commissioned services), The Lighthouse Partnership (domestic abuse and sexual violence services operating in Northumberland) with established joint working and referral pathways:

- practical and emotional support for victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their children (NDAS)
- support for high risk victims/survivors and emergency refuge accommodation (Harbour)
- adult counselling services (Cygnus Support)
- specialist support for victims/survivors of sexual violence and abuse (Grace – Rape Crisis)
- additional support for families (Acorns)

NDAS is also represented strategically with the Office of the Police and crime Commissioner, and Northumberland County Council, attending Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
We are also currently building alliances with other charities providing services in the North-East e.g. The Angelou Centre, Impact Family Services and Wearside Women in Need to encourage a co-ordinated, holistic, approach to supporting people experiencing domestic abuse as they often have complex needs and are at their most vulnerable, and building on this as a vehicle to attract, and bid for, collaborative funding.

Conclusion

Success for NDAS = Survivors tell us the positive impact our services have had on their quality of life, the reduction of risk they are living with, and improvements in their physical and mental health. They are better equipped when entering new relationships, more resilient and able to access support for any future needs.

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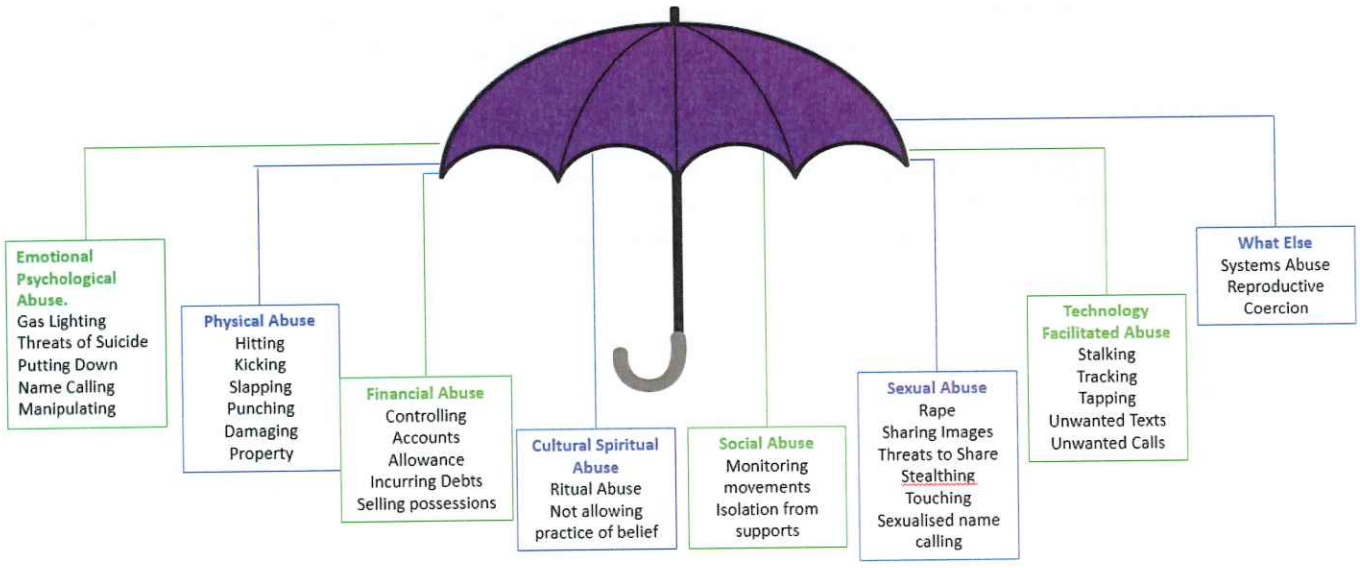
Accommodation	85%
Children	93%
Empowerment and Self-esteem	96%
Health and well-being	86%
Legal Issues	84%
Money	82%
Safety	88%
Support Networks	90%
Work and Learning	81%

Survivor Voices – We established the Survivors Voice group in 2023 which meets quarterly. The group is an opportunity for clients/ex-clients to meet for mutual support, to share issues and provide feedback on NDAS and partner services.

NDAS Case Study – making a real impact: Janet, aged 61, living in rural north of Northumberland. Perpetrator was no longer living in the home but was monitoring Janet remotely. Janet was married to the perpetrator for over 20 years and was a victim of coercive control that had been going on for years.

Janet who lives in an extremely rural location in Northumberland was being controlled via electronic monitoring equipment inside and outside her property, she lives across 5 farmers' fields and is unable to speak openly on the phone so face to face visits were arranged in a safe place. The DAP identified that the location was more remote and inaccessible than anticipated. Janet responded well to face to face meetings and over time was able to disclose more about her experiences and needs. Janet was suffering from mental health issues; the DAP advised Janet to visit her G.P. The GP prescribed medication which was welcomed by Janet. The safety plan was adjusted to respond to the extensive electronic monitoring identified to address immediate concerns by having the devices removed and a new safe internet installed. Janet was supported in divorcing and separating finances. The DAP attended court with Janet and liaised with Janet's solicitor to ensure special measures were put in place to reassure Janet and ensure her safety at court. Janet was able to secure a financial offer to meet her needs including ongoing maintenance payments until she reaches pension age and then pensions will be shared equally. Janet was able to proceed to sell the property and start to rebuild her life, ideally, she would like to move to a local town where she can access shops and support groups and is also keen to do some voluntary work.

Learning and Challenges



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Rural West

Over the last year, we have had some changes to the West Practitioner due to roles changing. We have also had a new building which we are now able to use to facilitate client visits, group work and counselling, this has been positive as we have a permanent and appropriate place for clients to attend appointments. West DAP also continues to use community venues or home (where it is safe to do so) when clients cannot attend our office.
Given the rurality of the area, the West DAP continues to travel into the rural areas to ensure that both professionals and the public have access to our information – this makes travel significant at times.

This year NDAS have linked closely with the Police in the West part of Northumberland, this has had a significant impact on working relationships and in turn, we believe, a positive impact on clients. We have been working closely with the Police in area to engage clients together, link into each service for information and support and ensure that teams have access to information if they need too.

Housing issues remain a theme in the west. This is in relation to lack of housing stock which prevents victims of domestic abuse from been able to leave abusive relationships or escape harassment.
Themes around isolation have also been a factor raised within the west, in particularly in the rural areas. The West DAP continues to link into community groups and services to support with this.

Monitoring and evaluation

Feedback from clients reflecting on the support they have received; its impact and outcomes is used to refine our services. Our Theory of Change and Outcomes Framework underpins our monitoring and evaluation systems. We use the OASIS case management system which captures all client including children and young people; information including Risk Assessments, Individual Safety and Support Plans, services delivered to meet personalised goals, capturing outcomes achieved, contact details and length of support. Risk Assessments are reviewed to manage changes in levels of risk to ensure safety measures are in place, and concerns can be escalated when appropriate. The Triangle Outcome STAR are completed with adult clients and the My STAR is also used with children and young people, to provide a baseline of need and monitor progress or regression and again inform personalised planning.

Domestic Abuse includes all kinds of damaging behaviour, not always physical violence: emotional, psychological, sexual, economical, stalking and harassment,
and coercive and controlling behaviour. The main issue for victims is their lack of control and not being allowed to make decisions over many aspects of their lives.

Victims face multiple issues, often have no money they can access, risk losing their homes and even their children. The main changes we aim to achieve with our work with adult victims of domestic abuse are:

1. Victims of domestic abuse will feel safe, in control of their lives and able to make choices
2. Victims of domestic abuse will have better relationships with family and friends
3. Victims of domestic abuse will have improved self-esteem and confidence

Below is the breakdown of the changes experienced by our clients in each of these nine key areas over the course of their support from us. For victims of domestic abuse, no deterioration in these nine areas also counts as a positive as they are often in a worsening situation when they finally ask for our help. Based on this the no change/improvement scores are:

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South East
Over the last year the South East continues to be busy for people who want to access face to face support. Our DAP worker continues to utilise community settings to meet with clients as well as visiting at the home address where it is safe to do so.

Multi-agency working has been of high importance over the last year. Our DAP worker has linked in with services across the South East Locality including mental health services, health, probation, pride, and Children's Services. This ensures that services know where to access support when it comes to domestic abuse.

The importance of multi-agency working has been evident in working with clients for our South East DAP over the last year who has seen an increase in clients who are working with Children's Services and the Police. This has meant attending regular meeting with other professionals as an advocate for clients.

Another theme that has been evident throughout the South East has been informal child contact arrangements being used by perpetrators to push boundaries, misusing phone contact and threatening court proceedings. Another consistent theme in the South East is around finances and people struggling financially after experiencing domestic abuse. This can be in relation with the cost of living crisis and people finding it difficult to afford the basics on their sole income. The DAP has also reported seeing ongoing financial control after separation, this could be linked to housing, child benefits or other shared assets.

They also continue to network across the area by ensuring that our information is available to both professionals and the public. Separately, our South East DAP worker continues to linked into Low Newton prison to ensure that women leaving prison know what domestic abuse service is available in their area.

Rural North
Over the last year the North DAP continues to utilise the Family Hubs around the North of the county in order to arrange face to face appointments. She is also utilising other facilities such as GP surgeries. She visits client's homes when safe to do so and also offers telephone contact at client's request.

We have made changes to our areas since the last report and now Ashington is covered within our North DAP's allocation area. The reason for this is in relation to distance travelled by the DAP and as a result of this Morpeth has been placed in the south east DAPs allocated area.

Travel remains significant in the North, given the geography of the area and the rurality, however our DAP continues to branch out into new areas, ensuring that professionals and the public have access to our information. This involves taking rural routes across the North of the county to ensure leaflets are dropped in all areas, as well as linking in with services across the area. This year our North DAP has linked in with lots of services such as, Northumberland Recovery Project, the Early Help Team, the primary mental health team and the Northumberland Recovery College.

Themes across the North include the cost of living and the impact this has on clients been able to leave i.e. difficulties finding or accessing appropriate housing or been unable to proceed with legal proceedings due to lack of funds.

Child contact and boundaries has been a theme across the year, including perpetrators using child contact to continue to contact the clients or threatening to take clients to court or refer to Children's Services unless they do as they say.

Another theme which our North DAP has noted throughout the year is clients whose self-esteem and mental health have been affected by domestic abuse. The North DAP has completed self-esteem work with clients when required and has linked into counselling and mental health services as required.

Our North DAP has seen a more diverse client base over the last year, this includes more men accessing the service, older clients and two clients who identify as transgender. We have reached a hard of hearing client and two clients who have dementia. These needs have encouraged us to think outside of the box in regards to taking referrals and building trust with the clients we are working with. We have completed referrals face to face where there is a need and have identified some areas where a longer period of support may be required. We have also had to consider how best to share information and how to work with support networks in order to come up with a more realistic safety plan.

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Outcomes
During 2024-25, NDAS has supported 555 adult victims of domestic abuse, an increase of 7% on the previous year with the majority of referrals from Rural Northumberland of the county.

Referrals	June 24	October 24	January 25	March 25	**Annual Totals**
No. of referrals	138	150	120	147	**555**
Female	96	118	88	97	**399**
Male	6	6	5	8	**25**
Unknown	27	26	27	42	**122**
Age					
16-18	0	1	0	0	**1**
19-25	12	17	7	16	**52**
26-35	29	33	29	33	**124**
36-44	47	41	30	36	**154**
45-54	26	37	29	34	**126**
55-64	15	15	11	12	**53**
65+	7	4	5	13	**29**
Unrecorded	2	2	9	0	**13**
North					
No. of service users referred in during the period	31	34	26	36	**127**
DA Programme started	0	1	0	1	**2**
DA Participants Attended	0	11	0	9	**20**
West					
No. of service users during the period	44	51	38	51	**184**
DA Programme started	1	0	0	1	**2**
DA Participants Attended	5	0	0	4	**9**
South/East					
No. of service users during the period	57	48	45	49	**199**
DA Programme started	0	0	0	0	**0**
DA Participants Attended	0	0	0	0	**0**

Practical and Emotional Support for victims/survivors
Building on numbers from 2023/24 we have seen an increase this year of 7% giving a total of 555 new adult clients supported.

Age	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Cumulative Total**
12 years and under	0	0	0	0	0
12 years and under	0	0	0	0	0
13 to 17 years	0	1	0	0	1
18 to 25 years	2	9	9	8	28
26 to 35 years	30	27	25	19	101
36 to 45 years	34	32	39	34	139
46 to 55 years	19	21	16	22	78
56 to 65 years	13	15	11	9	48
66 to 75 years	8	4	4	6	22
76 years and over	1	1	1	2	5
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0
Total					555

Note – this total of 555 includes clients that were referred more than once.

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Therapeutic Counselling - is provided for the children of the adults we work with. Each child receives 12 counselling sessions which can be extended depending on need. Counselling helps children to cope with their experiences in order to aid their recovery, rebuilding family relationships, support engagement in school and reducing the risk of ongoing mental health issues and the risk of children and young people to become victims or perpetrators themselves in later life. Our trauma informed, child-centred approach is tailored to meet the individual needs of each child. Through therapy children and young people are supported to express their feelings and thoughts verbally or in silence using different mediums and therapeutic play. For children exposed to domestic abuse the physical, psychological and emotional effects can be severe and long lasting. These sessions allow the freedom to talk safely about experiences and provide support and skills to regulate emotions. The parent also has the opportunity to understand how domestic abuse has affected their children, receiving support for them to support their children. The voices of children and young people are often lost in abusive situations and these sessions provide a safe environment for those voices to be heard.

Bespoke Interventions - are also provided for sibling groups and individuals where counselling may not be appropriate. Counselling and bespoke sessions take place in a purpose fitted room in our head office and across the county in schools.

Prevention - Our prevention work has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and with funding from National Lottery it is secure for 3 years, the only issue being capacity with just one worker covering the whole of Northumberland. NDAS delivers a range of educational sessions for children and young people in schools and youth groups. Tragically, two years ago, Holly Newton, a 15 year old girl who had recently moved to the area, was murdered by her former boyfriend who had followed her to Hexham, a market town where our office is based. This murder has highlighted nationally the importance of prevention work to alert children and young people to relationship abuse. Weekly sessions over 4 weeks, aimed at enabling children to develop positive and healthy relationships by understanding what unhealthy/unsafe relationships look like including behaviour that perpetrates violence towards women and girls. Sessions also provide an opportunity for children and young people to disclose abuse and give them to the confidence to seek help in the future. Our prevention work empowers children and young people to understand red flags, to recognise unsafe relationships and empower them to make decisions about relationships they are forming and break any misconceptions they have learnt about domestic abuse they may have witnessed at home, learnt online or from their peers. Any safeguarding issues raised are escalated through established channels to ensure the safety of the children and young people. We work closely with Police, the Health and Well-being Teams and teachers across the county to deliver this training in line with Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) guidance.

There is increasing demand for this work which is highly valued by young people, their teachers and youth workers. Three-year funding from National Lottery has allowed us to increase delivery to reach more children and young people including using online resources developed in partnerships with The Access Group in the new academic year 2025.

Training and Awareness – A fundamental aspect of our work is raising awareness and understanding of domestic abuse with professionals and the general public across Northumberland, and through collaboration with strategic partners to campaign for changes in strategy and policy on a regional and national level.

We run training/awareness sessions for professionals and community groups to create greater understanding of domestic abuse to help them identify victims and refer them on to specialist services. Most recently we have developed a specific offer for health services promoting the issue of older adults affected by domestic abuse, the signs and flags to look out for and publicising the NDAS service for older adults. We are looking to promote training/awareness raising with the corporate sector including the recruitment of DA Champions as a point of contact for victims/survivors within the organisation. In doing this we aim to increase awareness, challenge and reduce the social stigma associated with abuse and make it easier for victims/survivors to speak out and know how to access support.

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Our work

During 2024-25, of **all NDAS referrals**, 44% were in the southeast, with 56% of referrals from the rural areas in the west and north of the county, the percentage remains the same as that of 2023/2024.
During the same period, 35% of **self-referrals** were from the southeast and **65% were received from rural areas**. An increase in referrals from rural areas which accounted for 63% during 2023-24.

Practical and Emotional Support for Adult victims/survivors:
The **Initial Response Team** (IRT) respond to all calls for help as a friendly active listener, with a welcoming voice, that believes and understands. A risk assessment is undertaken to identify immediate risk and begin planning to put a safety plan in place. From the first call, victims/survivors will have regular contact and support. We receive over 200 calls each month from victims asking for our support and professionals asking for advice and guidance. Not all calls lead to a referral but often involve providing advice and signposting.

Domestic Abuse Practitioners (DAP) provide one-to-one practical and emotional support for up to 3 months, at times longer depending on their need. Support needs are identified and an Independent Safety and Support Plan is created with the victim/survivor. During 2023-24, NDAS developed an Older Adults Service for those aged 65+ responding to their unique needs, which was funded as a pilot by the Home Office. This is now incorporated in our overall service offer. The support provided addresses:

- Housing – achieving a safe housing situation whether that is accessing a place in refuge, moving to a new property or staying in their home but implementing safety measures e.g. Occupation Order, Restraining Orders etc. through court.
- Finance – putting in place a personal income stream via benefits or setting up a new bank account, victims/survivors often do not have their own bank accounts and have no access to money even if they are working.
- Legal – supporting victims/survivors through the legal system e.g. protection orders, criminal justice process, child contact, court appearances etc.
- Advocacy – liaising with Adult and Child Social Care, Early Help, schools, police, GP's and other health/mental health services.

DAP's also seek to work with clients to address emotional and wellbeing areas:

- Mental health needs
- Loneliness and isolation
- Low self-esteem and confidence

Domestic Abuse Programmes Both individual and group support is provided to help clients recover from the psychological impacts of the abuse and to help prevent new abusive relationships being formed. We run specialist programmes: The Freedom Programme, Freedom Forever and The Recovery Toolkit and Older Adults Programme which are designed to improve self-esteem, mental health and well-being in order to break the cycle of abuse; for some the cycle began in childhood. The programmes increase awareness of abuse, help victims/survivors to recognise their own experiences, and helps them to let go of feelings of shame. Through improved personal resilience victims/survivors are more able to plan for the future and avoid future abusive relationships.

Children and Young People's Service Offer We have a distinct service offer for children and young people, recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

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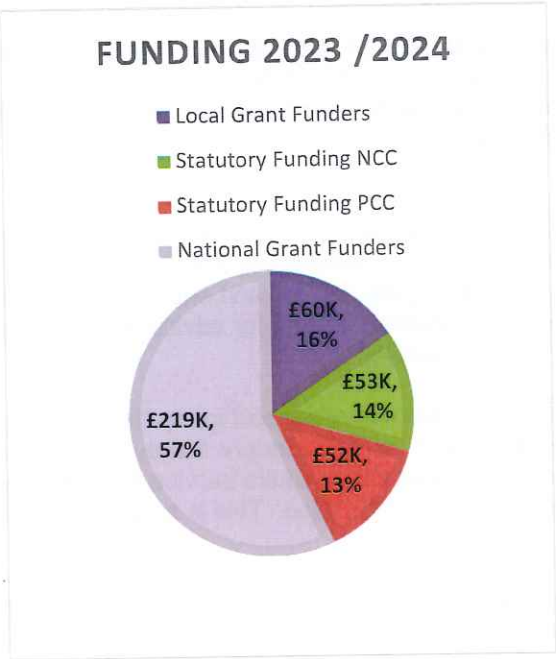

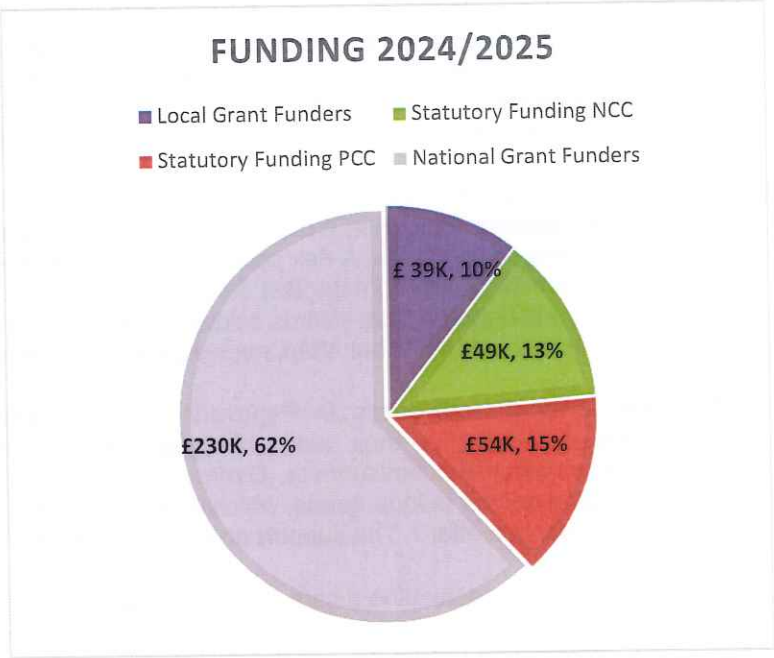

Need

Demand for our services continues despite our extensive prevention work with children and young people. During 2024 - 25 we supported 555 adult victims/survivors of domestic abuse, 31 children with therapeutic counselling and provided preventative educational sessions to approx. 3,500 (2000, 2023-24) children and young people in schools and community groups.

For victims, acknowledging they are experiencing domestic abuse is very hard, with social stigma and a sense of shame often preventing victims seeking help. For those living rural and isolated parts of Northumberland seeking help and accessing services is even more of a challenge.

- Northumberland covers an area of 5,013 km² bordering Scotland in the north, Cumbria in the west, County Durham in the south, and the cities of Newcastle and Gateshead in the east.
- Approx. 97% of Northumberland is classed as rural and houses 50% of the population, 3% is urban and contains the other 50%.
- Northumberland has on average 63 people per km² compared with a national average of 413 people/km².
- Northumberland has an older than average population (23% aged 65+ compared to 17% nationally)
- Unemployment levels are higher than the national average
- Life expectancy ranges from 51 years up to 74 years depending on the part of the county

The Scale of the Need according to SafeLives Dataset 2023 -

- 2.1 million people aged 16 and over in England and Wales experienced some form of DA
- 1.4 million female (5.7% of women) victims and 751,000 male victims (3.2% of men)
- 1.5 million DA related incidents and crimes were recorded by police in England and Wales
- 242 DA-related deaths were recorded between April 2022 and March 2023 which includes 93 suspected victim suicides following DA
- 2.5 years is the average time victims at high risk of serious harm or murder live with DA before getting help.

These numbers are indicative as domestic abuse remains a largely hidden crime which goes unreported; less than 24% is reported to the police.

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Trustee Report
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, originally established by local women has existed for over 20 years. We are a local, grass-roots charity, set up in 2003 to meet a local need that unfortunately is growing and still under-reported.

The Lloyds Bank Foundation published a report called The Value of Small in February 2021 which found that:

- Small and medium-sized charities were a vital and distinctive component of the social and economic fabric of communities across England and Wales
- Small and local charities' distinctiveness in who they support, how they carry out their work, and the role they play in their communities makes them best placed to respond
- They reach and support disadvantaged people and communities that tend to be less well served by mainstream provision

At NDAS victims/survivors are supported by local workers who know the area, know the communities and understand the local issues specific to that area. The service has been developed over the years by these local specialists based on feedback from clients and our in-depth understanding of victims/survivors of domestic abuse, their changing needs and the rural environment.

We are well known across the county and word-of-mouth referrals are a mainstay of our support. People recognise our number and see our stickers on local noticeboards, the backs of toilet doors, and have heard of our support.

Vision and activities

Our vision is that all victims of domestic abuse in Northumberland, and their children, will be protected; survivors empowered; and communities educated on the diversity and impact of domestic abuse.

Our values:

Welcoming	We welcome you, whoever you are.
Believing and Accepting	We believe you, accept you and will not judge you. We are inclusive and do not discriminate.
Understanding	We understand what you are experiencing. Our staff are here to listen and help.
Protecting	We will make sure you stay safe and will help you to make plans to ensure your safety.
Empowering	We will help you to find your voice and gain confidence and independence.
United	Working with you, and with other local partner organisations, we will find the right support.

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Chair's Executive Statement
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Hello and Welcome

This year we organised our first Conference bringing together delegates from multiple agencies in Northumberland and with internationally recognised expert on Coercive Control, Prof Jane Monckton-Smith. The feedback from the statutory and voluntary agencies who joined us was excellent.

The Board of Trustees held an Awayday with facilitation and support from Rhona Still to look at its structure and function and to identify areas that we can strengthen. Catherine Marchant and Brian Harrison have stepped down this year, due to work commitments, and Jane Pikett joined the Board with her experience in Media and Communication, helping us to raise the profile of NDAS. In the autumn we will have a recruitment drive to find further Trustees who can bring us other specific skills.

After many years at NDAS in a variety of roles, our Finance and Funding Manager Ann Connors left to pursue new ventures, and we thank her for her considerable contribution to NDAS.

Our Patron of many years Vera Baird stepped down this year and we thank her for her great support, but were delighted to welcome our two new Patrons, Joe Morris MP and Mary Ann Rogers.

In June, we moved back into our newly refurbished office, now with an inviting and versatile training room and improved office facilities for staff. The project was generously supported by the wider Northumberland community, and we invited them along to see the result.

Our Capital assets have increased to include the additional value of the office refurbishment. The National Lottery Grant has also been accrued in accordance with the Charity SORP in this financial year for 25/26. It is included within our unrestricted reserves. With grants we are in a good financial position for 25/26 but with the uncertainty of continued statutory funding, we have had to be cautious in our expansion of services as we prepare for 26/27.

It has been another successful year, and we send a sincere thank you to all our staff and volunteers for their part in helping so many people affected by domestic abuse in Northumberland.

Helen Milner MBE
Chair NDAS

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

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Charity Number: 1122969
Company Number: 06431269

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Unaudited Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 then 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; and
- 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 for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on .....

Signed on behalf of the Board

Helen Milner

Helen Milner
Chair

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd For the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 15 to 28.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's 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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

.....
Craig Henderson
S&W Audit

.....
Date

17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities ***(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)***
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations	4	6,497	-	6,497	7,957
Charitable activities	5	131,386	208,884	340,270	470,906
Investment income	6	5,270	-	5,270	4,490
Total income		143,153	208,884	352,037	483,353
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	6,061	383,955	390,016	383,151
Total expenditure		6,061	383,955	390,016	383,151
Net Income/(expenditure)		137,092	(175,071)	(37,979)	100,202
Transfers	14	55,030	(55,030)	-	-
Net movements in funds		192,122	(230,101)	(37,979)	100,202
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		190,275	341,604	531,879	431,677
Total funds carried forward		382,397	111,503	493,900	531,879

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Non-current assets			
Tangible fixed assets	10	54,264	4,220
Current assets			
Debtors	11	86,320	153,051
Investments		293,675	-
Cash at bank and in hand		70,288	386,599
		450,283	539,650
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(10,647)	(11,991)
Net current assets		439,636	527,659
Total assets less total liabilities		493,900	531,879
Funds			
Restricted funds		111,503	341,604
Unrestricted funds		382,397	190,275
	14	493,900	531,879

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on ..... and signed on their behalf by:

Helen M. Milner
.....
Helen Milner
Chair

Company Number 06431269

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Cash Flow Statement
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Net cash flow from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	28,167	20,984
Cash flows from investment activities			
Interest receivable and investment income		5,270	4,490
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(56,073)	(4,220)
Net cash flow from investing activities		(50,803)	270
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(22,636)	21,254
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		386,599	365,345
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		363,963	386,599

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1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed the annual budgets and considered relevant information in response to the external environment. Actual results are monitored against budget. Based on these assessments, given the measures that could be undertaken to mitigate any adverse conditions, and the current resources available, the Trustees have concluded that they can continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

1.3 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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1.4 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions and is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income received to deliver services over a specific period covering more than one financial year is accounted for over the specific period; related expenditure is accounted when incurred.

Investment income relates to interest earned through holding assets on deposit.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

1.5 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the cost for which the expenditure arose.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life.

All assets individually costing more than £1,000 are capitalised, unless paid directly by a grant where capitalisation is not approved.

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1.7 Debtors

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

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.9 Creditors and provisions

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

1.11 Pensions

The charitable company contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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2. Legal status

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, (No 06431269) and not having a share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3. Comparative statement of financial activities as restated

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations	4	7,957	-	7,957	6,995
Charitable activities	5	34,801	436,105	470,906	433,603
Investment income	6	4,490	-	4,490	245
Total income		47,248	436,105	483,353	440,843
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	15,261	367,890	383,151	323,812
Total expenditure		15,261	367,890	383,151	323,812
Net Income/(expenditure)		31,987	68,215	100,202	117,031
Transfers	13	4,220	(4,220)	-	-
Net movements in funds		36,207	63,995	100,202	117,031
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		154,068	277,609	431,677	314,646
Total funds carried forward		190,275	341,604	531,879	431,677

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4. Donations

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations	6,497	7,957
	6,497	7,957

5. Income from charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Grant income	340,270	470,906
	340,270	470,906

Grant income was received from the following funders:

The Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and Northumberland	-	40,000
Northumberland County Council Community Chest	-	10,000
The Henry Smith Charity	-	19,950
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria- Supporting Victim	30,000	31,010
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Community Fund	24,700	-
Karbon Homes	-	11,000
Northumberland County Council	49,434	49,434
The Sir James Knott Trust	9,000	9,000
Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA)	-	50,000
Ministry of Justice	-	31,400
The Pilgrim Trust	-	18,991
The National Lottery Community Fund- RC North East and Cumbria Region NDAS Core Funding	80,000	77,200
The National Lottery Community Fund- RC North East and Cumbria Region Helping children & young people to develop healthy & safe relationships	-	50,120
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	30,000
The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All	-	20,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation	25,000	-
Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000	-
Sara Charlton Foundation	10,000	-
Other grants <£9,000	97,136	22,801
	340,270	470,906

During the year ended 31 March 2025, £85,000 (2024 - £153,051) of grants have been recognised as income in the financial statements as the recognition criteria for income had been met. Cash for these amounts was subsequently received post year end.

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6. Investment income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest receivable on cash deposits	5,270	4,490

7. Analysis of expenditure charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	303,733	300,272
Rent and rates	12,025	11,000
Insurance	2,243	1,724
Light and heat	2,766	3,990
Repairs and maintenance	4,064	1,460
Postage and stationary	3,079	2,657
Telephone and computer charges	4,244	9,530
Advertising	834	1,391
Travelling expenses	16,212	18,279
Legal and professional fees	3,923	1,811
Training	1,387	1,016
Accountancy	9,604	12,809
Sundry expenses and other office supplies	21,061	15,828
Subscriptions	963	-
Bank charges	3,878	1,384
	390,016	383,151

8. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiners fee	2,750	2,500

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9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	269,908	226,154
Social security costs	18,535	18,929
Other pension costs	11,829	7,396
	300,272	252,479

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	13	11

During the year no (2024 – none) employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment in the year (2024 - £nil). No trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year (2024 - £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024- £nil).

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £123,407 (2024 - £110,393).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	4,220	4,220
Additions	56,073	56,073
At 31 March 2025	60,293	60,293
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	-	-
Charge for the year	6,029	6,029
At 31 March 2025	6,029	6,029
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	54,264	54,264
At 31 March 2024	4,220	4,220

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11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accrued income	85,000	153,051
Prepayments	1,320	-
	86,320	153,051

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	3,690	3,950
Social security & pension creditor	6,957	8,041
	10,647	11,991

13. Pension costs

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme, during the period contributions of £12,350 (2024 - £11,829) were paid into the scheme. At the year end, £nil was payable to the pension provider.

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14. Fund reconciliation

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds	190,275	143,153	(6,061)	55,030	382,397
Restricted funds					
Initial Response	5,954	-	(5,283)	-	671
Personalised Support	63,870	114,884	(170,231)	-	8,523
Supporting Children and Young People	12,690	-	(10,311)	-	2,379
Prevention and awareness	50,120	5,000	(50,120)	-	5,000
Back Office	152,734	80,000	(147,734)	-	85,000
Client welfare funds	1,206	-	(276)	-	930
Office Refurbishment	55,030	9,000	-	(55,030)	9,000
	341,604	208,884	(383,955)	(55,030)	111,503
Total	531,879	352,037	(390,016)	-	493,900

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds	154,068	47,248	(15,261)	4,220	190,275
Restricted funds					
Initial Response	18,878	11,000	(23,924)	-	5,954
Personalised Support	105,716	184,044	(225,890)	-	63,870
Supporting Children and Young People	53,988	-	(41,298)	-	12,690
Prevention and awareness	1,922	69,111	(20,913)	-	50,120
Back Office	84,356	117,200	(48,822)	-	152,734
Client welfare funds	3,819	500	(3,113)	-	1,206
Office Refurbishment	5,000	54,250	-	(4,220)	55,030
CRM system	3,930	-	(3,930)	-	-
	277,609	436,105	(367,890)	(4,220)	341,604
Total	431,677	483,353	(383,151)	-	531,879

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14. Fund reconciliation ***(Continued)***

Initial Response – This is our team who take/receive all of the referrals from the website and via phone. They can come as self-referrals or via a professional and they follow up with a risk assessment and initial safety plan before the client is assigned to a practitioner for the one-to-one support. They will also check in weekly or bi-weekly with the client to offer advice and/or signposting if there is some time before a practitioner is free.

Personalised Support – This is our team of Domestic Abuse Practitioners (DAPs) who provide the one-to-one support for clients. This one-to-one support can be emotional or practical support and is done as a combination of face to face visits and telephone support. The DAPs cover all areas of Northumberland and are trained in domestic abuse, safeguarding and other specific areas.

Supporting Children and Young People – this is our children's psychotherapist who provides psychotherapy support to the children of the victims the DAPs support. Again, this service covers all areas of Northumberland and she visits children in schools or at the Hexham office.

Prevention and awareness – Our prevention worker runs workshops and learning sessions with school classes, youth groups and various other groups around the county, promoting awareness of domestic abuse and teaching children about healthy relationships, consent etc. Between the prevention worker and the DAPs we also offer empowering programmes for victims of domestic abuse to help them move forward and live free from abuse in the future.

Back office – This team consists of the funding & planning officer, office manager and CEO to help support (and fund) the delivery of our services and oversee its governance.

Client welfare funds – Funds for client welfare.

Office Refurbishment – For future office refurbishment.

CRM system – For the new CRM system

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Current assets	393,044	111,503	504,547
Current liabilities	(10,647)	-	(10,647)
	382,397	111,503	493,900

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Current assets	202,266	341,604	543,870
Current liabilities	(11,991)	-	(11,991)
	190,275	341,604	531,879

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16. Related party transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year.

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
Net (deficit)/surplus for the period	(37,979)	100,202
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	(5,270)	(4,490)
Depreciation of tangible assets	6,029	-
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	66,731	(76,151)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(1,344)	1,423
Net cash used in operating activities	28,167	20,984

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1122969

Accounts

Charity Number: 1122969
Company Number: 06431269

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd

(a company limited by guarantee)

Unaudited Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Chair's Executive Statement
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Hello and Welcome

Set up in 2003, NDAS celebrated its many achievements in June 2023 with supporters and professionals from all areas of the county. It was a chance to acknowledge the many dedicated staff, Trustees and volunteers who have contributed to making NDAS the well-respected and successful service it is today, helping people who are experiencing domestic violence or abuse in Northumberland.

This year, we have welcomed a number of new Trustees to the Board and will be undertaking some training to build on the Board's strengths and understanding, and identify areas where we need more expertise. We have introduced a Finance Committee and have transferred funds and reserves to Flagstone, where we can easily move money, protected by the FSCS and earning a reasonable interest.

As a responsible charity we are aware that income is primarily to enable us to support our beneficiaries, but we also have a responsibility to our staff and our creditors in the unfortunate scenario where the charity has to close. NDAS aims to have unrestricted funds to cover a maximum of 6 months running costs.

Personally, I would like to express my thanks to Jill Mindham-Walker for Chairing the charity so ably for a number of years, and to the staff and Trustees who have made me feel welcomed since the last AGM.

We would like to thank our funders who enable NDAS to do such vital work.

Thank you, too, on behalf of those people who are often afraid to acknowledge our support.

Helen Milner MBE
Chair

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS) originally established by local women as 608030 has existed for over 20 years. We are a local, grass-roots charity, set up in 2003 to meet a local need that unfortunately is growing and still under-reported.

The Lloyds Bank Foundation published a report called The Value of Small in February 2021 which found that:

- Small and medium-sized charities were a vital and distinctive component of the social and economic fabric of communities across England and Wales
- Small and local charities' distinctiveness in who they support, how they carry out their work, and the role they play in their communities makes them best placed to respond
- They reach and support disadvantaged people and communities that tend to be less well served by mainstream provision

At NDAS victims/survivors are supported by local workers who know the area, know the communities and understand the local issues specific to that area. The service has been developed over the years by these local specialists based on feedback from clients and our in-depth understanding of victims/survivors of domestic abuse, their changing needs and the rural environment.

We are well known across the county and word-of-mouth referrals are a mainstay of our support. People recognise our number and see our stickers on local noticeboards, the backs of toilet doors, and have heard of our support.

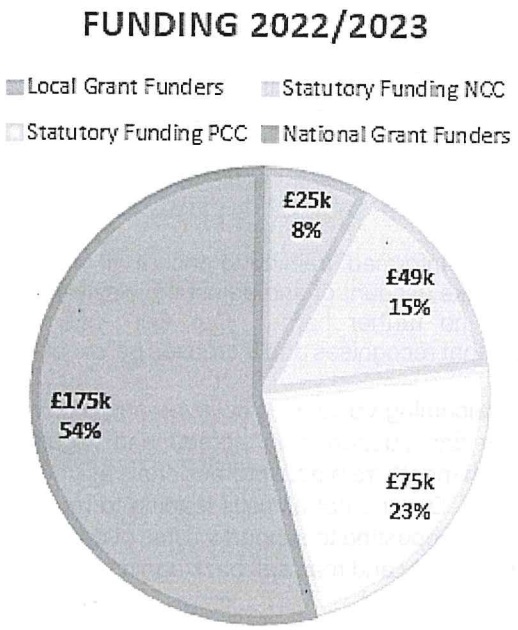
Vision and activities

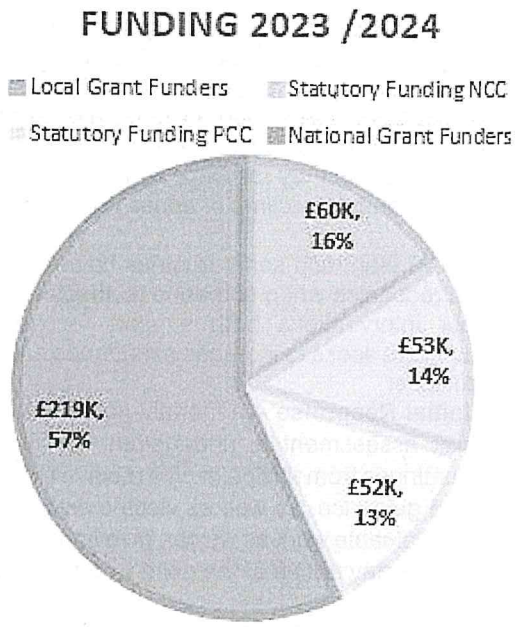
Our vision is that all victims of domestic abuse in Northumberland, and their children, will be protected; survivors empowered; and communities educated on the diversity and impact of domestic abuse.

Our values:

Welcoming	We welcome you, whoever you are.
Believing and Accepting	We believe you, accept you and will not judge you. We are inclusive and do not discriminate.
Understanding	We understand what you are experiencing. Our staff are here to listen and help.
Protecting	We will make sure you stay safe and will help you to make plans to ensure your safety.
Empowering	We will help you to find your voice and gain confidence and independence.
United	Working with you, and with other local partner organisations, we will find the right support.

NDAS is able to deliver services because of the funding received through charitable grant giving and from statutory bodies. Whilst receiving £124k (2022/23) and £105k (2023/24) of funding through statutory sources, NDAS secured £200k (2022/23) and £279k (2023/24) of funding for domestic abuse services from grant funders bringing significant additional funds into the county of Northumberland. It is also worth noting that during the period of the statutory funding inflation has at times reached 10% however there is no inflationary increase attached to statutory grant funding which over time pays for less and less, with NDAS picking up the shortfall. As an example, based on a 4% annual increase on a £50k award for services, after 3 years the cost is now £56k.





Of the population of Northumberland 50% live in the rural areas which account for 97% of the county, with the other 50% living in urban areas which only account for 3% of the county. This means we have a huge rural population living in remote and hard to access areas, as well as a densely inhabited urban population. NDAS prides itself in reaching into rural areas in order to raise awareness, identifying and removing barriers to ensure support is available to isolated and marginalised victims.

During 2023-24, of all **NDAS referrals**, 44% were in the southeast, with 56% of referrals from the rural areas in the west and north of the county, an increase when compared with 53% during 2022-23 in the west and north.

During the same period, 37% of self-referrals were from the southeast and 63% were received from rural areas. Again, an increase in referrals from rural areas which accounted for 58% during 2022-23.

Working into rural and isolated areas can be particularly challenging. Communities can be tight knit whilst being widely dispersed, making it difficult for those affected by domestic abuse to access support. We have learnt that to reach rural communities our outreach work has to be continuous. It is no good going to an area, distributing information and speaking to local services and people once, we have to keep going back and promoting our services, how people access them and increasing awareness of domestic abuse on an ongoing basis.

We have operated a hub and spoke system across rural areas establishing the Domestic Abuse Practitioners (DAP) within community settings, such as Family Hubs and other community venues, and making use of their resources, such as Wi-fi and access to other services, so that clients in rural areas can meet with their Domestic Abuse Practitioner (DAP) close to, as well as in, their homes.

Face to face work is essential in enabling DAPs to assess the safety of a client's home environment particularly considering the proximity of the perpetrator, the welfare of any children, the quality of, and access to, support networks for clients, and their physical and mental wellbeing. It is essential that we visit the client and the family so we can visually assess physical and emotional needs, and the wellbeing of everyone in the household. Perpetrators may be influencing the client, for example, by being present during phone call contact. All of these cannot be satisfactorily assessed on a remote basis and so we are committed to ensuring all are offered face-to-face support throughout the relationship with a DAP.

Over this year we have supported 548 adult victims of domestic abuse, an increase of 26% on the previous year. Our self-referral numbers are 63% of our referrals, a slight increase on 61% in the previous year, which demonstrates how well NDAS and our services are known throughout the county.

Demand for our services is increasing and continues to be greater than supply of services however we respond immediately with our Initial Response Team conducting risk assessments and safety planning, including actioning priorities such as housing applications, on that first phone call and staying in regular contact with the victim until a DAP is allocated. The period a client waits for face-to-face support is about one to two weeks, and during this time they receive telephone support from the specialist Initial Response Team which ensures victims receive support from their first cry for help. As a small charitable organisation, we have the flexibility to react and adapt quickly to the needs of victims of abuse and respond to emerging trends.

The full NDAS team and some trustees have completed 'Trauma Informed' training to ensure all of our services are able to recognise when someone is affected by trauma, to take account of and adjust the way we respond to ensure our interventions both support recovery and does no further harm. Our work over time with victims/survivors seeks to increase confidence and self-esteem that recognises and increases personal resilience. NDAS provides:

- **Initial Response** – a friendly active listener, with a welcoming voice, that believes and understands. A risk assessment is undertaken, an individual safety and support plan agreed and regular contact continues from this point. We receive over 200 calls each month from both professionals asking for advice and guidance, as well as victims asking for our support. Despite not all calls leading to referrals this is still valuable work as we can give immediate advice and signposting to support victims of domestic abuse. Some may not be at the point where they want to engage fully and may call back again weeks or months later.
- **Practical and Emotional Support** - DAPs provide one-to-one support over a 12-week period addressing all the issues identified by the client in the areas of Safety, Accommodation, Support Networks, Legal Issues, Health and Well-being, Money, Children, Work and Learning, Empowerment and Self-esteem.
- **Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse/Home Office** - funded a 12-month pilot (July 2023-July 2024) tasked with joining up health and domestic abuse services to improve referral pathways and ensure older adult victims/survivors receive the support they need, with a focus on reaching rural and isolated communities. The number of older adults (55+) supported during 2023-24 for the North and West is 42; with 90 older adults supported across the county. This compares with 66 older adults for the previous year a 50% increase.
- **Adult Education/Training** – Victims/survivors are also able to attend our specialist domestic abuse programmes e.g. The Freedom Programme, Freedom Forever, The Recovery Toolkit. These programmes enable victims/survivors who often see themselves as frauds, to understand domestic abuse in all of its guises, to recognise their own experiences and to develop skills and confidence to develop the resilience they need to plan for a future free of abuse.
- **Specialist Support for Children and Young People affected by DA** - We have a clear offer for children and young people, recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Our current offer includes counselling for the children and young people of our clients. In addition, interventions are provided by our Team Manager who is a trained Social Worker for individual and sibling groups, covering areas such as feelings, relationships etc.
- **Prevention Work** - Our Prevention Practitioner delivers healthy/unhealthy relationship sessions in schools and youth groups across the county; most recently working with schools to respond to increasing incidence of misogyny.
- **Training and awareness** – we run a series of training/awareness sessions for professionals and community groups across the county to help them identify victims and refer them on to specialist services. Most recently we have developed a specific offer for health services promoting the issue of older adults affected by domestic abuse, the signs and flags to look out for and publicising the NDAS service for older adults.

Building on numbers from 2022/23 we have seen an increase this year of 26% giving a total of 548 new adult clients supported.

In total we received referrals of 590 adult victims, which includes some duplicates who were referred from more than one source.

Age	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cumulative Total
12 years and under	0	0	0	0	0
12 years and under	0	0	0	0	0
13 to 17 years	1	1	0	0	2
18 to 24 years	17	12	10	5	44
25 to 34 years	43	34	37	35	149
35 to 44 years	50	41	41	36	168
45 to 54 years	31	36	19	25	111
55 to 64 years	14	19	16	14	63
65 to 74 years	7	6	5	4	22
75 years and over	2	1	0	2	5
Not stated	1	1	3	21	26
Total:	166	151	131	142	590

Of the 590, 46 were male, 515 female and 29 not-stated. A total of 324 clients told us they had a disability, and the ethnicity of our clients continues to reflect that of Northumberland as a whole, predominantly white/British.

Domestic Abuse includes all kinds of damaging behaviour, not always physical violence: emotional, psychological, sexual, economical, stalking and harassment, and coercive and controlling behaviour. The main issue for victims is their lack of control and not being allowed to make decisions over many aspects of their lives.

Victims face multiple issues, often have no money they can access, risk losing their homes and even their children.

The main changes we aim to achieve with our work with adult victims of domestic abuse are:
1. Victims of domestic abuse will feel safe, in control of their lives and able to make choices
2. Victims of domestic abuse will have better relationships with family and friends
3. Victims of domestic abuse will have improved self-esteem and confidence

During the support period we use the Empowerment Star with clients to demonstrate the impact of our work and what has been achieved by that client, with scores generally increasing on average in all of the areas.

Below is the breakdown of the changes experienced by our clients in each of these nine key areas over the course of their support from us. For victims of domestic abuse, no deterioration in these nine areas also counts as a positive as they are often in a worsening situation when they finally ask for our help. Based on this the no change/improvement scores are:

Accommodation	83%
Children	87%
Empowerment and Self-esteem	94%
Health and well-being	85%
Legal Issues	87%
Money	87%
Safety	82%
Support Networks	87%
Work and Learning	75%

Case study: December 2023 Rural West
The client was referred to NDAS by a Social Prescriber from her GP surgery in 2023. The client disclosed she was in a physical and emotionally abusive relationship and the police had recently been called for a physical assault. The client disclosed she has been in a relationship with her girlfriend (the Alleged Perpetrator) for 6 months on and off, the client was unaware at the start of the relationship that the AP heavily used drugs and alcohol, alongside how violent they were. After this altercation the AP started threatening the client daily, and turning up to the client's home which she shared with her son, this led to the AP being arrested for harassment, bail conditions were placed on AP.

A Risk Identification Checklist was completed in which the client was assessed as a medium risk scoring 10. The client requested telephone support from the DAP as she was living between family addresses, she did not wish to remain in her house as she was fearful of AP. The DAP provided a supporting letter in order to improve her banding so she could move house. Once the client was offered a property, the DAP contacted tenancy support in order to help the client access white goods. NDAS were also able to support the client to get carpets for the property. The client advised that this support made it easier for her to settle into her new home in a new area. It also made a difference to her son who was not walking on bare floors. The DAP also arranged for a ring doorbell to be installed outside the property as an extra precautionary measure.

The DAP made a referral to obtain a Non-Molestation Order, in order to protect the client from further contact with AP. Whilst this application was being processed the police made a further arrest of AP for ongoing harassment. Police informed client that she would proceed with this charge and take it to court. The DAP provided education about the court system to prepare client. The case was heard in court, and AP pleaded guilty to harassment receiving a sentence of 15 weeks behaviour rehabilitations, a fine, the court cost covers and was served with a Restraining Order.

The client has now been able to go back to work and is starting to move forward with her life, as she finally feels safe to do so. The client was closed down from support after 17 weeks due to extended support around moving properties and the court case.

Coercive Controlling Behaviour (CCB) is the most prevalent issue among our clients, who struggle to share the nature of their experiences and often do not recognise it as a form of abuse. Professor Jane Monkton Smith, University of Gloucestershire, has produced a significant body of research that highlights that coercive/controlling patterns of behaviour are more important indicators of risk than violence. At NDAS we are looking at how this research can inform our services and interactions with victims.

Despite seemingly low risk assessments, there is a clear potential for escalation if education and support around CCB are not provided by NDAS. It is crucial to implement interventions aimed at helping individuals identify boundaries and understand the dynamics of coercive control to prevent further harm. We have fed this back to The Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria (OPCCN) as part of their feedback to the Police and we continue to recommend to victims that they log all abuse with the police.

In the Family Court system, we are finding that victims of domestic abuse are being let down as courts overlook post-separation abuse as a serious issue. Instead of recognising the dangers, courts often insist contact with children through Facetime, which victims perceive as a violation of their privacy and a means of allowing the perpetrator back into their lives. Clients express feeling continued control as they are required to adhere to specific schedules around this, enhancing their sense of vulnerability. Additionally, courts push for co-parenting arrangements, disregarding the power dynamics and fear that the dominant parent instils in the other, leaving them voiceless and fearful of repercussions if they assert themselves. Again, this is fed back to the OPCCN and we are therefore delighted to hear that PCC's across the country have been working jointly to produce training for Family Courts and we welcome its introduction.

Financial abuse remains a significant issue across Northumberland, with rising living costs making it difficult for victims to escape abusive situations. Many victims lack the financial resources to start anew, particularly as they often have no access to funds or assets. The limited availability of social housing and affordable private rental options add to reduced choice and opportunity to move to safety. Despite government funding 'Emergency Flexible Fund' intended to provide flexibility for such situations, the resources are quickly depleted, leaving many victims unable to access assistance as the funding gates close before their applications can be considered. The Cost of Living Crisis continues to cause financial hardship for the people we support. This has resulted in DAP's having to spend more time applying for financial assistance through grants, food banks, and hygiene banks, as well as requesting utility support. We have raised funds to enable us to provide carpets and other necessary items for our clients when they are setting up new homes which has been gratefully received.

Office Refurbishment
We were lucky to enlist the support of Elliott Architects, based in Hexham who created re-design plans pro bono for our office building. The designs create more fit-for-purpose space for clients, the team and support delivery of our services. We are delighted to report, having secured the support of a range of funders including Northumberland Councillors, that the refurbishment is now underway.

With limited direct lighting, our original rooms were dark and unwelcoming. The changes will create a modern working environment with new desks, task lighting and storage for the service delivery team, enabling independent work whilst retaining access to advice, guidance and support from colleagues when needed. The merging of two smaller rooms will provide a larger and more useful space for one to one counselling work, client sessions and the delivery of our group recovery programmes and enabling Board meetings and staff training to be held in our own building.

Summary
It has been another successful year for NDAS where we increased both the depth, and also the breadth of our service delivery. We have developed significant in-roads into the rural west and north of Northumberland, as demonstrated by our high self-referral numbers in these areas, whilst also developing the breadth of services we offer. Specifically, the development of specialisms in supporting older adult victims of domestic abuse, and our prevention work in schools, youth groups and small groups identified by professionals as at risk of becoming victims/perpetrators.

As the earlier pie charts demonstrate, NDAS leverage significant income into Northumberland to deliver services above and beyond those funded by Statutory Services, providing significant added value for the population of Northumberland.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number	1122969
Company Number	06431269
Registered Office	Unit 3 Waterhouse, Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3HN

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows;

H Milner	(Chair) Appointed 27 September 2023
J Mindham-Walker	(Chair) Resigned 27 September 2023
A Richardson	
R Swinburne	
P Oliver	
D J Taylor	Resigned 27 September 2023
L A Mindham-Walker	Resigned 27 September 2023
C Marchant	Resigned 17 April 2024
D Barkes	Appointed 27 September 2023
J Brown	Appointed 27 September 2023
C Seeley	Appointed 27 September 2023

Key Management Personnel

Sharon Brown	Chief Executive

Our advisors

Independent Examiners	Evelyn Partners (Newcastle) Limited 17 Queens Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RN

Legal Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. In the event of a winding up, every member (who is a trustee) undertakes to contribute to the payment of liabilities such amount as may be required not exceeding the total of £1.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 then 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; and
- 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 for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 16th October 2024

Signed on behalf of the Board

Helen Milner

Helen Milner
Chair

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd For the year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's 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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

C. Henderson

Craig Henderson FCCA
Evelyn Partners (Newcastle) Limited

30 October 2024
Date

17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities *(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)*
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations	4	7,957	-	7,957	6,995
Charitable activities	5	34,801	436,105	470,906	433,603
Investment income	6	4,490	-	4,490	245
Total income		47,248	436,105	483,353	440,843
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	15,261	367,890	383,151	323,812
Total expenditure		15,261	367,890	383,151	323,812
Net Income/(expenditure)		31,987	68,215	100,202	117,031
Transfers	13	4,220	(4,220)	-	-
Net movements in funds		36,207	63,995	100,202	117,031
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		154,068	277,609	431,677	314,646
Total funds carried forward		190,275	341,604	531,879	431,677

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Non-current assets			
Tangible fixed assets		4,220	-
Current assets			
Debtors	10	153,051	76,900
Cash at bank and in hand		386,599	365,345
		539,650	442,245
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(11,991)	(10,568)
Net current assets		527,659	431,677
Total assets less total liabilities		531,879	431,677
Funds			
Restricted funds		341,604	277,609
Unrestricted funds		190,275	154,068
	13	531,879	431,677

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 16/10/24 and signed on their behalf by:

Helen Milner

Helen Milner
Chair

Company Number 06431269

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Cash Flow Statement
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Net cash flow from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	**16**	29,964	115,637
Cash flows from investment activities			
Interest receivable and investment income		(4,490)	245
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,220)	-
Net cash flow from investing activities		(8,710)	245
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		21,254	115,882
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		365,345	249,463
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		386,599	365,345

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed the annual budgets and considered relevant information in response to the external environment. Actual results are monitored against budget. Based on these assessments, given the measures that could be undertaken to mitigate any adverse conditions, and the current resources available, the Trustees have concluded that they can continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

1.3 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions and is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income received to deliver services over a specific period covering more than one financial year is accounted for over the specific period; related expenditure is accounted when incurred.

Investment income relates to interest earned through holding assets on deposit.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

1.5 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the cost for which the expenditure arose.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life.

All assets individually costing more than £1,000 are capitalised, unless paid directly by a grant where capitalisation is not approved.

1.7 Debtors

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

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.9 Creditors and provisions

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

1.11 Pensions

The charitable company contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

2. Legal status

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, (No 06431269) and not having a share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3. Comparative statement of financial activities as restated

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	As restated Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations	4	6,995	-	6,995	6,271
Charitable activities	5	21,904	411,699	433,603	356,411
Investment income	6	245	-	245	13
Total income		29,144	411,699	440,843	362,695
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	5,601	318,211	323,812	300,418
Total expenditure		5,601	318,211	323,812	300,418
Net Income/(expenditure)		23,543	93,488	117,031	62,277
Transfers	13	(23)	23	-	-
Net movements in funds		23,520	93,511	117,031	62,277
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		130,548	184,098	314,646	252,369
Total funds carried forward		154,068	277,609	431,677	314,646

4. Donations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	7,957	6,995
	7,957	6,995

5. Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grant income	470,906	433,603
	470,906	433,603

Grant income was received from the following funders:

The Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and Northumberland	40,000	-
Northumberland County Council Community Chest	10,000	-
The Henry Smith Charity	19,950	39,550
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria	31,010	50,000
Karbon Homes	11,000	-
Northumberland County Council	49,434	49,434
The Sir James Knott Trust	9,000	-
Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA)	50,000	-
Ministry of Justice	31,400	24,700
The Pilgrim Trust	18,991	18,991
The National Lottery Community Fund- RC North East and Cumbria Region NDAS Core Funding	77,200	76,900
The National Lottery Community Fund- RC North East and Cumbria Region Helping children & young people to develop healthy & safe relationships	50,120	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	30,000	-
The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All	20,000	9,984
Children in Need	-	59,243
County Durham Community Foundation	-	9,137
Sara Charlton Foundation	-	42,000
Other grants <£9,000	22,801	53,664
	470,906	433,603

During the year ended 31 March 2024, £153,051 (2023 - £76,900) of grants have been recognised as income in the financial statements as the recognition criteria for income had been met. Cash for these amounts was subsequently received post year end.

6. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable on cash deposits	4,490	245

7. Analysis of expenditure charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	300,272	252,479
Rent and rates	11,000	10,250
Insurance	1,724	793
Light and heat	3,990	1,731
Repairs and maintenance	1,460	1,450
Postage and stationary	2,657	938
Telephone and computer charges	9,530	9,057
Advertising	1,391	1,404
Travelling expenses	18,279	11,500
Legal and professional fees	1,811	7,922
Training	1,016	4,168
Accountancy	12,809	3,720
Sundry expenses and other office supplies	15,828	15,535
Subscriptions	-	2,690
Bank charges	1,384	175
	383,151	323,812

8. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiners fee	2,500	2,400

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	269,908	226,154
Social security costs	18,535	18,929
Other pension costs	11,829	7,396
	300,272	252,479

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	13	11

During the year no (2023 – none) employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment in the year (2023 - £nil). No trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year (2023 - £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023- £nil).

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £110,393 (2023 - £107,028).

10. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued income	153,051	76,900
	153,051	76,900

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	2,656
Accruals and deferred income	3,950	2,400
Social security & pension creditor	8,041	5,512
	11,991	10,568

12. Pension costs

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme, during the period contributions of £11,829 (2023 - £7,396) were paid into the scheme. At the year end, £nil was payable to the pension provider.

13. Fund reconciliation

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	154,068	47,248	(15,261)	4,220	190,275
Restricted funds					
Initial Response	18,878	11,000	(23,924)	-	5,954
Personalised Support	105,716	184,044	(225,890)	-	63,870
Supporting Children and Young People	53,988	-	(41,298)	-	12,690
Prevention and awareness	1,922	69,111	(20,913)	-	50,120
Back Office	84,356	117,200	(48,822)	-	152,734
Client welfare funds	3,819	500	(3,113)	-	1,206
Office Refurbishment	5,000	54,250	-	(4,220)	55,030
CRM system	3,930	-	(3,930)	-	-
	277,609	436,105	(367,890)	(4,220)	341,604
Total	431,677	483,353	(383,151)	-	531,879

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	130,548	29,144	(5,601)	(23)	154,068
Restricted funds					
Initial Response	9,695	17,984	(8,801)	-	18,878
Personalised Support	58,095	207,934	(160,336)	23	105,716
Supporting Children and Young People	14,201	59,243	(19,456)	-	53,988
Prevention and awareness	-	18,991	(17,069)	-	1,922
Back Office	99,633	84,150	(99,427)	-	84,356
Client welfare funds	2,474	14,467	(13,122)	-	3,819
Office Refurbishment	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
CRM system	-	3,930	-	-	3,930
	184,098	411,699	(318,211)	23	277,609
Total	314,646	440,843	(323,812)	-	431,677

13. Fund reconciliation *(Continued)*

Initial Response – This is our team who take/receive all of the referrals from the website and via phone. They can come as self-referrals or via a professional and they follow up with a risk assessment and initial safety plan before the client is assigned to a practitioner for the one-to-one support. They will also check in weekly or bi-weekly with the client to offer advice and/or signposting if there is some time before a practitioner is free.

Personalised Support – This is our team of Domestic Abuse Practitioners (DAPs) who provide the one-to-one support for clients. This one-to-one support can be emotional or practical support and is done as a combination of face to face visits and telephone support. The DAPs cover all areas of Northumberland and are trained in domestic abuse, safeguarding and other specific areas.

Supporting Children and Young People – this is our children's psychotherapist who provides psychotherapy support to the children of the victims the DAPs support. Again, this service covers all areas of Northumberland and she visits children in schools or at the Hexham office.

Prevention and awareness – Our prevention worker runs workshops and learning sessions with school classes, youth groups and various other groups around the county, promoting awareness of domestic abuse and teaching children about healthy relationships, consent etc. Between the prevention worker and the DAPs we also offer empowering programmes for victims of domestic abuse to help them move forward and live free from abuse in the future.

Back office – This team consists of the funding & planning officer, office manager and CEO to help support (and fund) the delivery of our services and oversee its governance.

Client welfare funds – Funds for client welfare.

Office Refurbishment – For future office refurbishment.

CRM system – For the new CRM system

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Current assets	202,266	341,604	543,870
Current liabilities	(11,991)	-	(11,991)
	190,275	341,604	531,879

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Current assets	154,068	277,609	442,245
Current liabilities	(10,568)	-	(10,568)
	154,068	277,609	431,677

15. Related party transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year.

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
Net income for the period	100,202	117,031
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	4,490	(245)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(76,151)	(9,130)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	1,423	7,981
Net cash used in operating activities	29,964	115,637

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1122969

Accounts

Charity Number: 1122969
Company Number: 06431269

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Unaudited Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

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Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Chair's Executive Statement
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Hello and Welcome

This year we have seen considerable progress as a charity, despite the ravages of Covid. We have been financially prudent and followed a healthy reserves policy. We have managed to maintain a safe operating margin and this has meant that we have been able to work to full capacity despite an exceptionally difficult recruitment climate. Nonetheless, we are pleased to have been able to recruit an able and dedicated children and young people's counsellor to work with the children of the adult victims/survivors we support. Of course, the cost of living continues to be very challenging not only for staff but also for our service users. We are grateful that some of our funders have provided some uplifts to tackle part of the problem.

We are particularly pleased to welcome Mrs Helen Milner to the post of Chair of Trustees when I step down in September. Helen is an experienced Chair and I am sure she will prove to be a real asset to the board and to the charity.

We have also been lucky in being able to recruit three new trustees to the board. They are not only well qualified but bring with them appropriate understanding of domestic violence from their individual professional perspectives.

Looking towards next year, NDAS is pleased to have been selected by the charity Standing Together to work with health partners to fill the gaps in health provision for older victims and survivors of domestic abuse. This is a Home Office funded project and one which dovetails with one of NDAS' main aims in the 23-24 business plan, which is to increase the charity's reach to include to older victims of domestic abuse, particularly those in highly rural areas.

Innovative designs have been produced by Elliott Architects to allow us to embark on a much-needed renovation and improvement of the office premises. The re-vamped building will provide a welcoming environment combining client meeting and training areas, proper space for NDAS meetings and better working conditions for all.

Lastly, I thank most sincerely our funders, all the staff at NDAS and my fellow trustees, all of whom have worked hard in their various ways to ensure the continued success of the charity and its sustainability.

Jill Mindham-Walker
Chair of Trustees

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Trustee Report
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS) originally established by local women as 608030 has existed for almost 20 years. We are a local, grass-roots charity, set up in 2003 to meet a local need that unfortunately is growing and still under-reported.

The Lloyds Bank Foundation published a report called The Value of Small in February 2021 which found that:

- Small and medium-sized charities were a vital and distinctive component of the social and economic fabric of communities across England and Wales
- Small and local charities' distinctiveness in who they support, how they carry out their work, and the role they play in their communities makes them best placed to respond
- They reach and support disadvantaged people and communities that tend to be less well served by mainstream provision

At NDAS victims/survivors are supported by local workers who know the area, know the communities and understand the local issues specific to that area. The service has been developed over the years by these local specialists based on feedback from clients and our in-depth understanding of victims/survivors of domestic abuse, their changing needs and the rural environment.

We are well known across the county and word-of-mouth referrals are a mainstay of our support. People recognise our number and see our stickers on local noticeboards, the backs of toilet doors, and have heard of our support.

Vision and activities

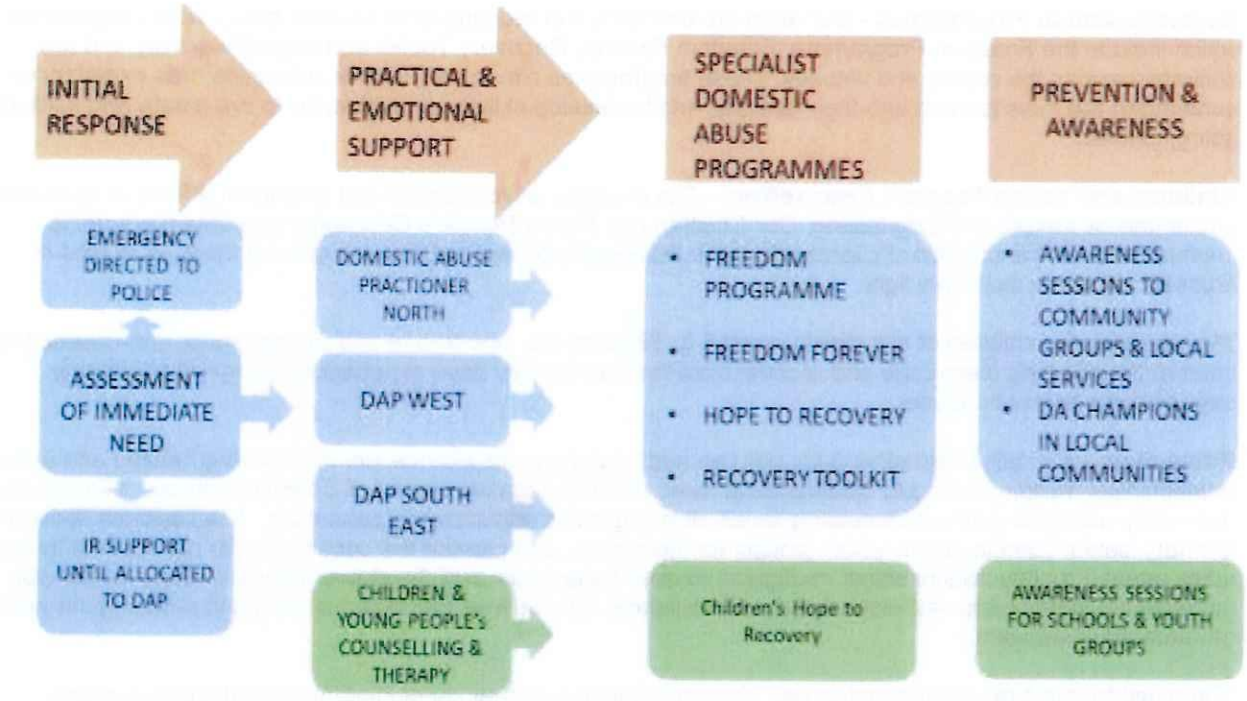
Our vision is that all victims of domestic abuse in Northumberland, and their children, will be protected; survivors empowered; and communities educated on the diversity and impact of domestic abuse.

Our values:

Welcoming	We welcome you, whoever you are.
Believing and	We believe you, accept you and will not judge you. We are inclusive and do not accepting discriminate behaviour.
Understanding	We understand what you are experiencing. Our staff are here to listen and help.
Protecting	We will make sure you stay safe and will help you to make plans to ensure your safety.
Empowering	We will help you to find your voice and gain confidence and independence.
United	Working with you, and with other local partner organisations, we will find the right support.

Our services
Initial Response - On first contact with our Initial Response Team the victim will be listened to, believed and supported, it takes a lot of courage to ask for help, we have years of experience in providing a trauma-informed support service. Initial risk assessment, safety planning, practical advice, and emotional support is provided from the outset.

Domestic Abuse Practitioners - provide practical and emotional support, working with clients to produce an Individual Safety and Support Plan setting goal focussed on safety, accommodation, support networks, legal issues, health and wellbeing, managing money, needs relating to children, work and learning, and self-esteem. Support is provided through face-to-face and virtual contact, with ongoing review of progress against goals and assessment of risk.



Case study

One of our DAP's covering the north supported a client living in an extremely isolated location, through fields and gates to get there and without easily accessible services or neighbours. The client was being controlled through electronic monitoring inside and outside the property, unable even to speak freely by phone. The DAP had to visit the property in order to speak to the client and also to assess the property and environment.

On visiting the property, the DAP found the property to be more remote and inaccessible than imagined and the Safety Plan was adjusted accordingly. The DAP worked with the police and arranged for the controlling technology to be removed and new safe broadband installed.

Through face to face contact the DAP identified that client was suffering from mental health issues and supported the client to access support through the GP.

The DAP went on to provide support to the client in going through legal processes including attending court and liaising with client's solicitor to ensure special measures were put in place for the client. The court case resulted in a positive financial position for the client which will practically impact on achieving a future to look forward to. Client can now proceed to sell her property and start to rebuild her life, ideally, she would like to move to a local town where she can access shops and support groups, and take up voluntary work.

Domestic Abuse Programmes - Our team are trained to run recognised 6/12-week group work programmes which include the Freedom Programme, Freedom Forever, Recovery Toolkit and Hope2Recovery and are delivered across the county and virtually. These programmes aim to help victims recognise their experiences, understand the risks to them and their families, and to develop skills and confidence to live a safe and fulfilled life going forward.

Children and Young People's Counselling – The physical, psychological and emotional effects of domestic abuse can be severe and long lasting. Our Children and Young People's Counsellor provides therapeutic interventions for the children of clients who have witnessed domestic abuse recognising them as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

We also offer the children of our clients, aged 5 to 18 years old, one-to-one and sibling group, non-counselling interventions to help them cope and recover from the trauma they have experienced living within a family experiencing domestic abuse.

Prevention - We deliver workshops for children and young people with the aim of exploring healthy and unhealthy relationships, building trust and confidence to overcome the negative impact of Domestic Abuse. We are also delivering activity to address increasing levels of misogynistic attitudes and behaviour. The sessions delivered into primary, senior schools and to youth groups are interactive, and provide the opportunity for participants to discuss ideas around healthy relationships, recognise abusive behaviours and develop emotional literacy, to develop skills, increase confidence and self-esteem to build resilience. We believe prevention is crucial in reducing the numbers of future adult abusers.

The need for this type of intervention was demonstrated in a survey conducted by the Girl Guiding charity published in January 2023 which states:

'More than one in five (22%) girls and young women in the north aged 11-16 who took part in the survey published on Tuesday blamed fear of sexual harassment for holding them back at school. The figure was significantly lower at 16% in London and the south.'

Achievements and performance

- Supported 435 adult victims of domestic abuse
- 402 adult victims/survivors were women
- 33 adult victims/survivors were men
- 66 adult victims/survivors were aged 55 years old or over
- 164 adult victims/survivors supported had a disability
- Supported 24 children received counselling
- 107 workshops were delivered in schools and youth groups
- Delivered healthy/unhealthy relationship sessions to over 1000 children and young people as part of our prevention work in schools and youth groups
- 34 victims/survivors participated in domestic abuse programmes
- Across the year the Initial Response team answered approx. 3,600 phone-calls, the majority from victims of domestic abuse asking for our help, and others from professionals asking for information regarding signposting to our service or how they can better support victims of domestic abuse.
- 60-70% of the referrals we received were directly from the victim/survivor

The key outcomes for our clients following our support are:

1. Victims/survivors of domestic abuse will feel safe, in control of their lives and able to make informed choices
2. Victims/survivors of domestic abuse will have better relationships with family/friends
3. Victims/survivors of domestic abuse will have improved self-esteem and confidence enabling them to cope with the abuse, recover from it, and build their resilience to fulfil their potential.

The following change was recorded for the 435 victims/survivors supported during 2022-2023:

Safety - Approx. 60% have reported their safety had improved and another 20% stating it had stayed the same (which given the abusive situation is still an achievement)

Accommodation – Over 50% reported an improvement, with 31% reporting it staying the same
Support Networks – Almost 62% reported an improvement, with 31% reporting it staying the same

Legal Issues - Over 60% reported an improvement, with almost 25% reporting it staying the same

Health and well-being – Over 68% reported an improvement, with over 20% reporting it staying the same

Money - Almost 54% reported an improvement, with 29% reporting it staying the same

Children – Over 50% reported an improvement, with 37% reporting it staying the same

Work and learning - Almost 50% reported an improvement, with 37% reporting it staying the same

Empowerment and Self-esteem - Over 70% reported an improvement and 17% no change

Partnership Work
NDAS encourage a co-ordinated approach to supporting people experiencing domestic abuse as they often have complex needs. By working in partnership with other statutory and voluntary services, we can address these various needs to provide a holistic approach to support the whole individual.

NDAS is a commissioned service within the Northumberland County Council's Integrated Domestic Abuse Service and a member of Lighthouse Partnership a collaboration of domestic abuse and sexual violence services operating within Northumberland.

Also funded by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, we work closely with the OPCC team including the Violence and Reduction Unit.

We collaborate with a wide range of voluntary and community sector organisations, is committed to working in partnership with other service providers across the northeast to ensure NDAS services are known and that victims/survivors have access to the specialist services they need.

Comment from a victim/survivor:
"This service is immeasurable- I went from being totally traumatised, alone and frightened- I was isolated and barely functioning, P managed to turn the situation around incredibly quickly, gaining my trust, (unbelievable in the circumstances), firstly by just listening knowledgeably to me and being there for me at the end of phone if needed, but also and most importantly a friend that came to your home, sat and had a coffee with you, and left you feeling soothed and slightly less traumatised each time. The home visits were vital to me at that time as I was too frightened and numbed to venture out. She offered constructive advice, gave me a gentle push if I needed it and even took charge if it was needed (i.e. spoke to my solicitor about special arrangements for court) and I can't overstate this enough, supported me through the actual court day. This service is vital- solicitors and barristers are all well and good but with P's help I felt confident enough to fight my corner for the best possible outcome and although still a little scared feel I am able to function in the world again as independent woman. Furthermore, she is waiting to get me on a follow up course, which I hope will give me further strength and confidence. Needless to say, the benefit of this service is totally immeasurable- so many, many thanks." (Rural West, April, 2023)

Chief Executive Officer's Report

NDAS are embedded across the 3% urban and 97% rural landscape of Northumberland. Over our 20-year history, we have built up in-depth knowledge and understanding of the geography, communities and local people. We are well known across the county and word-of-mouth referrals are a mainstay of our support.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, it crosses all demographics; Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS) seeks to support all victims of domestic abuse.

For many, recognising their experiences as domestic abuse or as stalking, can be a challenge. Many victims explain away their experiences, and a particular difficulty is that victims think that if they haven't suffered physical violence, they are not being abused. Our trained staff are at the end of the phone and will listen, believe you and will make sure victims/survivors of domestic abuse are safe.

Unfortunately, domestic abuse can occur at any age. We are increasingly aware as a result of research that 'older people', defined as those aged over 59 years old are victims of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse affecting older people is often difficult to identify because of health issues such as dementia which can hide what is actually happening. The issue of domestic abuse experienced by older people has been prioritised within the NDAS Business Plan 2023-26 and will be a focus for us in the next year.

I am delighted to be leading a dedicated team who go the extra mile to provide timely and personalised responses to victims of domestic abuse and their children, also providing education with the aim of preventing children and young people becoming the abusers or abused in the future.

Sharon Brown, CEO

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number	1122969
Company Number	06431269
Registered Office	Unit 3 Waterhouse, Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3HN

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows;

J Mindham-Walker	(Chair)
A Richardson	
R Swinburne	
P Oliver	
D J Taylor	
L D Brooks	(Resigned 01 Feb 23)
L A Mindham-Walker	
C Marchant	(Appointed 21 September 22)

Key Management Personnel

S Brown	Chief Executive

Our advisors

Independent Examiners	Haines Watts	17 Queens Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RN

Legal Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. In the event of a winding up, every member (who is a trustee) undertakes to contribute to the payment of liabilities such amount as may be required not exceeding the total of £1.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 then 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; and
- 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 for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 27.9.23.

Signed on behalf of the Board

J Mindham-Walker
Chair

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd For the year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's 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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

C. Henderson

Craig Henderson FCCA
Haines Watts Newcastle

24 October 2023

Date

17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities *(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)*
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	As restated Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations	**4**	6,995	-	6,995	6,271
Charitable activities	**5**	21,904	411,699	433,603	356,411
Investment income	**6**	245	-	245	13
Total income		29,144	411,699	440,843	362,695
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**7**	5,601	318,211	323,812	300,418
Total expenditure		5,601	318,211	323,812	300,418
Net Income/(expenditure)		23,543	93,488	117,031	62,277
Transfers	**13**	(23)	23	-	-
Net movements In funds		23,520	93,511	117,031	62,277
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		130,548	184,098	314,646	252,369
Total funds carried forward		154,068	277,609	431,677	314,646

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	As restated 2022
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	10	76,900	67,770
Cash at bank and in hand		365,345	249,463
		442,245	317,233
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(10,568)	(2,587)
Net current assets		431,677	314,646
Total assets less total liabilities		431,677	314,646
Funds			
Restricted funds		277,609	184,098
Unrestricted funds		154,068	130,548
	13	431,677	314,646

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

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 27.9.23 and signed on their behalf by:

J Mindham-Walker
Chair

Company Number 06431269

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
(a company limited by guarantee)

Cash Flow Statement
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Net cash flow from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	115,637	(4,936)
Cash flows from investment activities			
Interest receivable and investment income		245	13
Net cash flow from investing activities		245	13
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		115,882	(4,923)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		249,463	254,386
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		365,345	249,463

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed the annual budgets and considered relevant information in response to the external environment. Actual results are monitored against budget. Based on these assessments, given the measures that could be undertaken to mitigate any adverse conditions, and the current resources available, the Trustees have concluded that they can continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

1.3 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions and is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income received to deliver services over a specific period covering more than one financial year is accounted for over the specific period; related expenditure is accounted when incurred.

Investment income relates to interest earned through holding assets on deposit.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

1.5 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the cost for which the expenditure arose.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life.

All assets individually costing more than £1,000 are capitalised, unless paid directly by a grant where capitalisation is not approved.

1.7 Debtors

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

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.9 Creditors and provisions

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

1.11 Pensions

The charitable company contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

2. Legal status

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, (No 06431269) and not having a share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3. Comparative statement of financial activities as restated

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations	4	6,271	-	6,271	10,818
Charitable activities	5	-	356,411	356,411	246,529
Investment income	6	13	-	13	137
Total income		6,284	356,411	362,695	257,484
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	1,149	299,269	300,418	253,176
Total expenditure		1,149	299,269	300,418	253,176
Net Income/(expenditure)		5,135	57,142	62,277	4,308
Transfers	13	-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		5,135	57,142	62,277	4,308
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		125,413	126,956	252,369	248,061
Total funds carried forward		130,548	184,098	314,646	252,369

4. Donations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	6,643	6,271
	6,643	6,271

5. Income from charitable activities

		As restated
	2023	2022
	£	£
Grant income	433,603	356,411
	433,603	356,411

Grant income was received from the following funders;
The Henry Smith Charity
Police and Crime Commissioner
NCC Rural Plot
Ministry of Justice
Sara Charlton IDVA
Morpeth Town Council
Children in Need
The Pilgrim Trust
The Lloyds Foundation
The National Lottery Fund
Community Foundation
Screwfix

6. Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable on cash deposits	245	13

7. Analysis of expenditure charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	252,479	239,094
Rent and rates	10,250	10,000
Insurance	793	2,631
Light and heat	1,731	1,587
Repairs and maintenance	1,450	1,125
Postage and stationary	938	2,327
Telephone and computer charges	9,057	7,917
Advertising	1,404	1,607
Travelling expenses	11,500	15,539
Legal and professional fees	7,922	4,305
Training	4,168	4,367
Accountancy	3,720	1,320
Sundry expenses and other office supplies	15,535	5,098
Subscriptions	2,690	2,388
Bank charges	175	113
	323,812	300,418

8. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examiners fee	2,400	1,320

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	226,154	216,103
Social security costs	18,929	13,551
Other pension costs	7,396	9,440
	252,479	239,094

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Charitable activities	11	10

During the year no (2022 – none) employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment in the year (2022 - £nil). No trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year (2022 - £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022- £nil).

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £107,028 (2022 - £83,937).

10. Debtors

		As restated
	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued income	76,900	67,770
	76,900	67,770

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,656	1,267
Accruals and deferred income	2,400	1,320
Social security & pension creditor	5,512	-
	10,568	2,587

12. Pension costs

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme, during the period contributions of £7,396 (2022 - £9,440) were paid into the scheme. At the year end, £nil was payable to the pension provider.

13. Fund reconciliation

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	130,548	29,144	(5,601)	(23)	154,068
Restricted funds					
Initial Response	9,695	17,984	(8,801)	-	18,878
Personalised Support	58,095	207,934	(160,336)	23	105,716
Supporting Children and Young People	14,201	59,243	(19,456)	-	53,988
Prevention and awareness	-	18,991	(17,069)	-	1,922
Back Office	99,633	84,150	(99,427)	-	84,356
Client welfare funds	2,474	14,467	(13,122)	-	3,819
Office Refurbishment	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
CRM system	-	3,930	-	-	3,930
	184,098	411,699	(318,211)	23	277,609
Total	314,646	440,843	(323,812)	-	431,677

For the year ended 31 March 2022 as restated

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	125,413	6,284	(1,149)	-	130,548
Restricted funds					
Initial Response	37,035	10,000	(37,340)	-	9,695
Personalised Support	19,435	178,993	(140,333)	-	58,095
Supporting Children and Young People	7,718	48,093	(41,610)	-	14,201
Prevention and awareness	7,795	15,568	(23,363)	-	-
Back Office	50,648	102,757	(53,772)	-	99,633
Client welfare funds	4,325	1,000	(2,851)	-	2,474
	126,956	356,411	(299,269)	-	184,098
Total	252,369	356,411	(300,418)	-	314,646

13. Fund reconciliation *(Continued)*

Initial Response – This is our team who take/receive all of the referrals from the website and via phone. They can come as self-referrals or via a professional and they follow up with a risk assessment and initial safety plan before the client is assigned to a practitioner for the one-to-one support. They will also check in weekly or bi-weekly with the client to offer advice and/or signposting if there is some time before a practitioner is free.

Personalised Support – This is our team of Domestic Abuse Practitioners (DAPs) who provide the one-to-one support for clients. This one-to-one support can be emotional or practical support and is done as a combination of face to face visits and telephone support. The DAPs cover all areas of Northumberland and are trained in domestic abuse, safeguarding and other specific areas.

Supporting Children and Young People – this is our children's psychotherapist who provides psychotherapy support to the children of the victims the DAPs support. Again, this service covers all areas of Northumberland and she visits children in schools or at the Hexham office.

Prevention and awareness – Our prevention worker runs workshops and learning sessions with school classes, youth groups and various other groups around the county, promoting awareness of domestic abuse and teaching children about healthy relationships, consent etc. Between the prevention worker and the DAPs we also offer empowering programmes for victims of domestic abuse to help them move forward and live free from abuse in the future.

Back office – This team consists of the funding & planning officer, office manager and CEO to help support (and fund) the delivery of our services and oversee its governance.

Client welfare funds – Funds for client welfare.

Office Refurbishment – For future office refurbishment.

CRM system – For the new CRM system

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Current assets	154,068	277,609	442,245
Current liabilities	(10,568)	-	(10,568)
	154,068	277,609	431,677

Year ended 31 March 2022 as restated

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Current assets	130,548	184,098	317,233
Current liabilities	(2,587)	-	(2,587)
	130,548	184,098	314,646

15. Prior period adjustment

A prior period adjustment has been made in respect of;

(1) Recognition of grant income in line with the SORP criteria. Income that should have been recognised has been accrued into the year ended 31 March 2022.

(2) Incorrect classification of fund balances between restricted funds and unrestricted funds.

Change to the balance sheet

		As previously reported	Adjustment	As restated at 31 March 2022
		£	£	£
Current assets				
Accrued income		-	67,770	67,770
	(1)			
Funds				
Unrestricted funds		104,033	26,515	130,548
Restricted funds		142,843	41,255	184,098
	(1,2)	246,876	67,770	314,646

Change to the statement of financial activities

		As previously reported	Adjustment	As restated at 31 March 2022
		£	£	
Income	(1)	294,925	67,770	362,695
Expenditure	(2)	(300,418)	-	(300,418)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		(5,493)	67,770	62,277

16. Related party transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the year.

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
Net income for the period	117,031	62,277
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable	(245)	(13)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(9,130)	(67,770)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	7,981	570
Net cash used in operating activities	115,637	(4,936)

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1122969

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1122969

Company Registration No. 06431269 (England and Wales)

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair)	
	Mrs A Richardson	
	Mrs R Swinburne	
	Mrs P Oliver	
	Mrs L D Brooks	
	Ms L A Mindham-Walker	(Appointed 22 September 2021)
	Mr D J Taylor	(Appointed 22 September 2021)
Charity number	1122969	
Company number	06431269	
Registered office	Unit 3 Waterhouse Burn Lane Hexham Northumberland United Kingdom NE46 3HN	
Independent examiner	Azets Bede House Belmont Business Park DURHAM United Kingdom DH1 1TW	

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
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NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS) is now in its 7th year, having been born from the only Charitable service offering Domestic Abuse support to the Northumberland residents which was launched in 2003 and known then as 608030. The initial service offered counselling for women and we are very proud to have developed our support services to offer practical and emotional support to everyone in the Northumberland area, aged 16+ who is suffering from Domestic Violence or Domestic Abuse. Our reputation as providers of excellent service has been acknowledged by the many different organisations who value the support we offer to the county and who help us provide this support by giving us generous donations each year.

As a registered charity our purpose and passion is to support and empower women, men and children in Northumberland who have experienced Domestic Abuse and to help them on their journey to freedom from abuse and violence.

Our Aims are:-

- To raise awareness of domestic abuse (DA) in individuals/survivors and in the community/organisations
- Reduce stigma associated with DA
- Provide an accessible service for all people
- Increase the confidence and self- esteem of survivors and help them regain control of their own lives

Key Issues faced by survivors of Domestic Abuse

- *Poor Mental health* - if abuse remains unidentified and unchallenged, victims and their families can enter into chaotic periods, and mental health issues can lead to dependence on other unhealthy ways to cope including alcohol and substance misuse. Poor mental health and other stress related illness (e.g. arthritis and fibromyalgia) can be directly attributed to domestic abuse (or other trauma), causing strain on medical service provision and rehabilitation. This cycle continues unless support is in place for people to make change and lockdowns continue to exacerbate the situation.

- *Normalised abusive behaviours* - when abuse is unchallenged in community contexts, the behaviours surrounding domestic abuse can become normalised and accepted. In these circumstances, recognising abuse can be complex, disclosure extremely difficult, and pathways for support may not be present. Normalising the behaviours can allow for continuation of abuse, leading to a future of abusive relationships in younger generations. Our awareness raising and prevention work all seek to challenge acceptance of these behaviours which can often be entrenched within communities.

- *Long term harm to children and young people* - for children and young people, their learning and development can be severely affected, and opportunities for growth restricted by poor cognitive development due to adverse childhood experiences caused by domestic abuse. Young people in rural areas may have limited face-to-face interaction with their peers outside of school hours, and with local lockdowns, schools sending children home to self-isolate can worsen this situation. A huge amount of young people's social interaction is online, potentially exposing young people to unhealthy information around domestic abuse. By challenging abuse in the home and in the community, young people living with abuse will not have the propensity to become victims or offenders in later life.

- *Child contact* - is used by offenders as another way of controlling the victim when they leave the relationship, and victims feel there is very little support or advice around this subject. People may worry they will be 'in trouble' if they stop offenders from seeing the children, this can be particularly complex if they are dealing with ongoing abuse every time child contact is arranged. People can also feel that offenders still have the 'upper hand' by not having any responsibility towards their children, whereas they are held accountable for the safety of their children and for decisions they make.

- *Loss of trust in statutory services* - many victims we have supported feel let down by the criminal justice system when there appear to be few consequences for offenders in court. Many cases aren't pursued by the CPS, leaving victims feeling confused and worthless. The perception is that social services believe and 'side' with offenders, making decisions about the children that victims struggle to understand.

- *Local economies* - for many victims, leaving their homes and communities is the only option to find safety and security. This can impact negatively on communities, local businesses and economies. By supporting victims to stay in their communities and feel supported by friends and neighbours, victims will continue to contribute to the local economy in each community. As a result, communities will be strengthened, businesses will benefit by reduced absenteeism caused by abuse and, through providing prevention work in local schools to educate on healthy friendships and relationships, future abuse will be reduced or prevented.

Achievements and performance
Services provided – differences made

Covid exacerbated all the problems mentioned above. Certain periods involved working from home where possible, and we offered our services virtually to protect both staff and service users. Demand was increasing with referrals up by 28% in the last quarter as we once again approached pre-Covid levels. We tried to manage more carefully how long we were able to support individuals now that other support services were back up and running. A balance had to be found between providing the length and level of support that the individual needed, and ensuring that those on our waiting list were not waiting too long.

Referrals

Self-referrals account for over 50% of our referrals with victims of domestic abuse seeing our poster, stickers or leaflets or having hearing about us through word of mouth. During the year referral sources remained steady. However, our self-referrals were found to be increasing partly due to our awareness raising sessions, and a lot of word-of-mouth referrals. The Domestic Abuse Practitioners (DAPs) spent a certain amount of time talking to the local communities to raise awareness of domestic abuse and signpost victims into relevant services.

Adult Support

Our specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioners provided vital individual support to enable victims to understand their situation and recognise the abuse they were suffering. Each service user was risk assessed and had their individual support needs identified. Plans for support and safety were then tailored to meet that victim's needs, implemented, monitored and adapted when needed to reflect changes in their personal circumstances. We continued to support victims to cope with the practical issues facing them when at their most vulnerable especially in the key areas of: -

• Housing – achieving a safe housing situation whether that is accessing a place in refuge, moving to a new property or staying in their home but implementing safety measures e.g. Occupation Order, Restraining Orders etc. through court.

• Finance – putting in place a personal income stream via benefits or setting up a new bank account, victims often do not have their own bank accounts and have no access to money even if they are working.

• Legal – supporting victims through the legal system e.g. protection orders, criminal justice process, court appearances etc.

Adult Mentor/Counselling

Unfortunately, this work came to an end at the end of December 2021 as we were unable to secure additional funding to continue with this service. This work provided 6 counselling sessions to each victim that we identified as being particularly vulnerable and at high risk of returning to the abusive relationship. The service users used this time to reflect on where they were, discovering what they would like to change and how they could go about making these positive changes in their lives.

Rural Pilot/Contract

We are very pleased to report that we were successful in winning the contract to provide two part-time rural domestic abuse practitioners on behalf of Northumberland County Council (NCC). This service aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse in rural communities in the west and north of the county, provide one-to-one support both in person and virtually, and run group programmes. We also started developing a network of community champions within rural communities to help us create a safe and supportive space where people can learn how to break the silence, to raise awareness about domestic abuse generally and to help provide a supportive response to survivors in our communities.

Programmes

Individual and group support was provided to help service users identify abuse and recover from the psychological impacts of the abuse, the aim being to help prevent new abusive relationships being formed. We ran specialist group courses e.g. The Freedom Programme, Freedom Forever and The Recovery Toolkit, which are designed to increase awareness of abuse, self-esteem, mental health and well-being in order to break the cycle of abuse that can often start in childhood. We adapted these courses to run either virtually or in a condensed format to enable victims to be able to continue to access this support despite Covid restrictions.

Children and Young People

We continued to support children and young people via telephone, social media platforms and face to face when safe to do so. During Covid parents were also supported in order to better support their children.

Prevention

Our initial grant from The Pilgrim Trust was to start to deliver this work in March 2020 but unfortunately Covid took us all by surprise and the closing of schools and youth groups meant we could only provide remote services and support with prevention work in schools halted. We recommenced prevention work with schools, youth groups and within wider communities once Covid restrictions allowed and are continuing to receive requests for the delivery of prevention focussed training. Through conversations with our partners and stakeholders we became aware that the number of children and young people who were experiencing challenges relating to mental health, well-being and relationships continued to increase. With this in mind we are looking to enhance and expand our delivery of prevention activity to children and young people in the next year.

Partnership Work

NDAS is committed to working in partnership with other service providers across the northeast to ensure victims have access to the specialist services they need. During the year under review we have spoken to CAB about NDAS information being included on the Frontline online directory and will be speaking to a staff forums about NDAS and what we can offer. The CEO has attended meetings in person or virtually with key partners including DASSN, Harbour, GRACE (Rape Crisis Northumberland), ACORNS (a children's domestic abuse charity) and funders/stakeholders including NCC, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria, Northumbria Police, National Lottery, The Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and The Lloyds Bank Foundation. We were keen to re-establish a local partnership to bring together specialist VCS domestic abuse and violence services. Our CEO is also a member of the NE Child Poverty Commission looking to address poverty as a trigger within domestic abuse.

Comments from Service Users

"I cannot thank your NDAS worker enough. She has changed my life. Her support, guidance, empathy, humanity and strength will never be forgotten. She has an amazing personal touch, she was open, honest and caring throughout. She allowed me to express myself, supported me, and provided me with her strength when I had none left. Quite simply I could not have done this without her. I will be eternally grateful for the support I have received from NDAS. It has changed my life, given me confidence, allowed me to find my former self and made me a better person. Thank you (worker's name) and NDAS."

"I am beyond grateful for the help and support I have received. You have changed my entire life and I've honestly never ever been so confident or happy. Thank you all so, so much!"

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Covid pandemic changed and exacerbated the situation for victims of domestic abuse. Our referral numbers mirrored lockdowns with significant reductions when lockdowns were in place, rising again when restrictions were lifted. We saw a reduction in the number of referrals yet we know the incidents of domestic abuse increased. Even at the end of the year under review, victims were still finding it difficult to access services due to continued restrictions and the lack of safe spaces and time. The severity of abuse has increased dramatically and those we were able to help needed wider support and over a longer time period. Cases at MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) substantiate the increased levels of abuse and the greater complexity of cases, with victims and offenders having multiple challenges with mental health and substance misuse and dependency. Many support streams changed their methodology of support over the last year. As this wasn't suitable for some, NDAS became much more central to victims of abuse with our personalised, empathetic and flexible approach.

In the last 12 months NDAS supported 263 adult victims of domestic abuse. This is slowly returning to pre-Covid levels despite the fact that domestic abuse has increased over this same time period and many incidents of domestic abuse go unreported to police. Towards the end of the year we were already getting requests for help from victims where domestic abuse has occurred during lockdown and although not current the harm had been done and the victims still needed support to cope and recover from it.

Most of our referrals are self-referrals, victims who are seeking help but are not being supported by statutory services who unfortunately do not have the capacity to cope with the increasing demand. Our service users are often those that are assessed as low to medium risk, and may want to speak to an independent organisation rather than a statutory service. We are a local, grass-roots charity, established almost 20 years ago by local women to meet a local need that unfortunately is growing and still under-reported. Victims are supported by local workers who know the area, know the communities and understand the local issues specific to that area. The service has been developed over the years by these local specialists based on feedback from service users and our in-depth understanding of victims of domestic abuse and their changing needs. The Lloyds Bank Foundation published a report called The Value of Small in February 2021 which found that 'small and medium-sized charities were a vital and distinctive component of the social and economic fabric of communities across England and Wales.' NDAS is embedded as a well-known and highly respected, small charity in Northumberland

Both my predecessor and I have been well supported by our Chair and Board of Trustees and together we look forward to continuing and improving our service next year.

Financial review

Due to another tough year because of the coronavirus pandemic, the accounts show deficit for the year of £5,493, compared with a surplus of £4,038 in the previous year.

The accounts show reserves held at the year end of £246,876. This means that the charity is well placed going forward to meet future funding requirements.

The trustees have set a reserves policy of £75,000.00 which represents 3 months' operating costs.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. It was established under the Memorandum of Association which stipulated the objects and power of the charitable company and is governed under the Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.00. We follow Charities Commission guidance. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair)	
Miss L Warren	(Resigned 16 March 2022)
Mrs P McKenna	(Resigned 16 March 2022)
Mrs A Richardson	
Mr I McLackland	(Resigned 10 June 2021)
Mrs R Swinburne	
Mrs P Oliver	
Mrs L D Brooks	
Ms L A Mindham-Walker	(Appointed 22 September 2021)
Mr D J Taylor	(Appointed 22 September 2021)

Trustees are appointed after they approach Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd with their intentions to aid them in their objectives. Any potential trustees are vetted before being appointed.

NDAS as a 'front line' charity has a comprehensive safeguarding policy designed to protect practitioners and service users. Trustees understand safeguarding issues which could potentially pertain to NDAS and have received training.

NDAS has a comprehensive risk assessment policy in place and the senior management and trustees ensure that there is an adequate mix of skills and experience on the staff and board to deal with and mitigate any substantial financial, operational or regulatory risks.

Our funders and partners

NDAS would like to thank the following organisations and people who fund us and allow us to continue offering services to the people of Northumberland:-

Kim McGuiness, Police and Crime Commissioner

Ministry of Justice

Children in Need

Lloyds Bank Foundation

The Henry Smith Charity

Bernicia Foundation

National Lottery – Awards for All

Pilgrim Trust

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

County Durham Community Foundation

Morpeth Town Council

Hexham Abbey

Hexhamshire Parish Council

Hexham Methodist Church

Mother's Union

Mrs A Bisset-Johnson

Mr JC Evans

Mr & Mrs P&D Adams

Ms E Gilfillan

Everyone who donated through Local Giving, Facebook, Charities Trust, Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

J. Mindham-Walker.

Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair)
Trustee
Dated: 28 September 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The year under review (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022) has, despite the challenges of Covid, been surprisingly good for NDAS in terms of funding for which we must in large part thank Ann Connor our Funding and Planning Officer and Louise Humble, our administrative officer. The charity has seen the adoption of updated accountancy software and useful training sessions for the trustees and staff on effective presentation and interpretation of management accounts.

NDAS has also seen some organisational restructuring during the year: We were sad to say goodbye to our Service Manager, Karen Richardson who decided to take up her well-earned retirement. The Board was nevertheless delighted to be able to recruit a very able new Service Manager, Sharon Brown. Sharon took up her post in January 2022 and after successfully completing her 3 month probation was promoted to the title of CEO. We also welcomed Tracy McKie's promotion to the role of Team Leader but unfortunately lost her soon after to a promotion elsewhere! We wish her all the best in her new role. NDAS Senior Management started a recruitment campaign to fill vacant posts ensuring the right people are in post to take our well-respected service forward into post pandemic times.

In terms of safeguarding, there were no cases which required reporting to the regulator or to the Board.

Work continued informally on the efforts started the previous year to ensure a balance of skills on the Board. NDAS was successful in recruiting two younger trustees, one of whom has digital marketing experience and who had done some work for NDAS before and one who is an economics graduate who works for a London based global tax and management consultancy. He will take over the role of Finance Director on the Board.

We were sorry to say goodbye to three dedicated and long standing trustees: Lindsay Warren, Ian McLackland and Patricia McKenna. We thank them both for their service and wish them well.

Board meetings in the future will be a mixture of physical and on-line which does at least have the benefit of allowing Trustees who are farther afield to join in on a regular basis.

NDAS has started to look for smaller premises in the wake of the changes in working practices initiated by the pandemic. The charity is also actively recruiting a Rural Services worker, collectively funded by local Wind Farms and 2 pilot rural development roles for the north and the west of the county.

The Trustees thank all the present funders and the new funders and donors whose generosity allows NDAS' vital work to continue. Lastly, but not least, the Trustees sincerely thank NDAS' dedicated staff, both back office and front line who continue to offer high quality support and encouragement.

The Trustees thank all our funders and donors for their continued support during these challenging times.

Lastly but not least, the Trustees thank NDAS' wonderfully dedicated staff. The comments from Service Users speak for themselves.

J. Mindham-Walker

Mrs J Mindham-Walker
Chairman
Dated: 28 September 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the charity'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 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:

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

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

Mrs Yasmin Bari (FCA)
Azets
Bede House
Belmont Business Park
DURHAM
DH1 1TW
United Kingdom

Dated: 28 September 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and grants	2	6,271	288,641	294,912	10,818	246,529	257,347
Investment income	3	13	-	13	137	-	137
Total income		6,284	288,641	294,925	10,955	246,529	257,484
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	(3,808)	304,226	300,418	(6,992)	260,168	253,176
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		10,092	(15,585)	(5,493)	17,947	(13,639)	4,308
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		93,941	158,428	252,369	75,994	172,067	248,061
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		104,033	142,843	246,876	93,941	158,428	252,369

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		249,463		254,386	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(2,587)		(2,017)	
Net current assets			246,876		252,369
Income funds					
Restricted funds			142,843		158,428
Unrestricted funds			104,033		93,941
			246,876		252,369

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 28 September 2022

J. Mindham-Walker

Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair)
Trustee

Company Registration No. 06431269

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 3 Waterhouse, Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3HN, United Kingdom.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's memorandum and articles, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure is recognised by the charity when the liability has been incurred. Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	6,271	288,641	294,912	257,347
For the year ended 31 March 2021	10,818	246,529		257,347

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	13	137

4 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs	239,094	208,900
Rent and rates	10,000	10,000
Insurance	2,631	1,281
Light and heat	1,587	691
Repairs and maintenance	1,125	984
Postage and stationery	2,327	523
Telephone and computer charges	7,917	9,859
Advertising	1,607	344
Travelling expenses	15,539	9,885
Legal and professional fees	4,305	1,356
Training	4,367	436
Accountancy	1,320	1,212
Sundry expenses	6,098	4,396
Subscriptions	2,388	3,234
Bank charges	113	75
	300,418	253,176
	300,418	253,176
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	(3,808)	(6,992)
Restricted funds	304,226	260,168
	300,418	253,176

5 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

6 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	10	9

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	216,103	189,068
Social security costs	13,551	11,097
Other pension costs	9,440	8,735
	239,094	208,900

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	1,267	817
Accruals and deferred income	1,320	1,200
	2,587	2,017

8 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:						
Current assets/ (liabilities)	104,033	142,843	246,876	93,941	158,428	252,369
	104,033	142,843	246,876	93,941	158,428	252,369

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

England & Wales - Charity number 1122969

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1122969

Company Registration No. 06431269 (England and Wales)

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair) Miss L Warren Mrs P McKenna Mrs A Richardson Mr I McLackland Mrs R Swinburne Mrs P Oliver	 (Appointed 19 August 2020)
Secretary	Miss L Warren	
Charity number	1122969	
Company number	06431269	
Registered office	Unit 3 Waterhouse Burn Lane Hexham Northumberland United Kingdom NE46 3HN	
Independent examiner	Azets Bede House 3 Belmont Business Park Durham United Kingdom DH1 1TW	

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
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NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services (NDAS) was launched in December 2015 and grew out of 608030 which had been a counselling service for women living in Tynedale since its inception in 2003.

As a registered charity our purpose is to relieve the distress and suffering of women, men and children in Northumberland who have experienced Domestic Abuse (DA).

Our Aims are:-

- Raise awareness of domestic abuse (DA) in individuals/ survivors and in the community /organisations
- Reduce stigma associated with DA
- Provide an accessible service for all people
- Increase the confidence and self- esteem of survivors and help them regain control of their own lives

Achievements and performance

Services provided – differences made

The last year has been a challenge to everyone, and we have been able to adapt and change very quickly to ensure we have continued to be there for those that need us. Our service delivery has been flexible, to respond to ever changing instruction and guidance, making sure we have kept ourselves and service users safe throughout. As a small charity we 'stood up and stuck around' extending our support to changing need.

Adult Support

One of our values is that we believe the people who contact us. It takes a huge amount of courage for people to identify abuse and reach out for support, so we are always mindful of this, listen to their stories, never judge or challenge and believe what they say. The majority of those we work with are not known to any other service or police, domestic abuse is still very much hidden behind closed doors. During Covid restrictions we delivered support informed by our service users, walking and talking, via zoom/teams and by telephone, maintaining contact at safe times and in a safe way.

Counselling and Mentoring

In response to changing need and with support from Covid Emergency Funding we developed a counselling and mentoring service for service users, struggling to be on their own, home schooling their children and having no access support from friends and family. The counselling focussed on them as individuals, not the abuse, to build up confidence, self-esteem and resilience, breaking down the barriers to living alone. This has been very well received and we'll be looking to obtain funding to continue this work in the future.

Comment from a Service User

"I hope that anyone in the same position as me feels confident enough to contact you, even if it's just a phone call. I put it off for so long but as soon as I contacted you I got validation that what I was going through was wrong and even just that itself made me feel less isolated. I can't thank you enough for all your help"

Children and Young People

Support for children and young people continued via telephone, social media platforms and face to face when safe to do so. Parents were also supported to support their children. The effect of the pandemic isolated children and young people and took away their school for some which is a safe space for those living with abuse. It also caused added anxiety for children and young people, with concern for their parent due to possible infection. GP's and schools were amazing with their support, providing us with safe spaces and times as soon as possible to enable support to take place for our most vulnerable children and young people.

Comment from the school

Teacher/head teacher/assistant teacher feedback – "engaging well in school showing confidence. He is more sure of himself, he is less dependent on his teacher's reassurance and seems a lot more settled and happy".

Prevention

This work, for the majority of this year was unable to take place due to restrictions in schools and community places. Work was however completed to develop a Mental Health toolkit in collaboration with NE Youth and our Prevention Worker developed a toolkit on Healthy Relationships. Both were circulated in schools and included as part of home study resources, receiving positive feedback.

Training and Awareness

Programmes for our service users continued via zoom and teams. Those attending advised they preferred face to face due to the support and interaction received with their peers however under the circumstances it was also identified it was better than nothing at all. A new programme was developed and NDAS have 2 practitioners who undertook facilitators training and are now in a position to deliver the full range of courses to those needing them.

Comment from a Service User

"Words cannot begin to express how much I enjoyed this course. When the first zoom call approached, I was nervous, thinking oh my god, sharing something so personal to strangers, can I do this? But when I saw your face, it was a relief! I think since I last saw you, I have grown and been a better person, but this course had made me so much more. Understanding that we are not alone, in a time where the world is not the same place it once was made much more sense."

Awareness for other agencies and organisations were provided remotely via zoom or teams in a more informal way, encouraging participation from the audience throughout each session to ensure understanding and engagement.

Service Manager Report

This year has provided many challenges for everyone, and it has been my privilege to work with a team who has met each one of them head on, continuing to provide support throughout the year, predominantly by telephone but face to face with our most vulnerable service users and for their children and young people.

During the pandemic, the demand for domestic abuse support increased on a national level by 25% however, in Northumberland, especially in rural areas, this wasn't the case and domestic abuse still continues to be unrecognised and remains hidden for many.
During periods of lockdown, victims of abuse became 'locked in' with offenders in their homes, a place where they, and their children should be safe. Home working stripped victims of their chance to access support and home schooling took away a safe place for children and young people.

Offenders used the pandemic to further control victims, using child contact and isolation, further distancing victims from their families and friends. There were no longer any safe space or quite times to access support.

We have seen extreme levels of anxiety and increased levels of violence when those living with abuse have been trying to keep their children and themselves safe.
Our referral numbers initially decreased, started to recover when restrictions were relaxed before dropping again due to the local restrictions being imposed.

Throughout this period, we have provided support in homes, gardens, walking and talking in parks and other outside places. Local GP's and schools have been tremendous in offering and arranging Covid safe places for us to see adults, children and young people.
Service users are being supported for longer and we have adapted our services to manage increasing levels of anxiety, caused by the virus, for both adults and children and young people.

An adult counselling role was developed for our service users, to focus on their self-esteem and resilience when they are safe from abuse, this is an enhancement to the support we offer and will hopefully prevent service users returning to their abusers in preference to being alone.

Our prevention work in schools initially stopped so in support of children and young people, a Mental Health Toolkit was developed in partnership with NE Youth providing lots of self-help tips and hints to better mental health. The toolkit was circulated to all schools for use in home education packs and in classroom led study. A toolkit on Healthy Relationships followed which was also very well received.

Classroom prevention sessions have now resumed in some schools, with fantastic feedback from one parent:

'My daughter has just completed the domestic abuse course given by NDAS.
I would just like to say, I think this was an absolutely fantastic thing to do for our young people. I was really blown away at how much she had taken on board by these classes and how keen she is in helping people who might be in a similar situation.
I think this is a huge step forward to show our children that this is happening but we can prevent it by speaking out'.

Our practitioners were trained to deliver group programmes virtually and attended training for a new group programme developed specifically for virtual delivery, the first one of which was delivered in January 2021.

The support and flexibility we have received from our funders and donors has been fantastic. They have been behind us every step of the way, interested in what we're doing and how we're doing it, providing lots of guidance, training and resources in support.

We quickly adapted to our new way of working, but, like everyone else, we miss and look forward to normality.

Reflection on our changing provision has given us the insight that telephone support for some is more preferable than face to face, some people are happy zooming, other's aren't. Our service provision and method of delivery need to be ever flexible, adaptable and changeable to meet the needs of the service users we support. Diverse and inclusive, never the same, tailor made to match individual need and I'm thankful to have such a great team and a supportive board that allow us to provide just that.

I continue to have great support from our Chair and Trustee Board and feel I'm busier now than ever, and don't know how I found the time to drive anywhere!!
We continue to have great working partnerships and friendships with other charities and agencies and feel we are in a strong position and ready to look forward to the challenges next year will bring.

Financial review
Despite a tough year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the charity has continued to live within it's means achieving a surplus for the year of £4,038, compared with a surplus of £6,586 in the previous year.

The accounts show reserves held at the year end of £252,369. This means that the charity is well placed going forward to meet future funding requirements.

The trustees have set a reserves policy of £75,000.00 which represents 3 months' operating costs.

Structure, governance and management
The charity is a company limited by guarantee. It was established under the Memorandum of Association which stipulated the objects and power of the charitable company and is governed under the Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.00. We follow Charities Commission guidance. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:
Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair)
Miss L Warren
Mrs P McKenna
Mrs A Richardson
Mr I McLackland
Mrs R Swinburne
Mrs P Oliver (Appointed 19 August 2020)

Trustees are appointed after they approach Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd with their intentions to aid them in their objectives. Any potential trustees are vetted before being appointed.
NDAS as a 'front line' charity has a comprehensive safeguarding policy designed to protect practitioners and service users. Trustees understand safeguarding issues which could potentially pertain to NDAS and have received training. A new Trustee, with substantial safeguarding experience, was appointed to the board in Aug 20 with oversight of the policy and its application.

NDAS has a comprehensive risk assessment policy in place and the senior management and trustees ensure that there is an adequate mix of skills and experience on the staff and board to deal with and mitigate any substantial financial, operational or regulatory risks.

Our funders and partners

NDAS would like to thank the following organisations and people who fund us and allow us to continue offering services to the people of Northumberland:-

Kim McGuiness, Police and Crime Commissioner

Ministry of Justice

Tudor Trust

Children in Need

Lloyds Bank Foundation

The Henry Smith Charity

Bernicia Foundation

National Lottery – Awards for All

Pilgrim Trust

Sir James Knott Trust

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Barbour Foundation

County Durham Community Foundation

Newcastle Building Society

Morpeth Town Council

Squires Foundation

Hadrian Trust

Hexham Abbey

Wansbeck Women's Labour Party

Amble Parish Council

Hexhamshire Parish Council

Hexham Methodist Church

The Inner Wheel Club

Bedlington Allotments

Northumbria Water

Mother's Union

Mrs A Bisset-Johnson

Mr JC Evans

Mr & Mrs P&D Adams

Ms E Gilfillan

Everyone who donated through Local Giving, Facebook, Charities Trust, Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair)
Trustee
Dated: 13 January 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

It has been another busy, challenging but successful year for NDAS. The Covid pandemic restrictions unfortunately remained in force throughout the year under review with both local and national lockdowns affecting our service delivery. We continued our working practices aimed at protecting staff and service users as far as possible, providing remote virtual support where necessary.

All staff were put on new permanent contracts during 2020/21 to give them stability although our services are always subject to funding. We continue to review our present office accommodation with an on-going search for smaller premises as it has become clearer that people are likely to work more from home in the future and mirrors our dispersed service delivery. However, we understand that for some people this is not ideal since the opportunity to meet with colleagues and maintain some sort of cohesive office culture is generally accepted as an important part of working life.

NDAS nevertheless remained proactive in light of significant funding successes and the year saw a number of achievements under difficult circumstances. Staff worked with Vodaphone to produce an automated system to provide a duty rota to cover incoming calls. A shorter course for service users called Hope to Recovery was developed for virtual delivery. It also became clear to NDAS that although fewer victims of abuse were able to reach out for help those that did needed support for longer, we became far more to those we supported when their other support networks and services were not there. To try and address this need our new adult mentoring scheme was enhanced to include help with developing personal resilience. It has proved to be very popular and impactful for individuals and we are therefore looking to secure funding to continue to provide this on an ongoing basis. The Prevention Work was also extended to help young people deal with anxiety and concerns in relation to the isolation caused by the virus and its impact on their relationships. Our Children's Workers provided a lot of family and parenting support whilst they were unable to do face-to-face support during lockdowns which has proved invaluable to those families.

Other pilot projects during the year were not as successful as we had hoped. The rural survey which NDAS tried to instigate in May 2020 had few responses which was disappointing as we want to consult with those living in rural Northumberland about the services and delivery methods that would work for their communities. The webchat system we set up at the start of lockdown did not prove to be as productive as was first hoped as lockdown restrictions meant victims were often trapped at home with the perpetrator but NDAS practitioners did manage to get information out via social media as well as via pharmacies and other businesses across the whole of Northumberland.

The Board is very appreciative of the help given to NDAS by the Cranfield Trust via the Lloyds Bank Foundation which allowed the senior staff to start the rather arduous process of updating, merging and rewriting the charity's policies.

It is with regret that I report that our Service Manager, Karen Richardson, after many years' dedicated and outstanding service, has requested to work part-time as a preamble to retirement in the next reporting year. Karen will remain with NDAS until December 2021.

The Board made contact with some possible new trustees with a view to them joining the Board in order to bring additional knowledge and expertise. It is hoped they will join sometime during the following year 2021 – 22 when other trustees are intending to step down after a number of years of service.

Despite the encouraging successes in attracting funding, the Board continues to be prudent to pursue a cautious approach to finance, ensuring that ongoing commitments were matched as far as possible by reserves.

In terms of safeguarding, there were no cases which required reporting to the regulator or to the Board.

The brand refresh exercise started in the previous year was further enhanced with the new communications materials coming on stream and is being embedded within the organisation.

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees thank all our funders and donors for their continued support during these challenging times.

Lastly but not least, the Trustees thank NDAS' wonderfully dedicated staff. The comments from Service Users speak for themselves.

Mrs J Mindham-Walker
Chairman
Dated: 13 January 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity'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 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:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Mrs Yasmin Bari (FCA)
Azets
Bede House
3 Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW
United Kingdom

Dated: 18 January 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and grants	2	10,818	246,529	257,347	8,364	252,871	261,235
Charitable activities		-	-	-	52	-	52
Investment income	3	137	-	137	265	-	265
Total income		10,955	246,529	257,484	8,681	252,871	261,552
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	(6,992)	260,168	253,176	230	254,736	254,966
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		17,947	(13,639)	4,308	8,451	(1,865)	6,586
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		75,994	172,067	248,061	67,543	173,932	241,475
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		93,941	158,428	252,369	75,994	172,067	248,061

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

NORTHUMBERLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		254,386		251,307	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(2,017)		(3,246)	
Net current assets			252,369		248,061
Income funds					
Restricted funds			158,428		172,067
Unrestricted funds			93,941		75,994
			252,369		248,061

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13 January 2022

G S. Mindham-Walker

Mrs J Mindham-Walker (Chair)
Trustee

Company Registration No. 06431269

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 3 Waterhouse, Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3HN, United Kingdom.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's memorandum and articles, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure is recognised by the charity when the liability has been incurred. Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	10,818	246,529	257,347	261,235
For the year ended 31 March 2020	8,364	252,871		261,235

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest receivable	137	265

4 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	208,900	198,894
Rent and rates	10,000	10,000
Insurance	1,281	1,446
Light and heat	691	1,386
Repairs and maintenance	984	1,026
Postage and stationery	523	595
Telephone and computer charges	9,859	7,462
Advertising	344	2,038
Travelling expenses	9,885	24,124
Legal and professional fees	1,356	1,405
Training	436	184
Accountancy	1,212	1,224
Sundry expenses	4,396	2,021
Subscriptions	3,234	3,043
Bank charges	75	118
	253,176	254,966
	253,176	254,966
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	(6,992)	230
Restricted funds	260,168	254,736
	253,176	254,966

5 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

6 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	9	9

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	189,068	180,759
Social security costs	11,097	10,273
Other pension costs	8,735	7,862
	208,900	198,894

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	817	2,094
Accruals and deferred income	1,200	1,152
	2,017	3,246

8 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:						
Current assets/ (liabilities)	93,941	158,428	252,369	76,225	171,836	248,061
	93,941	158,428	252,369	76,225	171,836	248,061