



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

Trustees' Report (*Continued*)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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 Barks	
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
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Our advisors

Independent Examiners	S&W Audit 17 Queens Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RN
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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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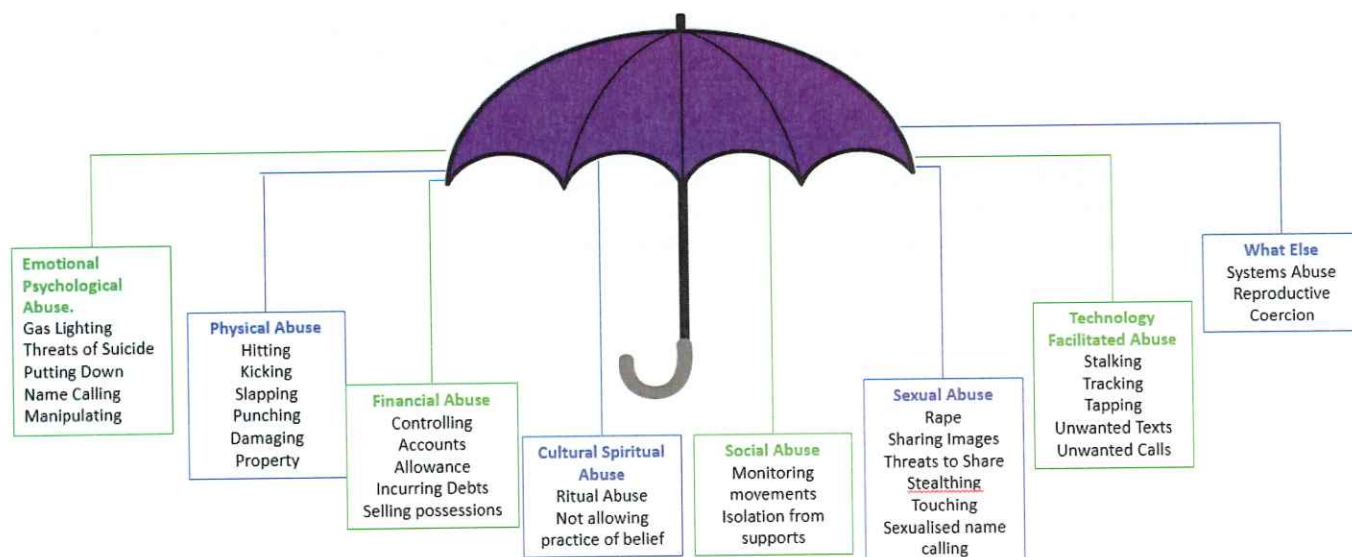
Accommodation	85%
Children	93%
Empowerment and Self-esteem	96%
Health and well-being	86%
Legal Issues	84%
Money	82%
Safety	88%
Support Networks	90%
Work and Learning	81%

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:



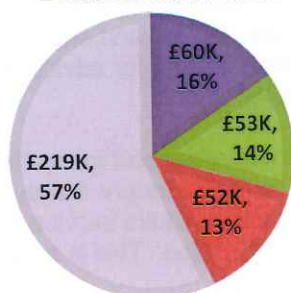
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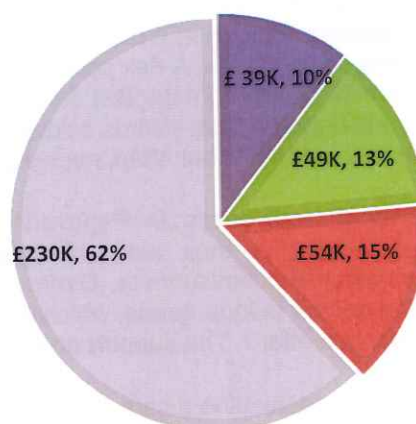
FUNDING 2023 /2024

- Local Grant Funders
- Statutory Funding NCC
- Statutory Funding PCC
- National Grant Funders



FUNDING 2024/2025

- Local Grant Funders
- Statutory Funding NCC
- Statutory Funding PCC
- National Grant Funders



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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Trustee Report

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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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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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Charity Number: 1122969
Company Number: 06431269

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



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Trustees' Report (*Continued*)
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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
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 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



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.



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
		<u>450,283</u>	<u>539,650</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(10,647)	(11,991)
Net current assets		<u>439,636</u>	<u>527,659</u>
Total assets less total liabilities		<u>493,900</u>	<u>531,879</u>
Funds			
Restricted funds		111,503	341,604
Unrestricted funds		382,397	190,275
	14	<u>493,900</u>	<u>531,879</u>

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 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 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Net cash flow from operating activities:			
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	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		<u>363,963</u>	<u>386,599</u>



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

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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.



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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.



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (*Continued*)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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.



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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		<u>47,248</u>	<u>436,105</u>	<u>483,353</u>	<u>440,843</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	15,261	367,890	383,151	323,812
Total expenditure		<u>15,261</u>	<u>367,890</u>	<u>383,151</u>	<u>323,812</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		31,987	68,215	100,202	117,031
Transfers	13	4,220	(4,220)	-	-
Net movements in funds		<u>36,207</u>	<u>63,995</u>	<u>100,202</u>	<u>117,031</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		154,068	277,609	431,677	314,646
Total funds carried forward		<u>190,275</u>	<u>341,604</u>	<u>531,879</u>	<u>431,677</u>



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Donations	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	6,497	7,957
	<u>6,497</u>	<u>7,957</u>
	<u><u>6,497</u></u>	<u><u>7,957</u></u>
5. Income from charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Grant income	340,270	470,906
	<u>340,270</u>	<u>470,906</u>
	<u><u>340,270</u></u>	<u><u>470,906</u></u>
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	80,000	77,200
NDAS Core Funding		
The National Lottery Community Fund- RC North East and Cumbria Region	-	50,120
Helping children & young people to develop healthy & safe relationships	-	30,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000
The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All	-	
Lloyds Bank Foundation	25,000	-
Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000	-
Sara Charlton Foundation	10,000	-
Other grants <£9,000	97,136	22,801
	<u>340,270</u>	<u>470,906</u>
	<u><u>340,270</u></u>	<u><u>470,906</u></u>

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.



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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 stationery	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
	<u>390,016</u>	<u>383,151</u>

8. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

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



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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
	<u>300,272</u>	<u>252,479</u>

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
	<u>60,293</u>	<u>60,293</u>
At 31 March 2025		
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	-	-
Charge for the year	6,029	6,029
	<u>6,029</u>	<u>6,029</u>
At 31 March 2025		
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	54,264	54,264
	<u>4,220</u>	<u>4,220</u>
At 31 March 2024		



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accrued income	85,000	153,051
Prepayments	1,320	-
	<u>86,320</u>	<u>153,051</u>

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
	<u>10,647</u>	<u>11,991</u>

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.



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

14. Fund reconciliation

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 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
	<u>341,604</u>	<u>208,884</u>	<u>(383,955)</u>	<u>(55,030)</u>	<u>111,503</u>
Total	<u>531,879</u>	<u>352,037</u>	<u>(390,016)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>493,900</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 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)	-	-
	<u>277,609</u>	<u>436,105</u>	<u>(367,890)</u>	<u>(4,220)</u>	<u>341,604</u>
Total	<u>431,677</u>	<u>483,353</u>	<u>(383,151)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>531,879</u>



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

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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)
	<u>382,397</u>	<u>111,503</u>	<u>493,900</u>

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)
	<u>190,275</u>	<u>341,604</u>	<u>531,879</u>



Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services Ltd
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Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in operating activities	28,167	20,984
	<hr/>	<hr/>