

Registered Charity Number: 1126132
Company Number: 04229975

Advonet
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees Annual Report and
Consolidated Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Advonet

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Charity Information

Trustees

M Ahmed
R Beck
P C Gleeson
P J Gruen
I Nip
R Porter
K Tandel
E V Williams
H J Woodcock (resigned 26 October 2020)
M M Yip
W Case
K S Thirkill (appointed 16 March 2021)

Company Secretary

P S Bramson (appointed 25 May 2021)

Key Management Personnel

P Bramson	Chief Executive
C L De Arostegui	Finance Director (until May 2021)
L Kelly	Finance Director (from May 2021)
L S Greenfield	Advocacy and Operations Director
W Cork	Partnership and Development Director

Registered charity number

1126132

Company number

04229975

Principal and registered office

Unity Business Centre
26 Roundhay Road
Leeds
LS7 1AB

Independent Auditors

Azets Audit Services Limited
Triune Court
York
YO32 9GZ

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
Four Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2JB

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary, Leep1 CIC, for the year ending 31 March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements of a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Reference and Administrative details

The charity information on page 1 forms part of this report.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Advonet are to relieve poverty and sickness and preserve and protect the health of the public irrespective of race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, age or disability in particular:

- Promoting awareness and understanding of advocacy practice
- Supporting the development of advocacy services
- The provision of a point of contact for people who need advocacy support or help
- The provision of advocacy services in the North of England
- The development, co-ordination and facilitation of training and education on advocacy and issues relevant to advocacy
- The development and promotion of good practice standards for advocacy

The Trustees review the aims and objectives of the organisation each year and in the current year they did this as part of the Strategic Review. The Trustees have referred to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives.

This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work over the year ended 31 March 2021.

The focus of our work: how our activities support our objectives

Advonet's future will involve providing advocacy and supporting other communities, individuals and organisations to do this; and finding creative ways of working with people who have been marginalised to ensure that their voices and experiences are used to help society become more inclusive.

Advonet recognises the importance of raising awareness within the wider community of the needs of people facing disadvantage and takes a key role in the development and innovation of advocacy services to meet those needs. It participates in bodies such as the Leeds Dementia Board, the Leeds Safeguarding Board, the Autism Partnership Board and the Leeds Learning Disabilities Partnership Board to ensure that the often-negative experiences of its clients can drive service improvement. The charity does this in consultation with clients of services and those who care for them.

In September 2020, Advonet re-branded itself as the Advonet Group. This is to reflect that we are about much more than just our core advocacy services – Care Act, Community, Health Complaints, IMCA and IMHA. We also have four projects which are part of our wider group: Leep1 (including Café Leep), Asking You!, Leeds Autism AIM and CHANGE. The core of our activity is our contract for advocacy services in Leeds however we also put lots of energy into other projects.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

In 20-21, the Advonet group sought to meet its objectives by:

- Continuing our existing advocacy services in Leeds (through our consortium with Age UK and Touchstone) and Kirklees (through our partnership with Touchstone) to help peoples voices to be heard and rights respected
- Working with CHANGE and Yorkshire MESMAC on the LGBTQI+ Health Inclusion Project to help to address health inequalities faced by LGBTQI+ adults in Leeds from other disadvantaged groups
- Continuing Leep1's work on digital inclusion which has been hugely important in helping people with learning disabilities
- Leeds Autism AIM's post-diagnostic support sessions which help newly diagnosed autistic adults to learn more about themselves and their condition
- Welcoming CHANGE to the Advonet group with their immense experience of fighting for disabled people's human rights and producing accessible information
- Developing the Leeds Advocacy Network ('LAN')
- Investing in and using our volunteers

How our activities deliver public benefit

The main project areas we have worked in this year and who we try to help are outlined in the paragraphs below.

Statutory Advocacy

As part of our main advocacy services contract with Leeds City Council we have delivered statutory and non-statutory advocacy services across a range of settings. Our First Contact Team (FCT) receives referrals through our central contact number and via an online enquiry form, responding to enquiries and processing referrals prior to these being allocated to an advocate.

In the past 12 months, our advocacy services received 2,250 referrals and provided advocacy to 1,552 people across the five services between the start of April 2020 and end of March 2021. This was a decrease of 3% compared with 2019/20 but understandable in light of the pandemic restrictions in place for much of the year. Advonet's response to Coronavirus is covered in more detail on page 9. Our Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) and Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) teams received the most referrals. We have continued to embed the advocacy principles within our work and will be preparing to renew our existing Advocacy Quality Performance Mark in 2022.

We continue to invest in the development of our staff. At the end of March 2021, 27 advocates attained the Independent Advocacy Qualification (IAQ) certificate or diploma, with a further 8 working towards attaining it. Some of our advocacy managers were also working towards attaining the specialist Management unit as part of their continuing professional development.

Health Complaints Services

Our Health Complaints Advocacy team help clients who live in the Leeds City Council area to make a complaint about any care they have received from a service run by the NHS. As part of our services, our advocates provide information about the NHS complaints procedure and help clients explore the options available to them so they can decide what to do.

We supported 84 new clients and 120 existing clients in 2020-21.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is legislation about supporting and protecting vulnerable people who are unable to make their own decisions. As part of our advocacy in this area, the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) work on supporting clients to have maximum participation in all matters related to their life, ensuring that their life choices are respected, and their rights are upheld. Over the past year, one area of focus has been to develop more effective partnership working with external agencies/providers, to further promote the use of the Mental Capacity Act and the role of the IMCA.

During the year, we supported 270 new clients and 525 existing clients in 2020-21.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

Independent Mental Health Advocacy

The Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) team continues to work with people who have been detained under the Mental Health Act and want their voice to be heard and their rights respected. New innovations include working in private hospitals and in Care Home settings. We developed effective relationships with Mental Health Operational Steering Groups to affect change through discussing systemic advocacy issues. We provided IMHA training and info to healthcare professionals in a range of settings. During 2020-21, we supported 298 new clients and 204 existing clients.

Care Act Advocacy

Our Care Act Advocates work with individuals to help them make their own decisions. They support people to understand the care and support process they will be involved in. They also help people to communicate their wishes and feelings to inform discussions about their future care and support needs. We supported 51 new clients and 64 existing clients in 2020-21. We are looking to promote this service more, in the future, so that people get the advocacy they are entitled to.

Community Advocacy

Our Community Advocacy is here to help our clients uphold their rights. Our Community advocates help our clients to understand and put forward their choices and to be involved and have a say in what they need. Our service is available for any adult in Leeds who needs advocacy support to have their voice heard dealing with organisations including Adult Social Care, healthcare professionals, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Utility companies and housing services.

We supported 206 new clients and 212 existing clients in 2020-21.

Ask4Advocacy Kirklees

This service provides the statutory and non-statutory advocacy services for Kirklees and is delivered through a partnership between Advonet and Touchstone. Three Advonet staff are seconded into the project and provide both advocacy and advocacy management support. The service supported 1,757 clients and took 1,267 referrals between April 2020-March 2021. In spite of COVID19, we supported more people in Kirklees than in previous years, and we received more referrals.

In the last year, we focused on developing the Universal Advocate role; introducing and implementing the new Charity Log data-base; preparing for the Advocacy Quality Performance Mark Assessment and being as innovative and flexible as possible in maintaining service delivery and client contact during the COVID19 pandemic.

Outreach Surgeries

In 2020/21 due to the pandemic, national lockdown, local restrictions and the closing or restriction in some local venues our community and outreach services have not been delivered.

Self-Advocacy

This year, we have continued to develop our self-advocacy offer. We have received 188 referrals for Self-advocacy support and 3,196 self-advocacy resources and factsheets have been downloaded from our website. Whilst we have been unable to deliver group or peer self-advocacy this year we have continued to progress the framework within which they will be delivered in the future and will be running a pilot self-advocacy group in 2021/22.

In-house advocacy

As well as providing advocacy to all eligible citizens in Leeds, (and as Touchstone's partners in Kirklees), The Advonet Group offers separately funded, in-house advocacy services to other settings.

These include LYPFT's young people's service at Little Woodhouse Hall, within which we offer a service to voluntary patients under 18. We have continued to deliver advocacy services within the Exemplar Health Care Group and have provided an Independent Mental Health Advocacy service in Waterloo Manor and Mill Garth Hospitals.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

Asking You!

Asking You! Is our project which supports people with learning disabilities to ensure their voice is heard. The past year saw much more achievement than we dared to hope for, given the pandemic. We equipped volunteers with IT so they could keep meeting weekly. Our Citizen Advocacy service adapted so people without other independent support continued to receive long-term advocacy support. Our range of stakeholders expanded. One example was our work with the Kings Fund and Association Directors of Social Services. The People's Parliament increased its reach by going online. We delivered learning disability awareness training to Health and Social Care commissioners. A Supported Decision-Making training pilot was developed and delivered by/to learning disabled adults. We employed someone with lived experience of a learning disability as a Team Member for the first time

Leeds Autism AIM

Our Leeds Autism AIM service provides a range of services to autistic adults locally that have little other funded support. The service has three main pots of funding: continuation funding from Leeds CCG, including increased additional funding for its post-diagnostic support, and The National Lottery Community Fund which ended this month with an independent evaluation expected. They have additional one-year funding this year with the CCG for pilot work with a Local Care Partnership in improving access to GP surgeries for autistic adults. They also have small funding to deliver autism mental health training to Live Well Leeds Community Based Mental Health service and for joint work with the West Yorkshire police on an alert card. Funding will be sought to extend the GP, Alert Card pilot work and to request additional funding to meet increased demand for the Post Diagnostic service.

AIM has a further application to the Lottery at the final stages for the development of their mentoring and one-to-one peer support provision for £159K.

AIM has continued strong engagement during the pandemic, developing its autism Covid- 19 Toolkit and other resources that have been widely used. The team has responded well given the uncertainty caused by the pandemic and have come out stronger in terms of improving resources, systems, and monitoring. They have continued to develop work with LTHT, LMWBS, Engage Leeds, DWP and many other local services in improving autism provision this year, providing training and co-developing resources and involvement is building regionally.

Changemakers/ Yorkshire AIM: new project/ team

We were successful in applying for 4 years funding of £430k this year from Comic Relief Changemakers fund in its mental health strand. The fund is focused on innovative approaches to transforming and improving services. We will be working with West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership in developing strong regional mental health consultation and involvement for autistic people, supporting the development of autistic led peer support regionally with Leeds Mind and training of advocacy and social prescribing services.

This project will start in September 2021 with its own manager, initially using AIM consultation support in development and will be guided by the AIM steering group.

We were also successful in £73k funding from NHS England for improving the sensory environment on mental health inpatient wards. This is one year pilot work focused on inclusion and developing an autistic led sensory checkers model and resources . It is in partnership with wider regional services/ mental health trusts who have additional funding for developing sensory training ,sensory champions and resources.

Talk to Me Hear My Safeguarding Story

This project is ending in October after 2 years. It has met its project targets and has provided Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and Adult Health and Social Care (ASC) with some insight into the problems of how safeguarding services are delivered and recorded in Leeds. The learning from this project will go onto shaping the LSAB's aim of becoming citizen-led, and ASC's feedback processes. As part of the project, it established a citizens panel which is now going to be separately funded by LSAB.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

Leep1 and Café Leep

Leep1 is our Community Interest Company ('CIC'). They promote self-advocacy for individuals with learning disabilities. Leep1 seeks to develop innovative ways to engage with the wider community and ensure their members' voices are heard.

We set up an online group on Facebook on March 17th 2020 due to the first lockdown to continue the delivery of our services which grew rapidly to 350 members. Part of the team focused on the members who were not online by delivering tablets and programmes, so they were able to join the group.

We are now delivering our projects physically to the majority of members, however a small minority of members are nervous about returning in person. There is also a waiting list of people wanting to attend the Leep1 service.

We have recently lost two key members of Leep1 staff so staffing levels are difficult at the moment but we are currently recruiting for a new deputy manager and sessional support workers.

We will be commencing our club nights in October which has been shut for nearly two years for Halloween.

We were selected as one of the Digital Enterprise TOP 100 and we are now listed as one of the SMEs that have made the list of the Leeds City Region's most innovative, digitally transformational and resilient businesses for our work around digital inclusion.

CHANGE

CHANGE has continued to produce easy-read information throughout the pandemic, including building a permanent relationship with the National Lottery to make their funding application process accessible. It continues to be the main provider for Macmillan as well as increasing its customer base in the areas of Criminal Justice and Law as in their strategic plan. The majority of CHANGE's project team was furloughed for most of 2020, despite this they managed to diversify their whole training package so that it could be delivered online. The Easy-Read training has been delivered bi-monthly throughout 2021 and has sold out, every event. The CHANGE team has grown with the LGBTQI+ project.

LGBTQI+

This is a 3-year project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The project has seen two new staff members who are both LGBTQI+ and Autistic join the team. It is performing according to project aims and in line with activity planning. The aim of the project is to improve outcomes for these intersected communities in the areas of health and social care.

Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do and they work across many of our projects. Due to the pandemic, in the past 12 months, many of our volunteering roles went online, particularly our Citizen Advocacy and Autism Mentor services. Although volunteer numbers and hours contributed are less during the pandemic, the volunteers were able to continue to support staff, clients and members creatively online. We provided autism awareness and learning disability awareness training via Zoom for new volunteers, as well as inductions. Leep1 recruited some very enthusiastic student volunteers, while we also published videos on our YouTube channel, promoting the various volunteer roles we have on offer throughout the year.

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6 June 2001 and a registered charity. The charity is established under a Memorandum of Association which outlines the objectives and aims of the organisation. Members are required to contribute £1 in the event of the Company winding up.

Details of the registered number and office are given on page 1.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees serve on the Board in the capacity as both Company Director and Trustee. They receive no remuneration and any expenses are shown in Note x to the financial statements. Appointments to the Board are made by the Members of the Company at the Annual General Meeting or at a general meeting held during the year in accordance with the Articles of Association.

There are twelve places available on the Board. A third of the places on the Board are set aside for people from the organisation's client groups i.e. those with lived experience of mental health issues or autism. When a Director's vacancy arises the Board seek to maintain a broad skill mix to ensure that the composition of the Board can support the Senior Management team and the organisation in delivering its aims and objectives.

Under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the Board must retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting. The Board members who retire are the longest serving directors. Retiring Trustees can offer themselves for re-election.

Trustee Induction and Training

It is Advonet's practice that potential trustees are encouraged to attend board meetings as an observer before joining the Board so that they are able to familiarise themselves with the policy, procedures and structures of the organisation. Additional ad-hoc training is also offered to all Trustees where further knowledge is requested.

All Trustees are issued with a Trustee handbook and attend a formal induction session when they join the Board. They are encouraged to engage with staff and attend meetings, if they wish, to gain a more in depth understanding of the organisation.

Organisational Structure

The Board meets at least 4 times a year. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the organisation and determines the organisation's policies. During the financial year, the Resources, Quality and Development sub-groups were used to provide the Board further opportunity to scrutinise the operations in more detail.

The Resources sub-group covers Finance, Health & Safety, HR and data protection matters. The Quality sub-group focuses on the operations of the organisation and the Development sub-group focuses on new development opportunities. The Board delegates the operational running of the Company to the Senior Management Team ("SMT").

The Senior Management Team is headed by the Chief Executive, who is appointed by the Board to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organisation. The Senior Management Team also includes the Advocacy Director (also responsible for quality management), the Inclusion Projects Director (also responsible for communications) and the Finance (who is responsible for Finance, IT and Data Protection).

Key management remuneration

During the financial year ending 31 March 2021, the Chief Executive, the Finance Director, the Advocacy Director and the Inclusion Project's Director formed the charity's key management personnel. The key management's pay award is set by the Board following a benchmarking exercise which compared the salaries of similar roles in comparable organisations. No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum in the current or previous financial year.

Risk Management

The Board conduct an annual review of the risks to which the organisation is exposed. This includes assessing the potential impact and likelihood, the controls that are in place, and those that could be put in place, to mitigate the risks identified.

A risk register is maintained under the headings: Governance, Operational, Financial; Compliance; and Environmental/Social/Political Factors. It is jointly compiled by the Board and the SMT

At the last review, the principal risks and uncertainties facing the charity identified were loss of funding and changes in health and social care policy. These risks are managed by developing strong working partnerships with our funders, seeking to diversify our funding sources and ensuring we engage with strategic bodies.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

Financial Review

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985, the provisions of 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), and the conditions in the company's memorandum and articles of association.

The movement in funds is shown on the Statement of Financial Activities on page 16.

Principal Funding Sources

Advonet, and its consortium partners (Touchstone, and AgeUK), started to deliver the five-year contract for Advocacy in Leeds in April 2018 (with the potential to be extended for up to a further three years) to following completion of a tender process. This contract with Leeds City Council remains the major source of funding for the organisation, consistent with prior year. (66% of income in 20/21; 62% of income in 19/20).

Advonet also has contract funding as part of the Ask4Advocacy contract in Kirklees. Additionally, the group has secured grant funding from several different sources including other departments of Leeds City Council, Leeds CCG and the National Lottery Community Fund .

Fundraising

Advonet, at present, only undertakes some small scale informal fundraising activities e.g. sponsored events. All amounts raised by fund raising activities are included in donations. Advonet does not use professional fundraisers or third parties to fundraise on our behalf. There have been no complaints about fundraising activity this year.

Charity Reserves

Performance in year

During the year ended 31 March 2021 Advonet made a surplus of £9,151 (2019/20: £95,404). The unrestricted surplus was £73,153 (2019/20: £95,413).

Unrestricted reserves (excluding fixed assets and designated funds) were £482,701 at the end of the year. Information in relation to the charity's reserves policy is given below.

Designated funds

The trustees had designated £40,000 of unrestricted reserves for spending on Community Advocacy under the Leeds City Council Adult Social Care contract. During the year, none of these funds were used to facilitate development of outreach surgeries to drive advocacy to a wider group of people, due to the Pandemic . After discussions with Commissioners we have now reallocated it to a specialist self-advocacy/ peer advocacy project for parents with additional needs who are going through child protection processes. We are co-producing this pilot project with Leeds City Council Children and Families Protectorate. It is due to launch in January 2022. As detailed in the reserves policy below, an additional £100,000 has been designated in the year.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds at the end of March 2021 totalled £80,794 and principally represents amounts held for Advocacy Awareness, Autism North, Leeds Independent Health Complaints Advocacy and Asking You! projects.

Advonet's Reserves Policy

In forming a reserves policy, the trustees have regard to the financial impact of the principal risks set out on page 7.

Advonet maintains an unrestricted cash reserve to provide a reasonable working balance between meeting existing commitments and recognising that there can sometimes be a delay in receiving grants or other income due. The Board has undertaken a more detailed review of reserves requirements rather than the previous target of 3 months' salary costs (equating to c. £420k) and has reviewed the level of reserves required to take account of known liabilities and possible contingencies. The Risk Register is reviewed on a regular basis and informs the Reserves Policy. For example, a short term cash flow problem due to late payment of a significant contract, or the long term sickness of a key member of staff. The required reserves estimate at 31 March 2021 is £480,000 following a review this year to ensure that potential additional risks to our operations arising from the pandemic are incorporated into this value.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

In addition to the reserves requirement detailed above, the Board has made the decision to designate £100,000 of further funds from free reserves for projects which will enable The Advonet Group to use advocacy approaches to equip people in minoritized groups to be better socially included. For example, through the Leeds Advocacy Network which we host, we will offer community groups packages of advocacy training, together with small grants to enable them to offer advocacy to groups of people which our generic advocacy offer is struggling to reach. We will support grant holders to monitor efficacy, capture outcomes and secure continuation funding. Another project will involve us expanding our expansion of employing people with lived experience of Learning Disabilities and Autism to train local professionals in awareness of communication needs and awareness; as well as training their peers to be better to understand issues like using health and social care and decision making.

Free reserves (excluding fixed assets and designated funds) of the organisation as at the end of March 2021 are £482,701 (2020: £518,486) and therefore in excess of the amount required under the reserves policy by £2,701. Given the uncertain environment presented by Covid-19 the Trustees consider this to be a prudent position.

As part of the review of the financial status of the organisation following the continuation of the Covid pandemic, the trustees reviewed the financial forecast of the organisation for the next 12 months. This has been updated for the preparation of the financial statements and the trustees are comfortable that the basis of going concern for the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

The balance of designated funds can be used for investment, subject to Board approval.

Investment Policy

In accordance with the Trustee Act 2000, the board continues to review the investment policy to ensure that the maximum investment returns are achieved, while not compromising the operational requirements and having regard to the acceptable level of investment risk.

The board has considered the most appropriate policy for the investment of funds and has decided that, given the current low return on investment obtainable investment in the form of cash remains the most appropriate policy. A higher interest deposit account has been opened with Unity Trust Bank in order to obtain a small return on surplus funds. The charity has no present ethical investment stance.

The powers to invest are governed by the company Memorandum and Articles of Association which give the trustees the power to manage, invest and expend all monies belonging to the Company.

Commitments

The Directors have not entered any commitments to future capital purchases at the balance sheet date (prior year: no commitments).

Coronavirus: Our response

In March 2020, Advonet had to change the way it worked in response to the growing Coronavirus outbreak. This involved closing much of the office short-term and most of our staff working from home. This was a big challenge for us, but we were able to rise to it. To ensure that Advonet could still provide advocacy and other services, we offered remote support to our clients. This was offered (and still is) in the following ways: email; phone call, text chat or video call.

In addition to that, our Independent Mental Capacity (IMCA) and Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) teams were able to resume seeing clients face to face safely. They were given access to appropriate PPE and abided by social distancing guidance throughout. At such a challenging time, we were determined to make sure few clients as possible were left behind, that those people most at risk of being marginalised still had a voice.

The Leep1 team quickly set up a Facebook group for their members, where they hosted regular sessions on Zoom. In the summer of 2020, their group had over 300 members and has helped to reduce isolation. Leeds Autism AIM put together an online COVID-19 toolkit on their website, including planners and guides to help autistic adults during a difficult time. This was widely used by and shared by organisations such as Public Health England and NHS Ability.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

CHANGE's Easy Read team worked on producing accessible documents on staying safe during the pandemic for several clients in the third and public sectors. We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, clients, partners and funders for their patience and understanding.

As we come out of the pandemic, we hope to be stronger and well-equipped to provide more online support in future. We will continue to adjust to the fast evolving 'new normal' as quickly and thoroughly as possible, all while ensuring that our work is COVID-safe.

Plans for Future Periods

The organisation plans on continuing to develop and build upon the activities outlined earlier in the Trustees' report.

In 2019 we created a strategic plan for the next five which continues to develop our work. Our key objectives:

- Independence: To protect Advonet's independence by widening the range of ways in which we obtain our income;
- Pioneering: To be the most ground-breaking advocacy provider across Yorkshire and the Humber;
- Diversity: To be the most diverse advocacy organisation in our region in terms of volunteers, staff and clients;
- Influence: To be a highly influential Advocacy organisation in the Yorkshire and the Humber region;
- Partnership: To design, deliver, review and improve all of our services together with the people who will get the most benefit from them and other expert partners;
- Excellence: To be recognised by the people who use our services, and other key partners as a provider of outstanding services;
- Resourcefulness: To continually strive to use our resources as efficiently as possible.

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of Advonet for the purpose of Company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of those resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

Board of Trustees

The Board, who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out in page 1.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, or that income is not
- As the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

Azets Audit Services Limited were appointed auditor to the charitable group following their acquisition of Garbutt & Elliott Audit Limited. Azets Audit Services Limited have indicated their willingness to stand for reappointment at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



P Gleeson
Trustee

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advonet

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Advonet (the "parent charity") and its subsidiary (the "group") for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise of the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related Notes to the Financial Statements including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Advonet

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advonet

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charitable Company and Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charitable Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Advonet

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advonet

Extent to which the audit was capable of identifying irregularities, including fraud

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the directors and other management, and from inspection of the charitable group's regulatory and legal correspondence. We discussed with the trustees and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance during the audit.

The charitable group is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies and charities legislation), pensions legislation, taxation legislation and further laws and regulations that could indirectly affect the financial statements, comprising environmental, health and safety and employment legislation, and, in the current climate, Covid regulations. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These procedures did not identify any potentially material actual or suspected non-compliance.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud we considered the opportunities and incentives and pressures that may exist within the charitable group to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included: enquiry of trustees and other management to understand the high level policies and procedures in place to prevent and detect fraud, reading Board minutes and considering performance targets and incentive schemes in place for management. We communicated identified fraud risks throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of fraud during the audit.

As a result of these procedures we identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

- income recognition and in particular the risk that income is recognised in the wrong reporting period, or that restricted income is incorrectly recognised within unrestricted income; and
- subjective accounting estimates.

These risks may arise due to a potential desire to present differing results in order to meet management objectives.

As required by auditing standards we also identified and addressed the risk of management override of controls.

We performed the following procedures to address the risks of fraud identified:

- identifying and testing high risk journal entries through vouching the entries to supporting documentation;
- assessing significant accounting estimates for bias; and
- testing the recognition of income and in particular that it was appropriately recognised or deferred.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Advonet

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advonet

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services Limited

Laura Mashedor
Senior Statutory Auditor

16 December 2021

For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services Limited
Statutory Auditor

Triune Court
York
YO32 9GZ

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Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Income from:						
Donations and non-performance grants	3	410	-	500	910	8,194
Charitable activities	4	1,047,958	-	898,543	1,946,501	1,975,013
Gift of CHANGE's assets and activities	3	449	-	-	449	37,374
Total income		1,048,817	-	899,043	1,947,860	2,020,581
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	931,240	-	1,007,469	1,938,709	1,925,177
Total expenditure		931,240	-	1,007,469	1,938,709	1,925,177
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers	6	117,577	-	(108,426)	9,151	95,404
Transfers between funds	14	(144,424)	100,000	44,424	-	-
Net movement in funds		(26,847)	100,000	(64,002)	9,151	95,404
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	14,15	538,429	40,000	144,796	723,225	627,821
Total funds carried forward	14,15	511,582	140,000	80,794	732,376	723,225

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the current period and the previous year and all relates to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

A fully detailed Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2020 is shown in note 20 to the financial statements.

The Statement of Financial Activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

Advonet

Balance Sheets as at 31 March 2021

		Group 2021 £	2020 £	Charity 2021 £	2020 £
	Notes				
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10	28,881	19,943	22,636	15,704
Current assets					
Debtors	12	252,294	580,618	246,653	549,074
Cash at bank and in hand		794,508	421,307	673,948	372,040
Stock		8,166	1,339	8,166	1,339
		1,054,968	1,003,264	928,767	922,453
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(351,473)	(299,982)	(253,256)	(239,217)
Net current assets		703,495	703,282	675,511	683,236
Total net assets	15	732,376	723,225	698,147	698,940
Represented by:					
Unrestricted charity funds:					
- General		511,582	538,429	477,353	514,144
- Designated		140,000	40,000	140,000	40,000
Restricted charity funds		80,794	144,796	80,794	144,796
Total funds	14,15	732,376	723,225	698,147	698,940

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 15 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



P Gleeson
Trustee

Company registration number: 04229975

Advonet

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated by/(used by) operations	18	391,807	(156,154)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(18,606)	(20,457)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(18,606)	(20,457)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		373,201	(176,611)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2020		421,307	597,918
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2021		794,508	421,307

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Charitable company information

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, with the liability of members limited to £1 per member. The charitable company is registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission. The registered office is Unity Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS7 1AB.

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charitable company there remain any assets, after satisfying all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having objectives similar to the Charity.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) ("Charities SORP (FRS102)"), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

Advonet meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

On the grounds that the charitable company's results are consolidated into the charitable company's group accounts the charitable company has taken advantage of certain exemptions conferred by section 1.11 of FRS102 as follows:

- Exemption from presenting a charitable company statement of cash flows as a primary statement to the financial statements.

Going concern

The Trustees have at the time of approving the financial statements a reasonable expectation that the charitable company and group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Whilst the global economy has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 virus, the charitable company and group still has cash reserves sufficient to meet its immediate requirements. The Trustees have no intention to wind the charitable company up in the foreseeable future. It is considered that there are currently no material uncertainties which impact on the charitable company being able to continue in its current form. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the charitable company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Leep1 CIC, on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charitable company has not been presented as the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The income of the charitable company for the year was £1,709,389 (2020 - £1,797,867). There was no Gift Aid asset transfer (2020 - £nil) from the subsidiary. Expenditure amounted to £1,710,182 (2020 - £1,714,686). The net deficit of the charitable company for the year was £793 (2020 - £83,181 surplus).

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Income

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

- **Donations and non-performance grants** are received by way of grants and donations. These amounts are included in full in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Where grants are received during the year which contain performance conditions to be met in future periods, the amount of the grant which relates to the future periods is shown as deferred grants and is included within creditors.
- **Grants** where the income is related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.
- **Donated services:** The value of the services provided by volunteers has not been included. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the annual report.

Income arising from grants and similar contracts specifically for the provision of activities or services which are provided as part of the charitable activities of the charity is recorded under the heading of income from charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees;
- Designated funds - these are funds allocated from the general fund or received from third parties which have no restrictions on their uses but which are designated for a particular purpose according to the Trustees; or
- Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes, as specified by the donors, within the objects of the charity.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes related value added tax which cannot be recovered. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs relating to public accountability of the charity. The costs include statutory audit fees.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Staff costs

The costs of short term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense where settlement of obligations does not fall within the same period.

Employee severance and redundancy pay is recognised within the accounts, on an accruals basis in the year in which the employee either left, or agreed to leave, the organisation.

Pension costs

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable for the year.

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are included on a historical cost basis. It is a policy of the trustees that individual items with a cost below £500 are not capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates and bases to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives:

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	33% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

Financial instruments

The group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

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 held for working capital. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Debtors

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

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset. Impairment losses are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

Creditors, loans and provisions

Creditors, loans and provisions are recognised where the group 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, loans and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial liabilities are only derecognised when, and only when, the group's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire.

Amounts recognised as provisions are best estimates of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustees consider that there are no critical accounting estimates and judgements that have a material impact on these financial statements.

3. Donations and non-performance grants

	2021 £	2020 £
Donations	910	8,194

£500 of donations (2020 - £nil) in the year were restricted.

Gift of CHANGE's assets and activities

In September 2019, CHANGE became part of the Advonet Group. As part of the transfer agreement, the assets and the activities of CHANGE were transferred at book value, which is considered to be materially approximate to fair value. The transfer comprised cash of £13,121 and other net assets of £24,253. A final receipt was then received in the 2020/21 financial year.

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

4. Income from charitable activities

For the year ended 31 March 2021	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 £
Local Authority Contracts:			
Leeds City Council-Department of Adult Social Care	605,890	678,339	1,284,229
Other Contracts:			
Kirklees Advocacy Hub	97,100	-	97,100
Other Service Income:			
Adhoc advocacy	27,902	-	27,902
Additional service user income	51,974	-	51,974
Easy Read	52,427	-	52,427
Other grants:			
Autism North	-	58,723	58,723
Asking You!	-	71,780	71,780
Big Lottery – Autism Community	-	72,082	72,082
Live Well Leeds	-	2,351	2,351
Safeguarding project	-	5,837	5,837
CQC	-	1,931	1,931
Keeping Connected	-	7,500	7,500
Change	21,314	-	21,314
Community Advocacy	275	-	275
Spot Purchase	689	-	689
Leep1 grants	151,674	-	151,674
Café income:			
Café takings	-	-	-
Café catering	-	-	-
Café trainee income	36,282	-	36,282
Other Leep1 income:			
Income from activities	2,231	-	2,231
Room rental income	200	-	200
	1,047,958	898,543	1,946,501

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

4. Income from charitable activities

For the year ended 31 March 2020	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 £
Local Authority Contracts:			
Leeds City Council-Department of Adult Social Care	582,000	669,700	1,251,700
Other Contracts:			
Kirklees Advocacy Hub	93,705	-	93,705
IMCA (and similar) contract fees	13,852	-	13,852
Other Service Income:			
Adhoc advocacy	31,541	-	31,541
Additional service user income	49,772	-	49,772
Easy Read	44,515	-	44,515
Other grants:			
Autism North	-	53,785	53,785
Autism Health	(842)	-	(842)
LGBTQ Health Inclusion	-	97,386	97,386
Asking You!	-	71,780	71,780
Big Lottery - Kirklees	-	57,796	57,796
Safeguarding project	1,775	-	1,775
CQC	-	18,053	18,053
CHANGE	9,853	-	9,853
Leep1 grants	104,747	-	104,747
Café income:			
Café takings	19,408	-	19,408
Café catering	2,605	-	2,605
Café trainee income	33,460	-	33,460
Other Leep1 income:			
Income from activities	19,642	-	19,642
Room rental income	480	-	480
	1,006,513	968,500	1,975,013

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

5. Expenditure on charitable activities

For the year ended 31 March 2021	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £
Direct costs:			
Salaries, social security and pension (Note 8)	603,958	682,487	1,286,445
Age UK Leeds	60,000	-	60,000
Sign Health	531	30,316	30,847
Touchstone	2,497	6,755	9,252
Other subcontractors	14,547	(815)	13,732
Volunteer expenses	1,328	89	1,417
Project evaluation costs	655	9,864	10,519
Training costs	19,844	-	19,844
Recruitment costs	2,159	72	2,231
Travel	681	2,176	2,857
Subscriptions	6,434	181	6,615
Insurances	7,524	-	7,524
Activity costs	1,289	2,275	3,564
Café provision	159	-	159
	721,606	733,400	1,455,006
Support costs:			
Salaries, social security and pension (Note 8)	238,606	-	238,606
Computer costs	48,884	335	49,219
Premises costs	76,913	199	77,112
Corporation tax	1,862	-	1,862
Communications	21,416	7,139	28,555
Printing, postage and stationery	8,788	2,416	11,204
Repairs and maintenance	20,950	33	20,983
Legal and professional	(3,593)	21,934	18,341
Bad debts	1,354	89	1,443
Depreciation	9,668	-	9,668
Irrecoverable VAT	5,941	-	5,941
Other	12,278	785	13,063
Bank charges	521	-	521
Allocation of shared resources	(240,771)	240,771	-
	202,817	273,701	476,518
Governance costs:			
Trustee and management meetings	167	368	535
Auditor remuneration	6,650	-	6,650
	6,817	368	7,185
Total expenditure on charitable activities	931,240	1,007,469	1,938,709

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

5. Expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2020	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
Direct costs:			
Salaries, social security and pension (Note 8)	534,679	662,525	1,197,204
Age UK Leeds	60,000	-	60,000
Sign Health	7,923	12,468	20,391
Touchstone	-	30,158	30,158
Mesmac and CHANGE	-	12,730	12,730
Other subcontractors	10,810	8,741	19,551
Volunteer expenses	2,292	3,820	6,112
EANS cost	-	359	359
Project evaluation costs	2,163	8,750	10,913
Training costs	23,200	1,412	24,612
Recruitment costs	491	3,120	3,611
Travel	9,066	20,838	29,904
Subscriptions	1,849	831	2,680
Insurances	6,246	-	6,246
Activity costs	7,897	14,077	21,974
Café provision	7,364	527	7,891
	673,980	780,356	1,454,336
Support costs:			
Salaries, social security and pension (Note 8)	258,416	-	258,416
Computer costs	27,892	1,807	29,699
Premises costs	74,063	1,611	75,674
Corporation tax	2,400	-	2,400
Communications	27,475	13,132	40,607
Printing, postage and stationery	12,750	5,504	18,254
Repairs and maintenance	2,774	118	2,892
Publicity	946	172	1,118
Legal and professional	14,241	2,597	16,838
Bad debts	1,655	-	1,655
Depreciation	4,204	-	4,204
Other	8,620	635	9,255
Bank charges	456	-	456
Allocation of shared resources	(253,056)	253,056	-
	182,836	278,632	461,468
Governance costs:			
Trustee and management meetings	1,419	1,604	3,023
Auditor remuneration	6,350	-	6,350
	7,769	1,604	9,373
Total expenditure on charitable activities	864,585	1,060,592	1,925,177

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

6. Net income for the year

	2021 £	2020 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	9,668	4,204
Operating lease charges	19,183	61,406
Auditors' remuneration: - audit services	6,650	6,350
- other services	3,400	3,250

7. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

No trustees' remuneration or other benefits were paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 (2020 - £nil).

Trustees' expenses

Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 amounted to £nil (2020: £nil).

8. Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	1,350,565	1,283,421
Sessional workers	7,977	19,961
National insurance	99,523	90,903
Pension costs	66,986	61,335
	1,525,051	1,455,620

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees, Chief Executive, Finance Director, Advocacy and Operations Director, and Partnership and Development Director. The total remuneration of the key management personnel was £151,908 (2020: £150,773).

Reimbursed expenses, which are all subject to the charity's processes of internal controls, do not form part of remuneration and are not included above.

No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum in the current or previous year.

The average number of employees (full and part time) was:	2021 No.	2020 No.
Administration and advocacy (excluding volunteers)	80	80

9. Taxation

The charitable activities of Advonet are potentially exempt from taxation under Chapter 3 of part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

Leep1 CIC is not exempt to corporation tax and so surpluses are subject to a taxation charge.

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

10. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	Total
Cost			
Balance at 1 April 2020	113,084	72,276	185,360
Additions	17,940	666	18,606
Balance at 31 March 2021	131,024	72,942	203,966
Accumulated depreciation			
Balance at 1 April 2020	94,814	70,603	165,417
Charge for the year	8,493	1,175	9,668
Balance at 31 March 2021	103,307	71,778	175,085
Net book value At 31 March 2021	27,717	1,164	28,881
At 31 March 2020	19,198	745	19,943

Charity	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	Total
Cost			
Balance at 1 April 2020	100,154	50,972	151,126
Additions	13,604	666	14,270
Balance at 31 March 2021	113,758	51,638	165,396
Accumulated depreciation			
Balance at 1 April 2020	85,252	50,170	135,422
Charge for the year	6,812	526	7,338
Balance at 31 March 2021	92,064	50,696	142,760
Net book value At 31 March 2021	21,694	942	22,636
At 31 March 2020	14,902	802	15,704

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Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

11. Investments

The consolidated financial statements include the results of Leep1 CIC, a company limited by guarantee (incorporated in England and Wales, registered number 07252221), its sole member being Advonet. The liability of the charity in the event of Leep1 CIC being wound up is limited by a sum not exceeding £1.

The principal activity of Leep1 CIC is that of providing independent advocacy and related/connected services.

The trading results of the subsidiary company, as extracted from the unaudited financial statements, are summarised below:

	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover	238,270	224,990
Cost of sales	(15,609)	(21,518)
Gross profit	222,661	203,472
Administrative expenses	(211,055)	(189,329)
Other operating income	200	480
Profit before tax	11,806	14,623
Taxation on ordinary activities	(1,862)	(2,400)
Profit for the financial year	9,944	12,223
Transfer, via Gift Aid, of assets to specified asset locked body	-	-
Retained earnings for the year	9,944	12,223
Retained earnings brought forward	24,285	12,062
Retained earnings carried forward	34,229	24,285

Income earned and expenditure incurred by Leep1 CIC have been recognised within the charitable activities of Advonet's consolidated accounts on the basis that these activities are deemed to have charitable intentions and purposes.

12. Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2021 £	2020 £	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	223,621	449,996	222,756	425,903
Other debtors	10,721	49,283	9,930	47,982
Prepayments and accrued income	17,952	81,339	13,967	75,189
	252,294	580,618	246,653	549,074

13. Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2021 £	2020 £	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	56,593	32,122	56,343	31,953
Accruals	58,609	80,796	45,537	71,004
Other creditors	30,272	31,617	19,712	20,617
Tax and social security	41,401	43,152	39,530	40,743
Deferred income	164,598	112,295	92,134	74,900
	351,473	299,982	253,256	239,217

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Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

13. Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income				
Brought forward	112,295	81,224	74,900	46,969
Released in the year	(96,927)	(81,224)	(60,532)	(46,969)
Deferred in the year	149,230	112,295	77,766	74,900
Carried forward	164,598	112,295	92,134	74,900

14. Funds summary

For the year ended 31 March 2021	Balance 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted:					
Charity core activities	538,429	1,048,817	(931,240)	(144,424)	511,582
Designated funds:					
ASC community	40,000	-	-	100,000	140,000
Restricted:					
Advocacy Awareness	7,563	-	(879)	-	6,684
Leeds Independent Health	91,119	204,000	(258,581)	-	36,538
Complaints Advocacy					
Leeds Independent Mental	-	246,000	(276,421)	30,421	-
Capacity Advocacy					
Autism – National Lottery	-	72,582	(72,582)	-	-
Leeds Independent Mental Health	-	200,000	(211,541)	11,541	-
Advocacy					
Leeds Care Act Advocacy	3,458	25,000	(30,920)	2,462	-
Autism North	2,921	58,722	(56,806)	-	4,837
Asking You!	39,735	71,780	(78,612)	-	32,903
Live Well Leeds	-	4,701	(4,797)	-	(96)
Safeguarding Project	-	6,826	(6,826)	-	-
Care Quality Commission	-	1,932	(1,932)	-	-
Keeping Connected	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Health Inequalities	-	-	(72)	-	(72)
	144,796	899,043	(1,007,469)	44,424	80,794
Total Funds	723,225	1,947,860	(1,938,709)	-	732,376

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

14. Funds summary

For the year ended 31 March 2020	Balance 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted:					
Charity core activities	443,016	1,014,707	(864,585)	(54,709)	538,429
Designated funds:					
ASC community	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Restricted:					
Advocacy Awareness	10,773	-	(3,210)	-	7,563
Leeds Independent Health	101,710	204,000	(214,591)	-	91,119
Complaints Advocacy					
Leeds Independent Mental	-	246,000	(281,633)	35,633	-
Capacity Advocacy					
Big Lottery	250	57,796	(58,046)	-	-
Leeds Independent Mental Health	2,884	190,000	(211,953)	19,069	-
Advocacy					
Leeds Care Act Advocacy	1,991	25,000	(23,533)	-	3,458
Autism Live Well Leeds	-	4,700	(4,700)	-	-
LGBTQ Health Inclusion Project	-	97,386	(97,393)	7	-
Care Quality Commission	-	18,053	(18,053)	-	-
Autism North	-	43,936	(41,015)	-	2,921
Asking You!	27,197	71,780	(59,242)	-	39,735
Autism GGC – Post Diagnostic	-	9,849	(9,849)	-	-
CHANGE	-	37,374	(37,374)	-	-
	144,805	1,005,874	(1,060,592)	54,709	144,796
Total Funds	627,821	2,020,581	(1,925,177)	-	723,225

Designated Fund:

ASC Community Funding from Leeds City Council: ASC received in respect of community advocacy designated to 2019/20 spend as not utilised in full in the current financial year.

Restricted Funds:

All restricted funds are income which has been given for a specific purpose. The funds are not available for use for anything other than the specific project the funding was issued for.

Advocacy Awareness: Training provided for Advocacy Awareness.

Leeds Independent Health Complaints Advocacy: This is independent health complaints advocacy which is required to be commissioned by local authorities. This advocacy support is aimed at empowering anyone in the Leeds area to resolve a complaint about healthcare commissioned or provided by the NHS in England.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy: instructed and non-instructed advocacy support in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy: provision of instructed advocacy support in accordance with the Mental Health Act 1983.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy - LD: provision of instructed advocacy support for people with learning disabilities who qualify for IMHA as required by the Mental Health Act (amendment 2007).

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Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

14. Funds summary (continued)

Leeds Care Act Advocacy: provision of instructed advocacy support in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

Care Quality Commission: provision of public engagement for people with mental health problems, learning difficulties and/or autism.

Autism - National Lottery: Funding by National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund for mentoring and support within the Autism Community.

LGBTQ Health Inclusion Project: Funding from Dept of Health to develop, deliver and evaluate self-advocacy models and training for LGBT individuals who are on the autistic spectrum, have learning disabilities or have mental health issues.

Autism Health: This is funding provided by the Department of Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund to support our project mentoring people with Autism. Our mentoring service provides one-to-one support by matching individuals with a specialist trained mentor.

Autism North: Leeds North Clinical Commissioning Group funding for Autism hubs in North Leeds.

Autism North and Autism South both provide funding for our autism hubs in different areas of Leeds. The hubs offer advocacy support and information and signposting services.

Asking You!: This is funding provided by Leeds City Council. This funding is used for a project to get people with learning disabilities involved in the services they use. This is through engagement in People's Parliament and also by being involved in the new strengths based approach by Adult Social Care.

Live Well Leeds: AIM funding as part of the Live Well Leeds contract to deliver autism training and consultation to the 18 LWL providers.

Safeguarding Project / Talk to me Hear My Safeguarding Story Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board funded project, commissioned through Leeds City Council. The funding has been awarded to collect feedback from Citizens who have been through Safeguarding Processes.

Keeping Connected: short term small funding From West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership and Inclusion North in the Covid period: delivering signposting and support to neurodiverse communities in Leeds (as part of wider regional work from other providers).

Health Inequalities: AIM: pilot work supporting a Local Care Partnership (The Light Surgery and Leeds Student Medical Practice) to increase access to healthcare for autistic people: training to health professionals and peer support. This was initially applied for through WYHHCP and taken up by Leeds CCG.

CHANGE: All assets received from the CHANGE following the transfer of CHANGE's assets and activities to Advonet have been classified as restricted; therefore only allowing them to be spent on activities relating to CHANGE.

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Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

For the year ended 31 March 2021	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	28,881	-	-	28,881
Net current assets	482,701	140,000	80,794	703,495
Total funds	511,582	140,000	80,794	732,376

For the year ended 31 March 2020	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	19,943	-	-	19,943
Net current assets	518,486	40,000	144,796	703,282
Total funds	538,429	40,000	144,796	723,225

16. Commitments – Group and Charity

Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Expiry date:		
Within one year	45,466	47,923
Between two and five years	-	429
	45,466	48,352

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2021 the charity had not approved any capital expenditure which has not been contracted for, nor entered any contracts for, capital expenditure which were not provided for (2020 - £nil).

Advonet

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

17. Related party transactions

During the year Advonet subcontracted to Age UK Leeds, Touchstone and Sign Health (2020: Age UK Leeds, Touchstone and Sign Health). Note 5 includes details of amounts paid to these parties for subcontracted advocacy work. Touchstone is a charity which has a director/trustee in common.

In October 2018, Advonet also entered into partnership with Touchstone in delivering advocacy work for the Kirklees Advocacy Hub. Total income received from Touchstone as part of this partnership is disclosed within Note 4 of the Financial Statements.

During the year, in addition to the recharge of expenses, Advonet has charged Leep1 CIC (a subsidiary of Advonet) management charges amounting to £28,451 (2020 - £16,128). At the year end, Leep1 CIC owed Advonet £11,904 (2020 - £nil) which is included within trade debtors.

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds	9,151	95,404
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	9,668	4,204
(Increase) in stock	(6,827)	(1,339)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	328,324	(316,605)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(812)	31,111
Increase in deferred income	52,303	31,071
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	391,807	(156,154)

19. Analysis of net debt

Both during the current and previous year, and at the year end, the charitable group did not hold any borrowings or debt.

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Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

20. Comparative Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £
Income from:				
Donations and non-performance grants	8,194	-	-	8,194
Charitable activities	1,006,513	-	968,500	1,975,013
Gift of CHANGE's assets and activities	-	-	37,374	37,374
Total income	1,014,707	-	1,005,874	2,020,581
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	864,585	-	1,060,592	1,925,177
Total expenditure	864,585	-	1,060,592	1,925,177
Net income/expenditure before transfers	150,122	-	(54,718)	95,404
Transfers between funds	(54,709)	-	54,709	-
Net movement in funds	95,413	-	(9)	95,404
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	443,016	40,000	144,805	627,821
Total funds carried forward	538,429	40,000	144,796	723,225