

# **North London Action for the Homeless**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022**



North London Action  
for the Homeless

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 07178434.  
Registered Charity No. 1139024.

**WE PROVIDE  
A PLACE TO CONNECT**

**WE PROVIDE ADVOCACY**

**WE PROVIDE HEALTHY FOOD**

The objects of NLAH are to run a drop in centre that is open to all who are homeless or in need, within an ethos of service, respect and acceptance. We also run a wellbeing gardening project as an educational programme to increase the knowledge and skills of people to address food poverty where they learn to grow and cook different food. NLAH strives to influence policy and overcome barriers to accommodation and other services to which homeless and excluded people are entitled.



## **Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022**

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## **Trustees**

Jessica Hodge (Chair)  
Conor Gibson (Vice Chair)  
George Currie (Treasurer) (appointed 8 January 2023)  
Elizabeth Barnes  
Sarah Baker-White (appointed 1 July 2021)  
Jayne Doherty (appointed 1 July 2021)  
James Nguyen (appointed 30 November 2022)

## **Registered Office**

St Paul's Church West Hackney  
Stoke Newington Road  
London  
N16 7UY

## **Charity and Company Registration**

Registered charity **1139024**

Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales **07178434**

## **Independent examiner**

Kim D Hooper  
132 Admirals Tower  
8 Dowells Street  
London  
SE10 9GE

## **Banker**

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindleyplace  
4 Oozells Square  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

### **Activities, Achievements and Performance**

This year we continued to adapt to the challenges presented by Covid whilst reintroducing more social contact to our services. We re-opened the hall for sit down meals and re-started our gardening sessions. Serving meals in both the garden and the hall, catering to the different preferences of our service user guests.

We changed how we ran our drop-in service in line with the evolving health guidelines throughout the year. We were particularly pleased to provide more advocacy support than in previous years. The social distancing rules provided an opportunity for staff to build stronger relationships with our guests, due to having more one on one conversations, which we observed in turn reduced the potential for conflict at drop-in sessions.

Due to lockdown restrictions, we suspended the Evering Road Wellbeing and Garden Project for much of the 2020 year. We were pleased to re-start the sessions in 2021 to provide a supported social activity for our guests.

While we are functioning well as an organisation, for many, the Covid crisis has been swiftly followed by a cost of living crisis, and the voluntary sector is as critical as ever in supporting the community.

NLAH is turning 30 next year, our core values of providing a meal to all those who visit us remains at the heart of what we do. We cannot control the political and economic context we are in, but we choose as an organisation, as a group of people, to come together every week to look out for each other, to be a friendly face, to provide practical help and support, to care for one another.

Our key outputs were:

- Adapted our twice weekly drop-in sessions to safely provide more than 5,500 nutritious meals, offered either as a sit down three course meal or as a take away.
- Ran 14 gardening sessions and 2 events to celebrate and socialise in the garden.
- Provided support 189 times to our guests, such as providing letters of support for PIP claims, liaising with health care providers, calling utility companies, acting as a care of address, arranging foodbank vouchers and other referrals.
- Provided 911 food parcels with suitable shelf stable foods and toiletries. We wound down this service towards the end of the year, as donations of shelf stable items declined from local mutual aid groups.
- Continued to be a hub for other organisations to offer support services such as health checks.
- Provided access to 245 hot showers and 137 laundry washes and 122 free haircuts.

## **Service User Survey December 2021 Snapshot**

Our annual survey of service users showed the following:

- Decrease of female service users to 18% (2020: 24% 2019: 13%)
- Less Hackney based service users at 74% (2020: 80% 2019: 69%)
- Decrease in unemployed service users at 74% (2020: 84% 2019: 72%); 1% reporting as employed (2020: 0% 2019: 7%). 15.9% reporting as retired (2020: 7%).
- Decrease in respondents reporting mental health problems at 56% (2020: 63%) and decrease in reporting of long term illness or disability at 57% (2020: 65%)
- Increase in rough sleepers at 16% (2020: 6%, 2019: 25%). There was a programme to house more people following the Government's 'Everyone In' programme during the pandemic. 40% of our service users reported being homeless (2020: 36%)

## **Our plans for 2022-23**

Based on feedback from our guests, we plan to run a Social Isolation Project where we host an activity once per month to provide social opportunity for our guests.

We intend to find ways we can provide additional support for the cost of living challenges, either through discretionary financial support or referrals.

Recruit additional trustees to the NLAH board, to ensure we have the skills required to support our future development.

Continue to review our diversity and inclusivity behaviours and monitoring.

## **Financial Review and Reserves Policy**

NLAH continues to enjoy strong local support from charitable funds and trusts, businesses and individuals.

During 2021-22, NLAH received over £52,000 in donations from the community and local businesses. The generosity of our local community ensured we were able to continue to focus on our service delivery supported by a secure financial position.

NLAH also received £15,000 in grant funding. Details of our grant funding are shown in note 2 to the accounts.

A large numbers of individuals volunteer their time at the twice weekly drop in sessions, with an active pool of 80 volunteers. The charity is also grateful to all those local businesses and individuals who have supported it during the year by donating food or other items and services.

Expenditure increased during the year by over £4,000 to £90,000 (5% increase). This was largely due to increase in staff costs, attributable to additional hours and wage increases.

The charity aims to hold between three and six months running costs in reserve. There has been no change to the Reserve Fund over the period, maintained at £45,000, reflecting approximately six months of expenses.

### **Structure, governance and management**

North London Action for the Homeless (NLAH) has been supporting homeless and vulnerable people in Stoke Newington for 29 years. NLAH was formed by members of the local community in 1993 and held its first drop in session that year.

NLAH originally formed as an unincorporated charity, registration number 1032580. The present charity was incorporated in 2010 and on 31 March 2010 the activities of charity number 1032580 were transferred to it.

The Charity's trustees are appointed by the board and stand for re-election by the Charity's Members at the Annual General Meeting. The trustees meet on average every six weeks, together with Management Committee including staff and members.

On a day to day basis, NLAH is run by five part-time staff. The Co-Centre Managers have responsibility for overseeing the running of the drop in sessions (twice weekly), volunteer recruitment and the gardening Wellbeing project. We have a Support worker that assist the Co-Centre managers with running the drop in sessions. The Cook oversees the running of the kitchen for the drop in sessions. NLAH also employs a Mental Health support worker for the Wellbeing project.

### **Fundraising**

NLAH raises money from charitable trusts (noted in the financial reports), a donation page on JustGiving, Charities Aid Foundation, and a small number of fundraising events. Companies or individuals can set up campaign pages on the JustGiving to raise funds on behalf of NLAH.

NLAH invites supporters to fundraising events. NLAH also promotes our annual Winter appeal, where we collect donations on JustGiving. We also make it known if we are looking for particular items for donation on our social media channels. NLAH does not contact individuals requesting donations.

### **THANK YOU**

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our supporters. Big or small, all of the assistance we receive is the reason we can keep our doors open to all those in need. Firstly, to all of our drop-in session volunteers, thank you for all your work supporting our sessions.

**For attending our sessions to provide services to our guests or accepting referrals:**

Dual Diagnosis Rough Sleep Project  
Groundswell  
Hackney Migrant Centre  
Hackney Street Outreach Response Team  
Hackney Winter Night Shelter  
Homerton Hospital Homeless pathway Project  
Money A+E  
NHS  
Rough Sleepers Mental Health Project (RAMPH)  
Salvation Army Employment Plus  
Turning Point Substance Misuse Service  
UCL Mobile Health Unit  
WISER Project

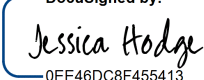
**For financial grants and donations:**

Apex Mobiletack  
Castle Gibson  
Doteveryone  
Hackney Comic and Zine Fair  
Highgate School  
Irusu candles  
Moveable Ink  
Pollard Thomas Edwards Architects  
Rose & Crown Pub Quiz  
University College School Hampstead  
West Hackney Parochial Charity  
Wolf and Moon

**For food and goods donations:**

Akdeniz  
Amhurt GoBalls  
Castle Gibson  
City Pantry  
Faith in Nature  
Francis Holland School  
Growing Communities  
Hackney Council Winter Grant  
Hackney Hygiene Bank  
Laptops 4 Charity  
Lush Stratford  
Moveable Ink  
Mutual Aid Group (Stoke Newington)  
Sai Baba Curry

DocuSigned by:

  
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**Jessica Hodge**

**Chair**

**26 January 2023**



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of North London Action for the Homeless**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 11 to 15.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

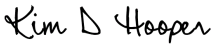
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Kim D Hooper  
132 Admirals Tower  
8 Dowells Street  
London  
SE10 9GE

Date: 27 January 2023

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

				2022	2021
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Grants	2	0	15,000	<b>15,000</b>	44,800
Donations and fundraising activities		52,814	0	<b>52,814</b>	72,885
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>52,814</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>67,814</b>	117,685
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Drop In Centre running costs		44,445	26,517	<b>70,962</b>	73,686
Wellbeing Programme running costs		5,769	0	<b>5,769</b>	3,228
Advocacy Service running costs		11,853	0	<b>11,853</b>	7,098
Accounting and governance costs		1,328	0	<b>1,328</b>	1,608
Fundraising / publicity		562	0	<b>562</b>	436
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>63,957</b>	<b>26,517</b>	<b>90,474</b>	86,056
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		<b>(11,143)</b>	<b>(11,517)</b>	<b>(22,660)</b>	31,629
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		0	0	<b>0</b>	0
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(11,143)</b>	<b>(11,517)</b>	<b>(22,660)</b>	31,629
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>78,791</b>	<b>21,517</b>	<b>100,308</b>	68,679
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>67,648</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>77,648</b>	100,308

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these accounts.

## Statement of Financial Position as of 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
		Total	Total
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>	5	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		<b>79,938</b>	<b>100,808</b>
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>			
<b>Creditors and accruals</b>	6	<b>2,290</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>77,648</b>	<b>100,308</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>77,648</b>	<b>100,308</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
<b>Restricted Income Funds</b>	9	<b>10,000</b>	<b>21,517</b>
<b>Reserve Fund - Designated</b>	9	<b>45,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds - not designated</b>	9	<b>22,648</b>	<b>33,791</b>
		<b>77,648</b>	<b>100,308</b>

### Audit Exemption Statement

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' (who are also trustees of the charity) 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 the accounts;
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the directors on 26 January 2023 and authorised for issue and signed for on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
 0EE46DC8F455413...  
 Jessica Hodge  
 Chair

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### Grants

Grants are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) as received following the satisfaction of any pre-conditions.

#### Donations and other income

Donations and other income are recognised when received.

#### Gifts in kind

Much of the food used by the charity is donated by local businesses. No value is assigned to contributions of food or clothes donations passed onto service users, or the provision of the services of a health access worker and a hairdresser. Similarly, the contribution by volunteers is not recognised in the accounts. Other gifts in kind are valued at their value to the charity.

#### Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

#### Allocation of expenditure

Expenditure is allocated directly to the appropriate fund, and where this is not possible costs are apportioned on the basis of time spent on the relevant activity.

#### Fixed assets

Expenditure on renewals, fixtures and fittings which exceeds £400 is capitalised.

Provision for depreciation of capitalised fixed assets held for use by the charity is made at annual rates calculated to write down their cost over their useful lives.

Kitchen equipment	three years
Office equipment	three years

#### Provisions

Where the charity has an obligation to transfer economic benefits but no liability has been recognised, a provision is raised in accordance with FRS 12.

#### Taxation

No provision for taxation is included in the accounts as the charity is entitled to exemption from tax afforded by Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

#### Funds structure

The charity has a single unrestricted income fund and some of the grants received are restricted to a particular purpose. Part of the unrestricted income fund has been designated by the Management Committee as a Reserve Fund. See note 9 for further details.

#### Cashflow

The charity qualifies as a small company and therefore, in accordance with FRS1, no cashflow statement is required.

**2. Grants**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
West Hackney Parochial Charity		15,000	<b>15,000</b>	
National Lottery Covid-19 Fund				20,000
Merchant Taylors' Company				19,800
Hackney Parochial Charity (Covid-19)				1,000
South Hackney Parochial Charity (Covid-19)				1,000
Betty Messenger Foundation				3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>44,800</b>

**3. Salary costs**

During the year the charity employed five (2021: five) part-time employees. No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum. Salary costs are allocated across the different activities of the charity.

**4. Insurance**

Public & employer's liability Insurance was purchased at a cost of £316 (2021: £316).

Trustees Indemnity insurance was purchased for £351 (2021: £510).

**5. Creditors and accruals**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Accounting and governance costs	1,000	500
Payroll expenses	841	0
Accrued pension costs	449	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>500</b>

**6. Trustees remuneration and expenses**

None of the trustees were remunerated directly or indirectly (2021: nil). During the year, £23 in expense reimbursements were paid to trustees (2021: nil).

**7. Contingencies and contractual commitments**

In the opinion of the members of the management committee, as at 31.03.2022 there were no contingent liabilities and no contractual commitments (2021: nil). No assets are held under leases.

**8. Funds**

	<b>At 31/03/2021 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31/03/2022 £</b>
Restricted Funds					
National Lottery Covid-19 Fund	6,667	-	(6,667)	-	-
Merchant Taylors' Company	14,850	-	(14,850)	-	-
West Hackney Parochial Charity	-	15,000	(5,000)	-	10,000
Total Restricted Funds	<b>21,517</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>(26,517)</b>	-	<b>10,000</b>
Reserve Fund - designated	45,000	-	-	-	45,000
Unrestricted Income Funds	33,791	52,814	(63,957)	-	22,648
Total Funds	<b>100,308</b>	<b>67,814</b>	<b>(90,474)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77,648</b>

Details of the restricted grants were as follows:

**National Lottery Covid-19 Fund****Purpose/service**

Drop in service Dec 2020 – May 2021

**Use of grant**

Staff costs & rent costs

**Merchant Taylors's Company****Purpose/service**

Drop in service 2020 - 2022

**Use of grant**

Staff costs & running costs

**West Hackney Parochial Charity****Purpose/service**

Drop in service Dec 2021 – Nov 2022

**Use of grant**

Staff Costs & running costs

The trustees have designated £45,000 as a Reserve Fund in line with the charity's reserves policy to hold three to six months operating expenses in reserve.