

# **North London Action for the Homeless**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**



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.



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

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## **Trustees**

Jessica Hodge (Chair)  
Conor Gibson (Vice Chair)  
George Currie (Treasurer)  
Elizabeth Barnes  
Sarah Baker-White  
Jayne Doherty  
James Nguyen  
Ellen Tansey

## **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 2023-2024

In many ways it was North London Action for the Homeless (NLAH) service as usual throughout the year. We focused on delivery of the drop in meal sessions, together with our advocacy support, Wellbeing Gardening project and social activities. In other ways, the continued diminishing of support services (government or other local charity services) continues to impact our community and we are all adapting to how to navigate the effects of this, individually and collectively.

As an independent, small organisation, we try to fill the gaps that services don't or can't provide. The Co-Centre Managers spend a greater increasing proportion of their time providing one on one advocacy support to guests.

Key outputs from our service for the year ending 31 March 2024 include:

- More than 6,600 Meals (almost 500 more than previous year)
- Ran 16 gardening sessions (2 more than previous year)
- Provided support 198 times to our guests, such as providing letters of support for PIP claims, liaising with health care providers, acting as a care of address, arranging foodbank vouchers, and other referrals. The total number of one on one support is broadly in line with last year, however, we provided more support relating to longer term and more complex issues.
- Provided 25 food parcels with suitable shelf stable foods and toiletries. This about half the number of previous year, as is no longer core part of our service as it was during Covid pandemic.
- Continued to be a hub for other organisations to offer support services such as health checks; some of the organisations we partner regularly with are:
  - Thames Reach - rough sleeping outreach
  - Turning Point - a rough sleeper project
  - Lawstop - who provide legal housing and immigration advice
  - UCLH - Find and Treat Team
- Provided access to 813 hot showers (2023: 532), 270 laundry washes (2023: 212) and 253 haircuts (2023: 199) during drop in sessions.
- Ran 7 activities as part of our social isolation project, including a trip to Kew Gardens

### Our plans for 2024-25

We plan to continue to run our four key services; twice weekly drop in sessions with meals, advocacy service, social activities and gardening project.

We plan to increase our capacity for laundry washes by installing a second washing machine and dryer at St Pauls. We currently have greater demand for this service than we can deliver.

## **Financial Review and Reserves Policy**

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

During 2023-24, NLAH received over £29,000 in donations from the community and local businesses (2023: £40,000). 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 almost £78,000 in grant funding (2023: £56,000) from various charitable trusts. Details of our grant funding are shown in Note 2 to the accounts.

A large number 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 £5,000 to £98,000. This was largely due to increase in staff costs.

The charity aims to hold 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**

NLAH has been supporting homeless and vulnerable people in Stoke Newington for 31 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 assists 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 gardening project.

## **Fundraising**

NLAH raises money from charitable trusts, 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 website to raise funds on behalf of NLAH.

NLAH invites supporters to fundraising events. NLAH also promotes our annual Winter appeal on JustGiving and makes it known we are looking for particular food items or

toiletries 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.

Thank you to our drop in session volunteers, whom are essential to providing a hot, 3 course meal to our service users twice every week.

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

Dual Diagnosis Rough Sleep Project (Turning Point)  
Groundswell  
Hackney Migrant Centre  
Hackney Money Hub  
Hackney Winter Night Shelter  
Lawstop  
Rough Sleepers Mental Health Project (RAMPH)  
Thames Reach Outreach  
UCLH - Find and Treat team

## **For food and goods and financial donations**

Akdeniz  
Castle Gibson  
Costa  
Dusty Knuckle  
Felix Food Project  
Francis Holland School  
Growing Communities  
Howdens  
Leila's SHop  
L'epicerie  
Mactaggart Family & Partners  
Moveable Ink  
Mutual Aid Group (Stoke Newington)  
Rainbow Nursery / St Bartholomew Church Congregation  
Sai Baba Curry  
Soho Sandwich Company  
SoleShare  
St Paul's Harvest Donations  
Team Lewis Foundation

DocuSigned by:  


0EE46DC8F455413  
**Jessica Hodge**  
**Chair**  
**31 January 2025**

**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 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 16.

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:

## North London Action for the Homeless

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

				2024	2023
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Grants	2	40,000	37,788	77,788	55,974
Donations and fundraising activities		28,768	0	28,768	39,935
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>68,768</b>	<b>37,788</b>	<b>106,556</b>	<b>95,909</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Drop In Centre running costs		37,770	37,788	75,558	71,314
Advocacy Service running costs		13,364	0	13,364	12,852
Wellbeing Programme running costs		5,630	0	5,630	6,108
Social Isolation costs		1,640	0	1,640	649
Accounting and governance costs		1,200	0	1,200	1,681
Fundraising / publicity		814	0	814	393
Depreciation	8	440	0	440	248
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>60,858</b>	<b>37,788</b>	<b>98,646</b>	<b>93,245</b>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		<b>7,910</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>2,664</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>7,910</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>2,664</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>80,312</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,312</b>	<b>77,648</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>88,222</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88,222</b>	<b>80,312</b>

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these accounts.

**North London Action for the Homeless**  
**Company Number: 07178434**  
**Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024**

	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>	9	<b>632</b>	<b>1,072</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		<b>88,590</b>	<b>81,467</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>88,590</b>	<b>81,467</b>
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>			
<b>Creditors and accruals</b>	5	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,227</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>87,590</b>	<b>79,240</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>88,222</b>	<b>80,312</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	10	<b>14,543</b>	<b>28,149</b>
<b>Reserve Fund - Designated</b>	10	<b>45,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	10	<b>28,679</b>	<b>7,163</b>
		<b>88,222</b>	<b>80,312</b>

**Audit Exemption Statement**

For the year ended 31 March 2024 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 31 January 2025 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

	2024 Unrestricted	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Investcorp				15,000
Hackney Parochial Charities				15,974
London Community Foundation				10,000
West Hackney Parochial Charity		15,000	15,000	15,000
Tides Foundation		7,788	7,788	
National Lottery Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund		15,000	15,000	
The Betty Messenger	40,000		40,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>37,788</b>	<b>77,788</b>	<b>55,974</b>

## 3. Salary costs

During the year the charity employed five (2023: five) part-time employees.  
No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum.

## 4. Insurance

Public & employer's liability Insurance was purchased at a cost of £325 (2023: £298).

Trustees Indemnity insurance was purchased for £284 (2023: £361).

## 5. Creditors and Accruals

	2024	2023
Accounting and Governance Costs	1,000	1,500
Payroll Expenses	0	132
Pension Costs	0	595
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,227</b>

6. Trustees remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees were remunerated directly or indirectly (2023: nil). During the year, no expense reimbursements were paid to trustees (2023: nil).

7. Contingencies and contractual commitments

In the opinion of the members of the management committee, as at 31.03.2024 there were no contingent liabilities and no contractual commitments (2023: nil). No assets are held under leases.

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	1072
Additions	0
At 31 March 2024	1072
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2023	248
Charge for the year	440
At 31 March 2023	688
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2024	632
At 31 March 2023	1072

<b>9. Funds</b>	<b>At 31/03/2023 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31/03/2024 £</b>
Restricted Funds					
Investcorp	1,250	-	(1,250)	-	-
Hackney Parochial Charities	10,649	-	(10,649)	-	-
London Community Foundation	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
West Hackney Parochial Charity	11,250	15,000	(16,250)	-	10,000
Tides Foundation	-	7,788	(3,245)	-	4,543
National Lottery Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>28,149</b>	<b>37,788</b>	<b>(51,394)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,543</b>
Unrestricted Funds					
The Betty Messenger Foundation	-	40,000	(33,333)	-	6,667
Other Unrestricted Income Funds	7,163	28,768	(13,919)	-	22,012
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>7,163</b>	<b>68,768</b>	<b>(47,251)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,679</b>
Reserve Fund - designated	45,000	-	-	-	45,000
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>80,312</b>	<b>106,556</b>	<b>(98,646)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88,222</b>

Details of the restricted grants were as follows:

**West Hackney Parochial Charity**

**Purpose/service**

Drop in service Dec 2023 – Dec 2024

**Use of grant**

Staff costs & rent costs

**Tides Foundation (BlackRock)**

**Purpose/service**

Drop in service Nov 2023 – Nov 2024

**Use of grant**

Staff Costs & running cost

**The National Lottery Community  
Organisations Cost of Living Fund**

**Purpose/service**

Drop in & Advocacy services Aug 2023 – Feb 2024

**Use of grant**

Staff Costs & running costs

**Investcorp**

**Purpose/service**

Drop in service May 2022 – May 2023

**Use of grant**

Staff costs & running costs

**Hackney Parochial Charity**

**Purpose/service**

Drop in service Dec 2022 – Dec 2023

**Use of grant**

Staff Costs & running cost

**London Community Foundation**

**Purpose/service**

Drop in service Jan 2023 – Jun 2023

**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.