

ST. VINCENT'S FAMILY PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1142095

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07638620
Registered	2011-05-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Methodist Central Hall Storeys Gate Westminster London SW1H 9NH
Phone	02076545351
Email	info@svfp.org.uk
Website	www.svfp.org.uk

Activities

Objects: IN THE SPIRIT OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY (THE OBJECTS) ARE SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS SHALL ADVANCE THE WELFARE OF ALL AND ANY FAMILIES EXPERIENCING NEED IN THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER AND ELSEWHERE PRINCIPALLY BY: A) THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND THE CHILDREN UNDER THEIR CARE (THE "BENEFICIARIES"); B) THE PROVISION OF PREVENTATIVE SERVICES, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT FOR THE BENEFICIARIES; C) THE PROMOTION OF THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE BENEFICIARIES; D) THE PROMOTION OF BETTER CARE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE BENEFICIARIES; AND E) THE PROVISION OF OTHER CHARITABLE SERVICES WHICH ASSIST DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES.

Activities: The Project provides support for vulnerable families of children from 0-5 and creative arts and drama therapy for primary school children experiencing emotional difficulties.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- City Of Westminster

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£327,265	£288,086	-	-
2024-03-31	£329,098	£340,303	-	-
2023-03-31	£318,081	£360,346	-	-
2022-03-31	£263,483	£314,278	-	-
2021-03-31	£327,035	£269,027	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Joanna Wormell	Chair	2021-07-13
Deacon Alison McMillan		2020-12-07
Ifeoma Okafor		2019-06-10
Sister Elizabeth Ferrie		2021-05-05
Sr Ruth O'Neill		2024-03-11

Accounts



**St Vincent's
Family Project**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2025

Charity Registration Number
1142095

Company Registration Number
07638620 (England and Wales)



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Patron	Lady Viola G Grosvenor
Trustees	Philippa Gitlin (Chair) Tim Hassell Teresa Crowley Sister Liz Ferrie DC Sister Ruth O'Neill Sister Kathleen Kennedy DC (resigned on 13.09.24) Deacon Ali McMillan Ifeoma Okafor Joanna Wormell Rosemary Jackson (resigned on 02.12.24)

Reference and administrative details 31 March 2025

Principal office	The Methodist Central Hall Storey's Gate Westminster London SW1H 9NH
Telephone:	020 7654 5351
Facsimile:	020 7654 6902
Company registration number	07638620 (England and Wales)
Charity registration number	1142095
Chief Executive	Andrew Varley
Auditor	Buzzacott Audit LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 4th Floor 2½ Devonshire Square London EC2M 4XJ
Solicitors	Wedlake Bell LLP 52 Bedford Row London WC1R 4LR

Trustees' report Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP or the Project) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and constitutes a directors' report for the purposes of company legislation.

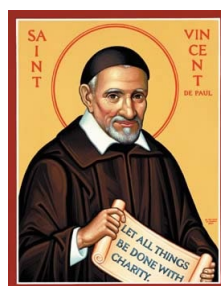
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 25 to 28 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

History

St Vincent's Family Project has its origins with the Spanish government, who in 1975 set up a neighbourhood programme staffed by Spanish Daughters of Charity to work with families from Spain who were living in London. They provided them with support and formed a community to help these young families. This eventually expanded to include all families within the area when the UK Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul became involved in the project in 1996. The project has been based at Methodist Central Hall since 2005 and maintains a strong relationship with the Methodist Central Hall Church. The Project is part of the Integrated Leadership of the South Westminster Family Hub and has links with different local providers, schools, faith organisations and businesses.

The need for our work

South Westminster is an area of contrast between wealth, history and power alongside stark social deprivation. Areas in Pimlico wards are within the top 10% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. It is an area with high pay gaps, the highest housing and childcare costs and homelessness. There are many different communities and languages spoken sitting amongst the poverty, debt and insecure housing; social isolation is a significant problem in the area. Families with very young children have all the pressures of early parenthood, so it is unsurprising we see relationship conflicts, huge emotional stress on families leading often to mental and physical health problems. Various evidence shows that children in Westminster fare less favourably when it comes to obesity, oral hygiene, well-being, risk of involvement in crime and homelessness.



Principal aims

St Vincent's Family Project aims to support families in Westminster especially those who are experiencing difficulties. The Project aims to address the issues of parenting, child welfare and social exclusion by providing services for parents and children. The charity's intended impact is developing resilience in families in their early years to have a lasting effect on their futures. It aims to offer an experience of community that inspires, supports and enables positive changes in the lives of those who use its services.

These aims reflect the purposes for which the charity was set up.

Public benefit

The aims, objectives and activities of the Project are reviewed each year. As part of this process, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The review of activities illustrates the ways in which the charity serves the public benefit.

Values

St Vincent's Family Project has six Vincentian values that underpin our direct work with families and children. These are:

We are Respectful: We celebrate the uniqueness of the individual. We welcome diversity and treat everyone non-judgmentally with equal care and attention.

We are Inspired: We are committed to the nurturing of families in the belief that positive change is possible in a caring and loving environment. We seek to empower people to meet their full potential.

We are Travellers Together: We are privileged to accompany families through a significant part of their journey. They are the heart of our charity, and we work with them in a spirit of mutuality and friendship, always ready to listen and learn from them.

We are Professional: We aim for the highest of standards in our work drawing upon 'best practice' principles and programmes. We will always seek to improve the way we do things.

We are Holistic: We are concerned for the different aspects of people's lives and will provide support wherever possible. We seek to be alert to identify emerging needs and respond to them in a flexible and creative way.

We are Compassionate: We use our resources for the benefit of the families always taking care to make our services affordable and accessible.

Family Space

Family Space is open Monday to Friday to local families with children (from age 0-5) offering a range of facilities, activities, programmes and support available. We have very good facilities for children and families, to play, relax, share food and receive support.

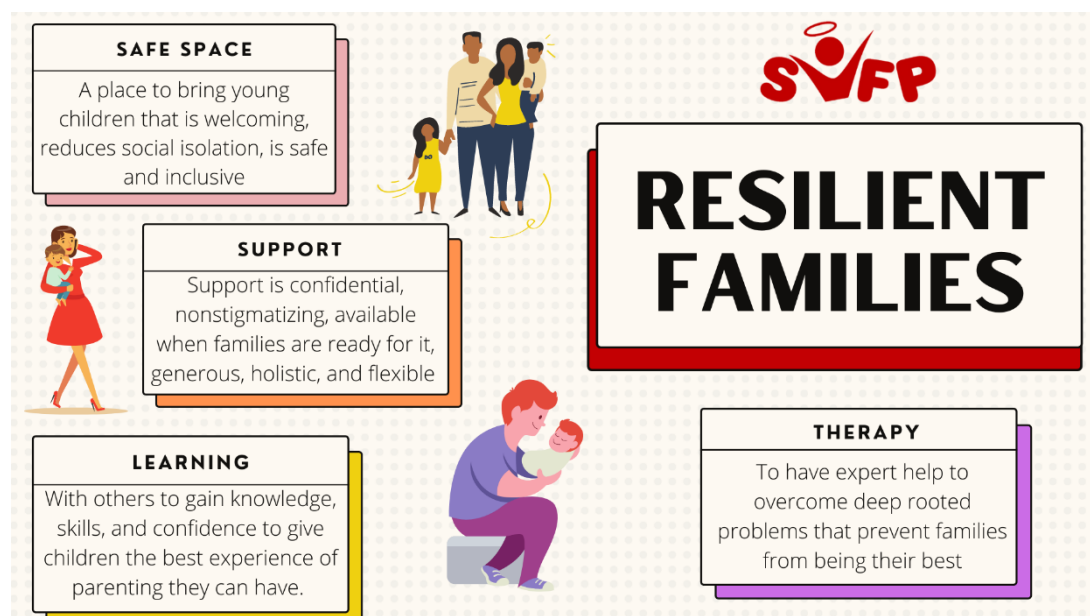
For families on low incomes who need support, we offer a free crèche. We have a Sensory Room, where, amongst other things, sessions are offered to families of children with special educational needs.

For parents, throughout the year, SVFP offer a range of parenting and health courses designed to fit different needs, in group settings, which help parents to realise they are not alone in the many challenges and responsibilities facing them.

At Family Space we also offer support to families on low incomes who may be having problems with housing, debt, schools, relationship or legal issues. Our service is greatly enhanced in this area by joint working with local agencies from the Early Years Family Hub, Westminster CAB, Marylebone Educational Foundation and the Westminster Foodbank to name some.

Throughout the year we offer different fun family activities, including monthly trips, to help families develop, make friends and build confidence.

Theory of Change- Family Space



Programmes, Activities and Events

Again we concentrated on two parenting programmes over the last 12 months; Positive Parenting Programme (PPP) and Mellow Parenting for Mums. PPP is an excellent all-round programme teaching parents all aspects of parenting, ideal for new parents, or new to taught programmes, with short sessions over 7 -10 weeks we can be flexible with to meet the needs of families. Mellow Parenting is around 14 weeks for mums who have had some trauma related to parenting and is more discussive, with emphasis on sharing experience. We ran both programmes twice over the year.

Healthy Living

Again Friday mornings have been our regular Healthy Living Session, usually beginning with an exercise class run by a Personal Trainer, followed by a session covering a different aspect of health. Since September we have had one session each month at the Ebury Bridge Community Centre. This has allowed us to get out locally and engage new families who might not know about us. In addition we have been going out to local nurseries in the area delivering Dental Hygiene sessions to children, providing them with toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Welfare Support

SVFP continued to support families in debt, struggling with the cost-of-living, hygiene poverty, inadequate and overcrowded housing. We noticed families were frustrated by waiting for services, particularly speech and language, developmental assessments, counselling or dental health.

Towards the end of the year a number of families had been moved from hotel accommodation to outside of the borough, where we were engaged with supporting them. This year we were able to engage a Senior Family Support Worker, intended to have someone experienced with complex welfare issues providing support. Again, we were able to access Food Banks, donated goods, School Uniform Grants from St. Marylebone Educational Foundation, as well as work with a wide range of local services such as Cardinal Hume Centre and Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Crèche

Crèche is available on our programme days to allow parents to attend other sessions, but it is also available to those who want to do other things. Our provision has always had some structure to develop children whilst with us, but this year we have been developing this model of how we work in response to national and local concerns about children starting education unready, for example not being toilet trained, something which has been highlighted since the Covid-19 pandemic. We ended the year using a model which helps us be clearer about developing children across different areas which we are hopeful will contribute to their readiness.

Activities, Events Trips

Through the year we have had a number of activities and celebrations for families as part of our regular drop-in. This has included a free cranio-sacral osteopathy session for families on a Tuesday morning, and baby massage, both led by professionals volunteering for us.

Trips provided once a month have included Water and Steam, Horniman and Postal Museums, Kew Gardens, Mudchute Farm, amongst others and give families a space for getting to know each other, making friends as well as enjoying an affordable family day out.

Programmes, Activities and Events (continued)

Activities, Events Trips (continued)

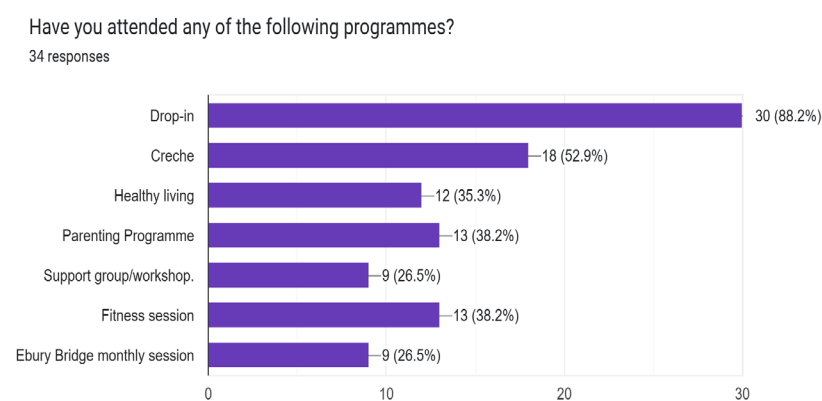
We also ran whole school half term activities with a range of activities for families. This has been a great way for families to be introduced to us.

We were also able to provide a package of events for Christmas, including a grotto, with gifts provided to local children by Santa Claus himself.

Outcomes

180 families were supported by SVFP over the year.

The diagram shows the proportion of families using different services, indicating a general evenness across all of them.



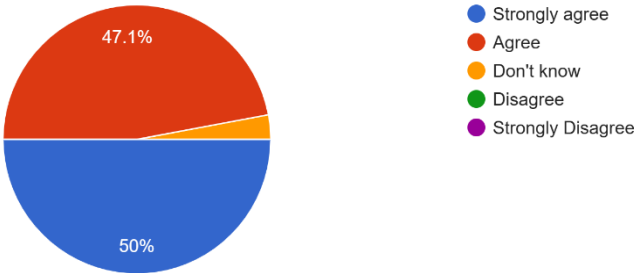
Outcomes

This year we looked to develop our outcomes model to show more detail, without being over intrusive with families. We also have particularly looked to create a robust model for preparing children to be ready for school, so some of the detail shows the beginnings of this programme.

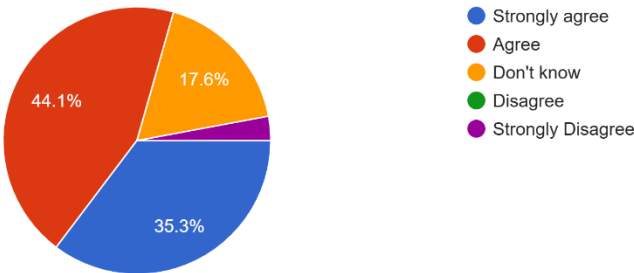
We surveyed families to determine the overall *resilience* they have developed since being with us, with questions covering areas of social isolation, health and well-being, development of parental skills, confidence and knowledge, as well as children's improved readiness for school/formal education. Some examples of the responses are below of the response from parents

Families/Parents

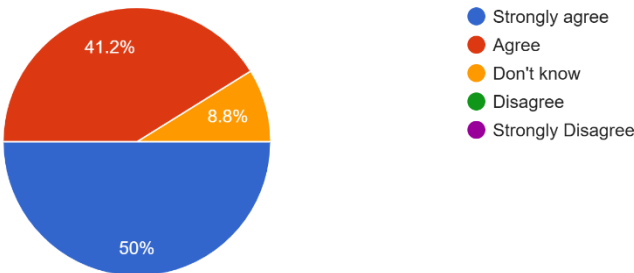
Rate how true this statement feels for you: I feel less alone than before I came to SVFP
34 responses



Rate how true this statement feels for you: I am less anxious and/or stressed
34 responses

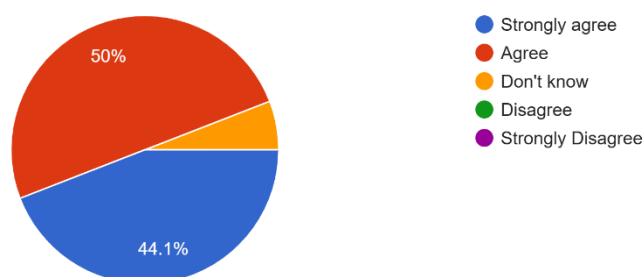


Rate how true this statement feels for you: I feel healthier
34 responses



Families/Parents (continued)

Rate how true this statement feels for you: I feel more confident about myself as a parent
34 responses



Summary

Overall families have experienced an improvement in reducing social isolation, confidence and sense of well-being. Certainly linking in with support services and making other social connections has been very successful this year. We have worked well with a number of statutory and third sector agencies as part of the Westminster Family Hub over the last few years, and this may be part of the reason for this.

Children Readiness for School

We first introduced this model in January 2025, so it reflects part of the year, but we intend to develop and use this more in future reports.

- In **Physical Development**. For example: my child has better hand skills (e.g., holding a pencil, cutting with scissors) and moves more confidently (e.g., running, jumping, balancing).
- 55.9% of parents said they had noticed improvements.
- In **Cognitive Skills**. For example: my child talks more, knows new words, and solves problems better (e.g., puzzles, figuring things out).
- 64.7% of parents said they had noticed improvements
- In **Social & Emotional Development**. For example: my child is better at managing emotions (e.g., staying calm, expressing feelings), more independent (e.g., dressing themselves, making choices), building positive relationships (e.g., making friends, sharing), and feels more comfortable in groups (e.g., joining activities, playing with others).
- 76.5 % of parents said they had noticed improvements

Trustees' report Year ended 31 March 2025

- In **Communication Skills**. For example: my child expresses thoughts and needs more clearly, listens and understands better (e.g., follows instructions), and takes turns in conversations (e.g., waiting to speak, asking questions).
- 61.8% of parents said they had noticed improvements

Summary

Given this model is only a few months old at the time of reporting within the first year we are looking to set a benchmark within which to then push to make improvements.

Feedback and Comments

Question asked to parents: *Have you noticed any other aspects of growth from your child while attending SVFP?*

- More engaged and feel very confident with other kids around
- Child became more confident, friendly - knows how to share toys and etc.
- Confidence and motivation
- Confidence in playing
- My older child was uncomfortable with crèche settings before SVFP and is now a well-adjusted school age. My 9-month-old has benefitted greatly from social time with children of varying ages and the consistent presence of SVFP adults, who truly stand in for elder family members who are far overseas! The social-emotional skills modelled by educated and compassionate SVFP adults is unparalleled in any other space.
- she gained more words and confidence

General Comments:

- The place makes my day :) I feel happy to talk with staff and carers who are there.
- You are the best, it's such a pleasure to meet you every time
- The best place for parents and children than other I attended
- Volunteers are great help and supportive.
- I found a family that I don't have in London
- The most supportive staff!
- SVFP has been a lifeline for me and my children. Their positive modeling has made me a better parent, and access to their sensory spaces helps to regulate me and my children.
- I feel better mentally. I feel like I have a support system.

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy

SVFP supports children of Primary School Age in Westminster whose education is being affected by emotional, mental or behavioural problems through the use of Creative Arts and Drama Therapy. The use of play enables young children to be able to settle and communicate difficult feelings with the therapist. Often, as a side benefit it also helps to stimulate interest in the arts.

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy (continued)

At the beginning of the year (April 2024) St. Vincent's Family Project provided therapy across 10 Primary schools in Westminster. However, we were aware that some schools were struggling financially and by the start of the new school year (from September) this had reduced to 5 schools. All the schools here utilised the part funding from St. Giles and St. George which has allowed those schools to cover a half a day a week of therapy across the school terms. Again, this year we have used both Arts and Drama Therapists in different schools. By the end of the year we were providing therapy to 25 children.

For older children and adults we have continued to see a demand for therapy services, but the year has again been difficult in finding sustainable funding. We hope that by next year we will have been able to expand and meet this need.

Theory of Change – Creative Arts Therapy



Volunteer Space

We have a robust volunteering programme that provides a range of volunteering activities for local residents, corporations, therapeutic placements, student interns and those wanting to make a difference within the community.

Companies that have supported us this year have been Draker Lettings, PGIM, and Step, particularly raising funds or goods for family events.

- ◆ Roles include direct work with families, administration, marketing and fundraising.
- ◆ Volunteers can see how a charity works within an urban, hyper-diverse context.
- ◆ Volunteers discover our Vincentian values and can incorporate them and their corresponding behaviours into their good reflective practice.
- ◆ We had 35 volunteers in total including 6 students from OMNES Education London School, 2 students from University of Essex, 2 from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, 1 from King's College London and 1 student from CAPA, The Global Education Network.

Trustees' report Year ended 31 March 2025

- ◆ 3,116 hours of volunteered time to the charity, valued at £ 43,289.8 (*based on London Living Wage*)
- ◆ Involvement: parenting courses, healthy living course, 1:1 support, fitness sessions, Drop-In sessions, crèche, dental workshops, outings, events such as Christmas party, sports day, social media and communication, outreach, database management, small fundraising, decorating of the project, and filming and video editing
- ◆ 9 Trustees gave time outside of the scheduled board meetings and planning days during the year

Equal opportunities

St Vincent's Family Project strives to apply the principle of equal opportunities throughout the organisation, and to that end regularly reviews its Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy.

The charity is pleased to welcome families, especially those experiencing difficulties, irrespective of age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, gender, religion or status. Its aim is always to help those who would otherwise find themselves marginalised and excluded from the means of support they need.

The charity aims to apply equal opportunities for both paid staff and volunteers.

Safeguarding

The charity recognises the need to protect children from harm and promote their welfare and to that end maintains a robust Child Safeguarding Policy.

All staff and volunteers are required to be checked through the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and receive training in child and adult protection and safeguarding issues. As part of their induction process, they are required to read the charity's policies within the Employee Handbook and/or SVFP Policy Folder.

Fundraising

The period from April to September 2024 was marked by a difficult cash flow problem, noted elsewhere. Some grounds were made with new corporate funds, but the summer was made difficult with two previous funders no longer able to support us financially. However, the second half of the year saw success at key targeted funds, with some new additional ones which saw the charity stabilise. This last year we were particularly pleased that we were able to attract core funding and also to have a successful fundraising campaign based around a baking competition supported by Draker Lettings Ltd.

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year to 31 March 2025 is given on page 23 of this annual report and financial statements.

During the year, income totalled £ 327,265 (2024 - £329,098). Donation and Grant income amounted to £ 314,102 (2024 - £319,413).

Expenditure totalled £ 288,086 (2024 - £340,303) and included staff costs of £204,329 (2024 - £251,935), and premises costs of £38,049 (2024 - £40,840).

Financial position

At 31 March 2025 the charity had total negative funds of £ 4,643 (2024 -£43,822). All funds were unrestricted.

Reserves policy

The charity is highly committed to ensuring a continuing service to the children and families reliant on its services. In order to provide sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in cash flows and to respond to unforeseen events, the trustees aim to maintain general reserves equal to at least three months of expenditure, which equates to approximately £90,000. The reserves of the charity are currently below this position.

Going concern assessment

Following the temporary closure of St. Vincent's Family Project in July 2024 because of cash flow problems, the charity reopened and recovered financially during the second part of the year. This largely came about through the arrival of already predicted funds, as well as an emergency grant from Westminster Council. In addition, some expected cost reductions also had an impact. The charity has been meeting its monthly repayments of the loan provided by the Daughters of Charity Trust and not had to use additional loans or any form of emergency grant since July 2024. What was clear from this challenging period was the acknowledgement from Westminster Council and others as to the importance of the charity and the services it provides.

In addition the charity has kept to a cautious budget and been looking to maintain grant funding, despite the difficult climate for the sector. Since the summer targeted funds have been achieved, with some new funds also being available such as from the London Masonic Charity.

Whilst continuing on this path, we are expecting to, over the next two years, pay off our loan, create a surplus and build up some reserves. There are still potential opportunities for multi-year funding, which we hope to capitalise on.

Future plans

Through 2025-26, St Vincent's Family Project will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ Develop our project of getting children ready for school.
- ◆ Continue to work towards stabilising our financial position and developing reserve
- ◆ Be active locally influencing strategic plans for families in Westminster.
- ◆ Build on the fundraising activities (non-grants) providing more events to fundraise
- ◆ Target opportunities for multi-year funding

Governance, structure and management

Governance

The charitable company, which is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)) on 18 May 2011 and is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1142095).

The sole member of the company, and thus its parent entity, is DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)), set up by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, to safeguard the Vincentian ethos in various projects such as St Vincent's Family Project.

In the event of St Vincent's Family Project winding up, the member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Potential SVFP trustees are sourced via suggestions from the Chair, trustees and the Chief Executive. Potential candidates are then interviewed by the Chief Executive with an initial recommendation to the SVFP trustees. The next stage is for an interview by a trustee. The candidate is then asked to attend a trustees' meeting as an observer and asked to make a short statement to the trustees, followed by questions and answers by the candidate and trustees. The trustees take a majority vote on whether to accept the candidate as a trustee. A new trustee must be approved by the Board of DCSVP Services before they can be appointed. On appointment, the new trustee receives a short induction, and they are DBS checked.

The names of the trustees who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this report and financial statements and brief biographical details on each of the trustees are given below:

Teresa Crowley

Teresa retired as a Pastoral Liaison Officer and Careers Leader at Notre Dame School. In both roles she dealt with outside agencies and as a school liaison for many different businesses, charities and local authority agencies. Teresa has a degree in Social Sciences and a Post Graduation Qualification in Careers Leadership. She loved her job at Notre Dame working on enrichment projects with the students which include programmes like an art project around the First World War that was exhibited at The Guildhall, a dance project with Rambert which saw the students perform at their studio and writing a book of memories with the local elderly day centre.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Sister Liz Ferrie

Sister Liz Ferrie has been a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul for 58 years. She is both a qualified Nursery Nurse and RGN for adults. Her working life is one of caring for people of every age and conditions. She has also travelled abroad for short-term missions during humanitarian crises. She spent 6 years in the Mother House of the community in Paris as English-speaking Secretary. At present she volunteers with REVIVE CIO, Manchester. This project provides advocacy, advice and support to refugees and people seeking asylum.

Philippa Gitlin

Philippa Gitlin worked both as a CEO and trustee in the UK charity sector and served 3 school governing bodies before retiring in 2010. Since then, she has served on the board of a French Charity addition to providing consultancy on governance to other charities in the UK. She was also until recently a trustee of FARA Foundation UK, a charity supporting services to severely disadvantaged children and families living in poverty in Romania. Philippa is also a Trustee of the Charles Plater Trust.

Sister Kathleen Kennedy

Sister Kathleen Kennedy entered the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1966. She worked in residential child care for fourteen years, after which she ran a pre-school group in a primary school setting. She qualified as a teacher with Bachelor of Arts with Qualified Teacher Status (BAQTS) and taught in an inner-city primary school for sixteen years. She worked as part of a city-wide Evangelisation Team in Hull before being appointed to the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity. Sr Kathleen resigned on 13th September 2024.

Deacon Ali McMillan

Deacon of the Methodist Church at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Deacon Ali McMillan had been a Teacher in Secondary Schools and Sixth form colleges before joining the ministry. She has, through her pastoral activities, worked with all age ranges in the community.

Ifeoma Okafor

Ifeoma Okafor's first degree was in Microbiology, but she then went on to complete an MSc in Financial Economics. She currently works as a Senior financial reporting manager in the financial services industry. She has a background in supporting charities' work and coaching people into employment.

Joanna Wormell

Joanna Wormell is a qualified solicitor with a focus on risk management and governance. Having lived in a variety of places and experienced a range of different cultures and approaches, she is keen to give back to the community where she lives in South Westminster. She firmly believes in the importance of the early years to lay down a good foundation for the rest of children's lives.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Rosemary Jackson

Rosemary Jackson works at MasterCard International and holds the position of Sr. Vice President, Real Time Payments Solutions. Working for Mastercard for 20 years, based out of Sydney, Singapore and London'. Rosemary resigned (2 December 2024) to return to Australia with her family.

Tim Hassell

Tim Hassell is the Managing Director of Draker Lettings, a property lettings company in West London. From modest origins in Liverpool, Tim has always been motivated to pass on the kindness and support he experienced growing up and getting to where he is. He has been a Trustee for the Breast Cancer Trust and Robert Grace Trust.

Sr Ruth O'Neill

Sister Ruth O'Neill has been a Daughters of Charity for 40+ years. She initiated the development of the Family Project whilst managing the St. Vincent's Nursery which offered affordable day care and education. For a few years she worked with children and young people providing Family and Pastoral Support in Schools and Social Services. After studying M.Sc. Management of Care, she founded two Projects in Cardiff, Wales for persons who were destitute as a result of the Asylum System in the UK and provided Accommodation and a Drop-in Centre with a range of services. She now lives in Manchester, continues her connection with refugee work and is a member of the Leadership Team of the Community.

Structure and management reporting

The ultimate responsibility for the charity lies with the trustees. The day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive. Meetings are held regularly with the trustees, service users and the staff team to ensure the quality of service and the aims of the charity are being met.

Key management

The trustees consider that they, together with the Chief Executive, comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

The trustees have identified five main areas where risks may occur: governance and management, operational, financial, reputational and regulatory.

Governance and management considers the risk of the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members and staff, and the good use of its resources.

Operational considers the risks inherent in the charity's activities including any potential shortcomings in the services provided, staffing, poor health and safety, and the disaster recovery plan.

Financial risks include those arising as a result of declining income, poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending and poor accounting.

Reputational risk would be possible damage to the charity's reputation.

Regulatory risk considers the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations and poor risk assessment.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

However, they acknowledge also that the charity's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The charity has in place a risk management programme that seeks to identify and mitigate the effects of the risk on its finances. The principal financial risk remains the impact of the general economic conditions and its impact on charitable funding.

Whilst the current level of funding for 2025-2026 suggests that the charity will reach its income targets, the trustees remain mindful that continued efforts need to be made to attract new funding and additional income streams.

The other key risk for the charity, as identified by the trustees, arises because operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are directors of St Vincent's Family Project for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

Trustees' report Year ended 31 March 2025

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ♦ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- ♦ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ♦ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- ♦ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ♦ to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the trustees confirms that:

- ♦ so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- ♦ the trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Philippa Gitlin
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: **4 December 2025**

Independent auditor's report to the member of St Vincent's Family Project

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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 charitable company 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 charitable company'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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.

Other information (continued)

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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

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, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' 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
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small company's regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 the trustees 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'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.

Auditor's 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.

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.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the Senior Statutory Auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- ◆ we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- ◆ carried out substantive testing of expenditure including the authorisation thereof.
- ◆ reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions and substantiated these where appropriate; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Independent auditor's report Year to 31 March 2025

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 charitable company'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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Peter Mackereth (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor 130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: **8 December 2025**

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) Year to 31 March 2025

		Un- restricted	Restricted	2025 Total	Un- restricted	Restricted	2024 Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
Notes		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Donations and grants	1	111,824	202,278	314,102	132,031	187,382	319,413
Bank interest		438	—	438	421	—	421
Crèche and Creative Art Therapy fees		—	12,725	12,725	—	9,264	9,264
Total income		112,262	215,003	327,265	132,452	196,646	329,098
Expenditure:							
Charitable activities							
. Provision of services to vulnerable families and children	2	48,641	239,445	288,086	96,679	243,624	340,303
Total expenditure		48,641	239,445	288,086	96,679	243,624	340,303
Net income (expenditure) before transfers		63,621	(24,442)	39,179	35,773	(46,978)	(11,205)
Transfers between funds	9	(24,442)	24,442	—	(46,978)	46,978	—
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	3	39,179	—	39,179	(11,205)	—	(11,205)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2024		(43,822)	—	(43,822)	(32,617)	—	(32,617)
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2025		(4,643)	—	(4,643)	(43,822)	—	(43,822)

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities. All of the charity's activities continued during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	6		673		1,347
Current assets:					
Debtors	7	4,090		9,203	
Cash at bank and in hand		35,334		5,390	
Total current assets		39,424		14,593	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(26,740)		(59,762)	
Net current asset			12,684		(45,169)
Total Assets less current liabilities			13,357		(43,822)
Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year	8		(18,000)		—
Total net (liabilities)			(4,643)		(43,822)
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	9		—		—
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			(4,643)		(43,822)
Total charity funds			(4,643)		(43,822)

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Philippa Gitlin

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: **4 December 2025**

St Vincent's Family Project – Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2025 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The main judgement or estimate that has been made in these financial statements relates to the assessment of future income and expenditure as part of the budgetary process and assessment of going concern.

Assessment of going concern

Reflecting the going concern assessment (Page 13) the trustees have seen the charity meet its income plan over the year following the summer, with no recourse to requiring additional loans or emergency grants. They have noted the stabilization of income and some additions to the targeted fundraising organisations supporting the charity. Trustees expect this to continue and are aware of good future opportunities for fundraising. The charity expects to pay off its one loan and over the next few years build up a working reserve. And, because there is very strong support for the charity from Westminster the trustees believe the charity is a going concern.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charitable company is entitled to receipt, the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, grants, bank interest, crèche and creative art therapy fees, income from other trading activities, and miscellaneous income.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income derived from the levying of charges for Crèche and Creative Art Therapy and income from trading activities is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts and rebates.

Miscellaneous income is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure on the provision of a safe and stimulating environment where parents and children can take part in activities together and as individuals.

Expenditure recognition (continued)

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charitable company that relate to the general running of the charitable company as opposed to those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day-to-day management of the charitable company's activities.

Costs are apportioned based on the number of sessions provided at the Family Project for each activity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £3,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

♦	Computer equipment	25% on cost
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Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

General funds represent monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charitable company's charitable objects.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

1 Donations and grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £
Grants			
National Lottery	—	20,000	20,000
Young Westminster Foundation	—	13,695	13,695
London Masons	—	5,000	5,000
Bouygues UK Limited	—	4,000	4,000
March Charitable Trust	1,000	—	1,000
HPPEC Rector & CW	6,000	—	6,000
The Austin & Hope Pilkington	1,000	—	1,000
Landsec CAF	3,000	—	3,000
Harold Hood	3,000	—	3,000
Arnold Clark Auto	3,000	—	3,000
Angela Gallagher	1,000	—	1,000
St Marylebone Educational Foundation	—	5,200	5,200
Westminster Almshouse	10,000	—	10,000
Westminster City Council	50,272	33,208	83,480
LD Rope	—	5,200	5,200
Ironmongers	—	25,000	25,000
Swire Charitable Trust	15,000	—	15,000
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	44,400	44,400
Westminster Foundation	—	1,575	1,575
John Lyons Charity	—	45,000	45,000
	93,272	202,278	295,550
Donations			
Other donations	18,552	—	18,552
	18,552	—	18,552
2025 Total funds	111,824	202,278	314,102

1 Donations and grants (continued)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
<i>Grants</i>			
<i>National Lottery</i>	—	10,000	10,000
<i>Young Westminster</i>	—	18,128	18,128
<i>Pimlico Millions</i>	—	2,433	2,433
<i>Angela Gallagher</i>	1,000	—	1,000
<i>St Marylebone Educational Foundation</i>	—	5,200	5,200
<i>Westminster Almshouse</i>	10,500	—	10,500
<i>Westminster Winter Grant</i>	—	2,239	2,239
<i>Westminster Ward</i>	—	1,693	1,693
<i>Westminster City Council</i>	15,000	5,000	20,000
<i>Groundwork</i>	—	1,000	1,000
<i>LD Rope</i>	—	5,200	5,200
<i>Ironmongers</i>	—	25,000	25,000
<i>Strand Parish Trust</i>	—	5,000	5,000
<i>Hobsons</i>	—	4,166	4,166
<i>Swire Charitable Trust</i>	15,000	—	15,000
<i>The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity</i>	—	44,823	44,823
<i>Edward Harvest Trust</i>	—	2,500	2,500
<i>Westminster Foundation</i>	—	10,000	10,000
<i>Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, Charitable Trust</i>	40,000	—	40,000
<i>Methodist Central Hall</i>	23,750	—	23,750
<i>John Lyons Charity</i>	—	45,000	45,000
	105,250	187,382	292,632
<i>Donations</i>			
<i>Other donations</i>	26,781	—	26,781
	26,781	—	26,781
2024 Total funds	132,031	187,382	319,413

2 Charitable activities

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Provision of services to vulnerable families and children						
Staff costs	40,486	122,824	163,310	76,975	120,523	197,498
Creative Arts Therapy	—	41,019	41,019	—	54,437	54,437
Family Space	—	11,320	11,320	—	14,036	14,036
Volunteer Space	—	1,464	1,464	—	1,614	1,614
Premises	—	38,049	38,049	—	40,840	40,840
Furniture and equipment	—	713	713	—	1,772	1,772
Insurance	1,282	3,306	4,588	5,455	—	5,455
Printing, postage, telephone and stationery	—	3,965	3,965	—	3,161	3,161
Recruitment and training	—	1,114	1,114	910	—	910
Travel and subsistence	—	186	186	—	203	203
Professional fees	3,071	9,280	12,351	7,871	—	7,871
Subscriptions	—	6,205	6,205	—	6,943	6,943
Governance costs	2,430	—	2,430	2,850	—	2,850
Miscellaneous	1,372	—	1,372	2,618	95	2,713
2025 Total funds	48,641	239,445	288,086	96,679	243,624	340,303

3. Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs (note 4)	204,329	251,935
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
· Current year statutory audit services	3,000	2,850
Depreciation	674	673

As the charity is part of a large group, it is required to have its accounts audited rather than an independent examination. The difference between the independent examination fee and audit fee is £2,750 (2024 - £2,500), which has been paid by the parent charity, DC Services.

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	151,454	183,207
Pension costs	3,006	3,516
Social security costs	8,850	10,775
	163,310	197,498
Contract staff	41,019	54,437
	204,329	251,935

Included within wages and salaries are redundancy costs of £nil (2024 – 10,679). The average number of employees, based on head count, was 5 (2024 – 7) whereas the average number of employees, based on full time equivalents, was 3.6 (2024 – 6). There were no employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including benefits) during the year (2024 – none).

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The total remuneration (including taxable benefits and employer's pension contributions) of the key management personnel for the year was £56,590 (2024 - £64,158).

None of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services during either year (2024 – none). Expenses were £none reimbursed to the trustees (2024 – none).

5. Taxation

St Vincent's Family Project is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024 and	2,693	2,693
Additions	—	—
Disposals	—	—
At 31 March 2025	2,693	2,693
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	1,346	1,346
Charge for year	674	674
On disposals	—	—
At 31 March 2025	2,020	2,020
Net book values		
At 31 March 2025	673	673
At 31 March 2024	1,347	1,347

7 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	3,380	3,219
CAT fees	710	5,984
	4,090	9,203

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	3,000	2,850
Amount due to Methodist Central Hall (note 14)	2,412	2,412
Amount due to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust	18,500	54,500
HMRC	2,828	—
	26,740	59,762

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April	—	25,000
Amounts released from previous years	—	(25,000)
Resources deferred in the year	—	—
Deferred income at 31 March	—	—

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance of the year to which they relate.

Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amount due to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust	18,000	—
	18,000	—

9. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds:

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Family Space Project	—	184,278	(184,278)	—	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	—	30,725	(55,167)	24,442	—
	—	215,003	(239,445)	24,442	—

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Family Space Project	—	157,560	(157,560)	—	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	—	39,086	(86,064)	46,978	—
	—	196,646	(243,624)	46,978	—

The transfers between unrestricted into restricted funds occurs to ensure there is no deficit in the year end position for restricted funds. The specific purposes for which the funds were received and applied in 2024 and 2025 are as follows:

Family Space Project

Funds provided to assist with the Family Space Project.

Creative Arts Therapy Project

Funds provided specifically as a contribution towards the costs associated with the Creative Arts Therapy Project.

10. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £
Fund balances are represented by:						
Fixed assets	673	—	673	1,347	—	1,347
Current assets	39,424	—	39,424	14,593	—	14,593
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(44,740)	—	(44,740)	(59,762)	—	(59,762)
Total net assets	(4,643)	—	(4,643)	(43,822)	—	(43,822)

11. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2025 the charity had the following future minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of a photocopier:

	2025 £	2024 £
Leases which expire:		
. Within one year	2,617	2,538
. Between one and five years	5,888	8,248
	8,505	10,786

12. Liability of member

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up its member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

13. Control

Control of the charitable company lies with its member and parent entity, DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)). The registered office of DCSVP Services is St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL. The financial statements of DCSVP Services can be obtained from the registered office of DCSVP Services is St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL.

14. Related party transactions

During the year, trustees, the CEO and their connected parties made donations of £10,320 to the charity (2024 –£400). There are no other related party transactions requiring disclosure (2024 – none).

Methodist Central Hall

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to Methodist Central Hall by virtue of the fact that one of its trustees is a senior employee and trustee of Methodist Central Hall.

- ◆ During the year the Project contributed service charges to Methodist Central Hall of £ 5,844 (2024 - £5,844), £487 (2024 - £487) of which was accrued at the year end. In addition, the Project paid rent to Methodist Central Hall of £22,800 (2024 - £22,800). £1,900 (2024 - £1,900) of which was accrued at the year end.
- ◆ During the year Methodist Central Hall gave a donation of £nil (2024 – £23,750) to the Project for use in meeting core costs.

Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services

St Vincent Family Project is a subsidiary of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services, which prepares group accounts, including St Vincent Family Project. The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services will pay £2,750 of the audit fee for St Vincent Family Project (2024: £2,500). See note 3 for further detail. the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)) is considered the ultimate controlling party of St Vincent Family Project, as it is its sole member. This Control is normally exercised by the appointment of Trustees. Should the subsidiary drift away from its core mission, Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services has the power also to remove the Trustees of the subsidiary.

The registered office address of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services is St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL. The group accounts of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services can be obtained from the registered office address. The principal purposes and activities of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services are to support charities within the group, including St Vincent Family Project. The principal purposes and activities of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services are to safeguard and deepen the Vincentian character of, and provide support to, the charities within the group, including St Vincent Family Project.

15. Post balance sheet events

Subsequent to the year end, the charity was notified that it was not eligible for certain employment tax reliefs which had been claimed. Whilst the charity intends to appeal against this outcome, in the event that such an appeal is unsuccessful the charity may need to repay reliefs claimed for the past five tax years. The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services Limited has committed to provide the charity with funding to cover this liability. Therefore, no provisions have been included within these financial statements for any potential liability due

Accounts



**St Vincent's
Family Project**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2024

Charity Registration Number
1142095

Company Registration Number
07638620 (England and Wales)



'I SVFP has been invaluable for myself & children. I attend the stay & plays and have completed both PPP and Mellow parenting and both have been extremely helpful. The environment that the staff have created is one of family & inclusion. I am always made to feel welcome & valued! I love it here.'

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Reference and administrative details 31 March 2024

Patron	Lady Viola G Grosvenor
Trustees	Philippa Gitlin (Chair) Tim Hassell Teresa Crowley Sister Liz Ferrie DC Sister Ruth O'Neill (appointed (April 2024) Sister Kathleen Kennedy DC Deacon Ali McMillan Ifeoma Okafor Rosemary Jackson Joanna Wormell
Principal office	The Methodist Central Hall Storey's Gate Westminster London SW1H 9NH
Telephone:	020 7654 5351
Facsimile:	020 7654 6902
Company registration number	07638620 (England and Wales)
Charity registration number	1142095
Chief Executive	Andrew Varley
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 4th Floor 2½ Devonshire Square London EC2M 4XJ
Solicitors	Wedlake Bell LLP 52 Bedford Row London WC1R 4LR

Trustees' report 31 March 2024

The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP or the Project) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and constitutes a directors' report for the purposes of company legislation.

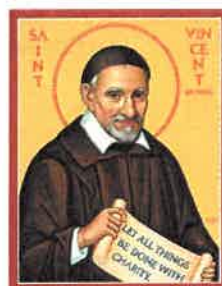
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 25 to **Error! Bookmark not defined.** of the attached financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

History

St Vincent's Family Project has its origins with the Spanish government, who in 1975 set up a neighbourhood programme staffed by Spanish Daughters of Charity to work with families from Spain who were living in London. They provided them with support and formed a community to help these young families. This eventually expanded to include all families within the area when the UK Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul became involved in the project in 1996. The project has been based at Methodist Central Hall since 2005 and maintains a strong relationship with the Methodist Central Hall Church. The Project is part of the Integrated Leadership of the South Westminster Family Hub and has links with different local providers, schools, faith organisations and businesses.

The need for our work

South Westminster is an area of contrast between wealth, history and power alongside stark social deprivation. Areas in Pimlico wards are within the top 10% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. It is an area with high pay gaps, the highest housing and childcare costs and homelessness. There are many different communities and languages spoken sitting amongst the poverty, debt and insecure housing; social isolation is a significant problem in the area. Families with very young children have all the pressures of early parenthood, so it is unsurprising we see relationship conflicts, huge emotional stress on families leading often to mental and physical health problems. Various evidence shows that children in Westminster fare less favourably when it comes to obesity, oral hygiene, well-being, risk of involvement in crime and homelessness.



Principal aims

St Vincent's Family Project aims to support families in Westminster especially those who are experiencing difficulties. The Project aims to address the issues of parenting, child welfare and social exclusion by providing services for parents and children. The charity's intended impact is developing resilience in families in their early years to have a lasting effect on their futures. It aims to offer an experience of community that inspires, supports and enables positive change in the lives of those who use its services.

These aims reflect the purposes for which the charity was set up.

Public benefit

The aims, objectives and activities of the Project are reviewed each year. As part of this process, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The review of activities illustrates the ways in which the charity serves the public benefit.

Values

St Vincent's Family Project has six Vincentian values that underpin our direct work with families and children. These are:

We are Respectful: We celebrate the uniqueness of the individual. We welcome diversity and treat everyone non-judgmentally with equal care and attention.

We are Inspired: We are committed to the nurturing of families in the belief that positive change is possible in a caring and loving environment. We seek to empower people to meet their full potential.

We are Travellers Together: We are privileged to accompany families through a significant part of their journey. They are the heart of our charity, and we work with them in a spirit of mutuality and friendship, always ready to listen and learn from them.

We are Professional: We aim for the highest of standards in our work drawing upon 'best practice' principles and programmes. We will always seek to improve the way we do things.

We are Holistic: We are concerned for the different aspects of people's lives and will provide support wherever possible. We seek to be alert to identify emerging needs and respond to them in a flexible and creative way.

We are Compassionate: We use our resources for the benefit of the families always taking care to make our services affordable and accessible.

Family Space

Family Space is open daily to local families with children (from age 0-5) offering a range of facilities, activities, programmes and support available. We have very good facilities for children and families, to play, relax, share food and receive support.

For families on low incomes who need support, we offer a free crèche. We have a Sensory Room, where, amongst other things, sessions are offered to families of children with special educational needs.

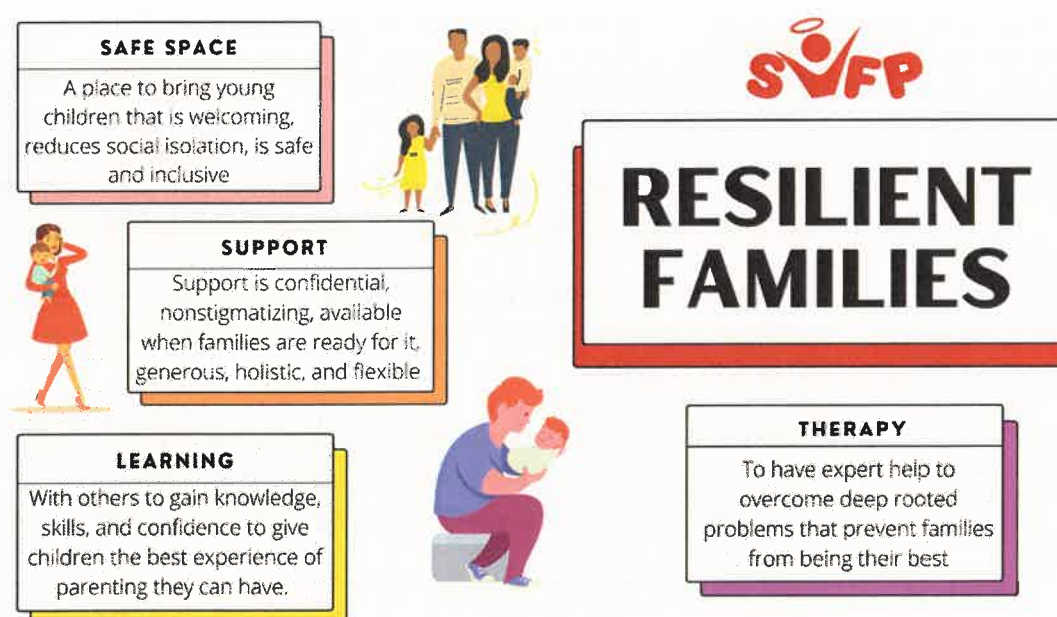
Family Space (continued)

For parents, throughout the year, SVFP offer a range of parenting and health courses designed to fit different needs, in group settings, which help parents to realise they are not alone in the many challenges and responsibilities facing them.

At Family Space we also offer support to families on low incomes who may be having problems with housing, debt, schools, relationship or legal issues. Our service is greatly enhanced in this area by joint working with local agencies from the Early Years Family Hub, Westminster CAB, Marylebone Educational Foundation and the Westminster Foodbank to name some.

Throughout the year we offer different fun family activities, including monthly trips, to help families develop, make friends and build confidence.

Theory of Change- Family Space



Programmes, Activities and Events

Parenting Programmes

Parenting programmes have been our main group programme throughout the year and very directly related to our aim to help families achieve resilience by helping them develop the skills, confidence and knowledge to create and maintain a strong family bond. Indeed, we still hear from parents years later using the same techniques even as their children are older.

Again, we concentrated on the Positive Parenting Programme, which is an excellent all-round course for any parent, and Mellow parenting for Mums that allows a more discussive group aimed at dealing with the deeper trauma which some mums have experienced which is affecting their confidence as a parent. Parents who attended were able to utilise our free crèche to allow them time.

Programmes, Activities and Events (continued)

Healthy Living

Friday mornings have been for our Healthy Living sessions again this year, with exercise classes run for mums followed by a session covering a range of health-related subjects for families, particularly nutrition and dental hygiene, an area where children from Westminster tend to compare unfavourably with the population as a whole. Last year we increased our provision of exercise-based support, simply through popularity. Our exercise coach helped develop personal fitness plans for mums, so they could carry on improving outside of the weekly sessions. And we also ran a programme on Thursdays for fitness for the whole family.

Welfare Support

The impact of the cost of living on local families continued this year, seeing more families who were struggling with basic costs. Noticeably we started to see more families who had an adult in work and/or who owned their own homes seeking support. This is alongside more usual families in rented accommodation with no adult in work. Much of our help was providing one to one guidance to emergency funds or directing those with more complex issues to specialist advice. We continued to have surgeries from Westminster CAB, as well as working closely with Cardinal Hume Centre for Immigration Law advice and Shelter for Housing related issues. Again, with funding from St. Marylebone Educational Foundation we helped with costs toward school uniforms for 37 families unable to access other schemes and on a low income.

Crèche

Crèche allowed us again to be able to offer parents the time to attend programmes, one-to-one support or to have a break to do whatever they wanted. But it is also where we can observe and support children to develop their social and language skills, so they are appropriately developed and confident when they reach school age. This year we were lucky enough to be able to run sessions from November at Tate Britain on Mondays. This gave families the opportunity to be based in a fantastic location.

Events and Trips

Celebrations, trips and community events are an important part of supporting families, because it reduces social isolation, allows parents to give their children a treat they may not be able to afford and provides relief from stress. It also helps families to build trust with us before they consider asking for help or joining a parenting group. Feedback in the last couple of years post Covid-19 and during the cost-of-living crisis show these are as important to families as the practical, learning or therapeutic help we provide.

Therefore, as well as offering a monthly trip we were able to provide a number of events over the year. These included:

Trips to Mudchute Farm, Kew Gardens, Greenwich (on boat), a guided tour of Westminster Abbey and Southend on Sea.

Families had special screenings at Vue Cinemas, received an art workshop with the National Portrait Gallery, competed in a Summer Olympics in St. James Park and learned how to make Sushi and have an Eritrean Tea amongst other things.

We provided fun celebrations for seasonal events such as Easter, Halloween, Valentine's Day, the Feast of Vincent De Paul and Pancake Day.

Programmes, Activities and Events (continued)

Events and Trips (continued)

And again, we were able to offer a range of Christmas activities which families of all or no faith enjoyed. Alongside 25 hampers distributed to families, there was a trip to Winter Wonderland, a Christmas Brunch for mums and a grotto and party attended by 42 families. We were able to distribute over 100 gifts to children over the period.

Themes

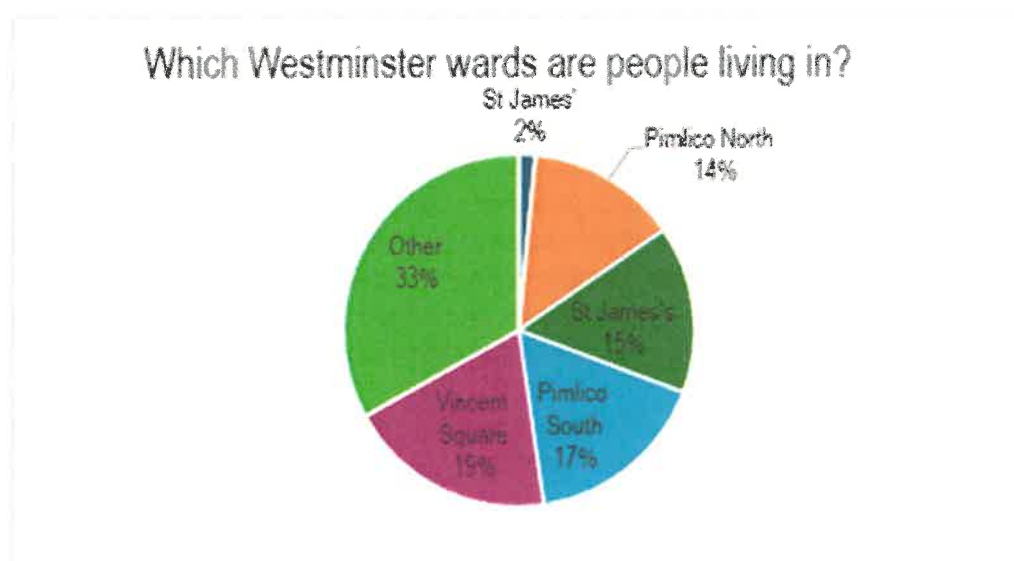
As indicated, the cost-of-living crisis has been a focus for us, particularly in the colder months, with increased fuel bills. That we have had 32 families getting one-to-one support is an indication that we have continued to have families with 'complex' needs, i.e., more than one and of our growing ability to support them.

Partnerships, because of the increased complexity of support, have been a theme for us this year. Our focus has still remained on the need to develop a family's resilience, so rather than try to add other specialisms we have utilized local and other partners for skills and resources.

Being able to re-open our Drop-In has reinforced the value to us of being a Community for local families. Many families have expressed the benefit of having somewhere to go, develop social networks and feel supported, let alone getting all the specific help and programmes. We have kept up with having a lot of activities and events that are fun and bring families together. Included in this is the continuation of activities that promote physical and mental health, which we have done through the year.

Outputs and Outcomes

180 families were supported by SVFP over the year.



Outcomes

Reducing Social Isolation

100% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them overall reduce social isolation.

67% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them to increase the support they received other local services.

84% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them to increase the number of friends or peers they had.

Reducing Stress, Anxiety or depression

100% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them to reduce stress.

93% families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them to reduce anxiety.

54% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them reduce depression.

80% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them improve their low mood.

Improving Parenting

67% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them improve their confidence in parenting.

67% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them improve their knowledge and skills in parenting.

Reducing Family Conflict

40% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them improve family relationships. The remaining 60% were Neutral, which may mean we had no influence or there were no real conflicts which we could have affected.

33% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them reduce arguments in the home. 13% expressed they disagreed and the remainder were Neutral.

Children's Development

67% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them with their child's language development.

87% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped them improve their social skills and confidence.

80% of families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped with improving their children's behaviour.

Trustees' report 31 March 2024

Feedback

Comments

- ✓ *The best project which changed our life!*
- ✓ *SVFP has been invaluable for myself & children. I attend the stay & plays and have completed both PPP and Mellow parenting and both have been extremely helpful. The environment that the staff have created is one of family & inclusion. I am always made to feel welcome & valued! I love it here.*
- ✓ *I love being here because there are so many lessons for parenting to be better. I learned a lot.*
- ✓ *I would love to spend more time at St Vincent, but I also need to cook wash clean house chores. I can't do stuff for home if I come to St Vincent lol.*
- ✓ *Nice friendly helpful.*
- ✓ *Amazing staff!*
- ✓ *It is so hard to find the place where we can be safe with children and talk and exchange the information with other mum. But here is the place St Vincent:)*
- ✓ *Thank you for this service.*
- ✓ *I love the activity during holiday time. I can take big kids and little one together.*
- ✓ *Playgroup is a great place for parents with young children. Both benefit from the sessions which really helps at what can be a stressful time in life.*
- ✓ *Having the opportunity to meet with and speak with other parents helps to socialise.*

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy

SVFP supports children of Primary School Age in Westminster through the use of Creative Arts and Drama Therapy whose education is being affected by emotional, mental or behavioural problems. The use of play enables young children to be able to settle and communicate difficult feelings with the therapist. Often, as a side benefit it also helps to stimulate interest in the arts.

Recent years have seen our work fluctuate because of Covid-19 and demands on school funds. The St. Giles and St. George Education Charity have been able to part-fund schools, but there are always some schools who are unable to fund provision. This year was more stable than previous years with us working in 8 Westminster Schools, including a new one for us Soho Parish School.

Our approach has been to provide a dedicated therapist to each school with the intention of, not just offering therapy sessions, but being a part of the school and being accessible for teaching staff to discuss concerns. Therapists work closely with teaching staff and also families, as often issues are triggered by what is happening in the home.

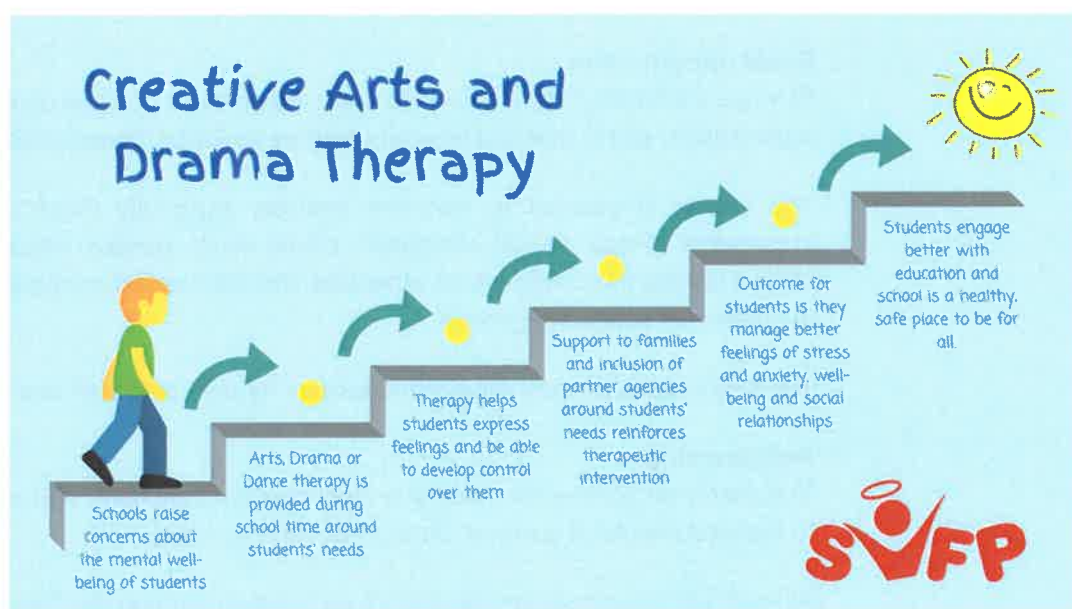
Creative Arts and Drama Therapy (continued)

This year we provided regular therapy support to 8 Westminster Primary Schools, for 37 children dealing with a variety of issues.

In addition, 7 families, users of our Family Space received ongoing creative arts therapy for support with trauma.

We were also able to run a pilot program based at St. Andrews Youth Club providing therapeutic art classes for attendees between 9-14. The sessions were not therapy but were focused on well-being and over 10 weeks had an average of 10 young people per session with some positive feedback. The aim of the project was to respond to the demand for mental health support for young people in Westminster by offering a less intensive preventative service easily accessible. At the time of writing, we are hoping to find funds to continue this.

Theory of Change – Creative Arts Therapy



Volunteer Space

We have a robust volunteering programme that provides a range of volunteering activities for local residents, corporations, therapeutic placements, student interns and those wanting to make a difference within the community.

Companies that have supported us this year have been Draker Lettings, PGIM, and Step, particularly raising funds or goods for family events.

- ◆ Roles include direct work with families, administration, marketing and fundraising.
- ◆ Volunteers can see how a charity works within an urban, hyper-diverse context.
- ◆ Volunteers discover our Vincentian values and can incorporate them and their corresponding behaviours into their good reflective practice.

Volunteer Space (continued)

- ◆ We had 35 volunteers in total including 6 students from OMNES Education London School, 2 students from University of Essex, 2 from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, 1 from King's College London and 1 student from CAPA, The Global Education Network.
- ◆ 3116 hours of volunteered time to the charity, valued at £ 43,289.8 (*based on London Living Wage*)
- ◆ Involvement: parenting courses, healthy living course, 1:1 support, fitness sessions, Drop-In sessions, crèche, dental workshops, outings, events such as Christmas party, sports day, social media and communication, outreach, database management, small fundraising, decorating of the project, and filming and video editing
- ◆ 9 Trustees gave time outside of the scheduled board meetings and planning days during the year

Equal opportunities

St Vincent's Family Project strives to apply the principle of equal opportunities throughout the organisation, and to that end regularly reviews its Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy.

The charity is pleased to welcome families, especially those experiencing difficulties, irrespective of age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, gender, religion or status. Its aim is always to help those who would otherwise find themselves marginalised and excluded from the means of support they need.

The charity aims to apply equal opportunities for both paid staff and volunteers.

Safeguarding

The charity recognises the need to protect children from harm and promote their welfare and to that end maintains a robust Child Safeguarding Policy.

All staff and volunteers are required to be checked through the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and receive training in child and adult protection and safeguarding issues. As part of their induction process, they are required to read the charity's policies within the Employee Handbook and/or SVFP Policy Folder.

Fundraising

This year we did manage to raise more income than the previous one. Things were easier because, following the previous period's economic crisis, 2023-2024 was more predictable. However, options for grant funding are difficult and challenging, so we began to invest in developing our longer term capacity at the end of the year by bringing in a consultant to help us going forward.

This last year we were particularly pleased that we were able to attract core funding and also to have a successful fundraising campaign based around a baking competition supported by Draker Ltd.

Trustees' report 31 March 2024

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year to 31 March 2024 is given on page 21 of this annual report and financial statements.

During the year, income totalled £329,098 (2023 - £318,081). Donation income amounted to £319,413 (2023 - £307,389).

Expenditure totalled £340,303 (2023 - £360,346) and included staff costs of £251,935 (2023 - £280,851), and premises costs of £40,840 (2023 - £36,277).

Financial position

At 31 March 2024 the charity had total negative funds of £43,822 (2023 -£32,617). All funds were unrestricted.

Reserves policy

The charity is highly committed to ensuring a continuing service to the children and families reliant on its services. In order to provide sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in cash flows and to respond to unforeseen events, the trustees aim to maintain general reserves equal to at least three months of expenditure, which equates to approximately £90,000. The reserves of the charity are currently below this position.

Going concern assessment

The year ended with a cumulative deficit on unrestricted funds for a second year in a row. However, there was considerable progress by the charity towards reducing the larger deficit position from the previous year, which arose largely due to the effect of the economic crisis. There was a need to continue to utilise loans in 2023-2024 to manage the effects of the cash flow difficulties of the previous year, which had been a particular problem.

In June 2024, the charity experienced a cashflow shortfall resulting in insufficient funds to meet the expenditure for the month. The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul CIO generously gave an emergency grant of £5,000 to cover the salary costs whilst a decision was made to defer the remaining expenditure.

At the time, there was also some uncertainty around the income for July and August 2024. On seeking immediate professional advice, the Board suspended all operations and issued notices of redundancy to all staff. Long-standing grant making foundations and trusts were informed of the situation and some of them offered support on the condition the Board was confident that the project could continue as a going concern. Emergency grant funding of £50,000 was applied for from Westminster Community Support which was received and at the same time the charity was notified of an award of £20,000 from the National Lottery to use the sensory equipment room for support work with families whose children had delayed development or mild special needs.

Financial review (continued)

Going concern assessment (continued)

In the following weeks, the Board considered several proposed restructuring options for restoring services. On reviewing the detailed proposed cash flow forecasts and proposed budgets relating to the proposed staffing structures, while at the same time taking professional advice to ensure appropriate decision making, at the end of July the Board agreed a reduced staff structure and approved a proposed budget. Every month, the Board will monitor the progress of the actual income and expenditure against the budget and the progress of the actual cashflow against the cashflow forecasts. This has been put in place in order to anticipate well in advance any reduction in income and cash and to take appropriate action.

Having reviewed the available evidence, the directors and trustees have concluded that although there is material uncertainty related to current projections, it is appropriate for the charity to continue to prepare their accounts on the going concern basis.

Future plans

Through 2024-25, St Vincent's Family Project will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ Continue to reach out to as many vulnerable families, to be aware of us and to encourage them to come to restore the project as a community for families.
- ◆ Continue to utilise partnerships to offer a varied and responsive service.
- ◆ Continue to develop a package of help that will support families most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.
- ◆ Utilise volunteers and students to support the efficacy of our programme.
- ◆ Develop a complete fundraising plan to help build the charity reserves over the next 3 years.
- ◆ Explore more use of corporate support for volunteering and income generation.

Governance, structure and management

Governance

The charitable company, which is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)) on 18 May 2011 and is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1142095).

The sole member of the company, and thus its parent entity, is DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)), set up by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, to safeguard the Vincentian ethos in various projects such as St Vincent's Family Project.

In the event of St Vincent's Family Project winding up, the member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Potential SVFP trustees are sourced via suggestions from the Chair, trustees and the Chief Executive. Potential candidates are then interviewed by the Chief Executive with an initial recommendation to the SVFP trustees. The next stage is for an interview by a trustee. The candidate is then asked to attend a trustees' meeting as an observer and asked to make a short statement to the trustees, followed by questions and answers by the candidate and trustees. The trustees take a majority vote on whether to accept the candidate as a trustee. A new trustee must be approved by the Board of DCSVP Services before they can be appointed. On appointment, the new trustee receives a short induction, and they are DBS checked.

The names of the trustees who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this report and financial statements and brief biographical details on each of the trustees are given below:

Teresa Crowley

Teresa works as a Pastoral Liaison Officer and Careers Leader at Notre Dame School. In both roles she deals with outside agencies and is a school liaison for many different businesses, charities and local authority agencies. Teresa has a degree in Social Sciences and a Post Graduation Qualification in Careers Leadership. She loves her job at Notre Dame working on enrichment projects with the students which include programmes like: an art project around the First World War that was exhibited at The Guildhall, a dance project with Rambert which saw the students perform at their studio and writing a book of memories with the local elderly day centre.

Sister Liz Ferrie

Sister Liz Ferrie has served the Daughters of the Charity of St. Vincent De Paul for 53 years. She is both a qualified Nursery Nurse and RGN for adults. Her working life is one of caring for people of every age and conditions. She has also travelled considerably for her work for humanitarian causes. Having spent 6 years in Paris as English speaking Secretary she returned to England where she has been working on research for the Daughters of Charity.

Philippa Gitlin

Philippa Gitlin worked both as a CEO and trustee in the UK charity sector and served on 3 school governing bodies before retiring in 2010. Since then, she has served on the board of a French Charity addition to providing consultancy on governance to other charities in the UK. She was also until recently a trustee of FARA Foundation UK, a charity supporting services to severely disadvantaged children and families living in poverty in Romania.

Sister Kathleen Kennedy

Sister Kathleen Kennedy entered the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1966. She worked in residential child care for fourteen years, after which she ran a pre-school group in a primary school setting. She qualified as a teacher with Bachelor of Arts with Qualified Teacher Status (BAQTS) and taught in an inner city primary school for sixteen years. She worked as part of a city wide Evangelisation Team in Hull before being appointed to the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Deacon Ali McMillan

Deacon of the Methodist Church at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Deacon Ali McMillan had been a Teacher in Secondary Schools and Sixth form colleges before joining the ministry. She has through her pastoral activities worked with all age ranges in the community.

Ifeoma Okafor

Ifeoma Okafor's first degree was in Microbiology, but she then went on to complete an MSc in Financial Economics. She currently works as a Senior Financial Reporting Manager in the Financial Services industry. She has a background in supporting charities work and coaching people into employment.

Joanna Wormell

Joanna Wormell, having completed a first degree in Russian, was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 2002. Since 2007 Joanna has worked for RBS and currently holds the position of Managing Director, Global Head of Compliance, Capital Resolution. Though a very experienced traveller she lives in South Westminster.

Rosemary Jackson

Rosemary Jackson works at MasterCard International and holds the position of Sr. Vice President, Real Time Payments Solutions. Working for Mastercard for 20 years, based out of Sydney, Singapore and now London with experience across various roles covering software management, customer project implementation, business analysis, migration of core banking systems, testing and release management, working closely with banks in the UK, Nordics & Baltics, Middle East Africa and Asia Pacific markets.

Tim Hassell

Tim Hassell is the Managing Director of Draker Lettings, a property lettings company in West London. From modest origins in Liverpool, Tim has always been motivated to pass on the kindness and support he experienced growing up and getting to where he is. He has been a Trustee for the Breast Cancer Trust and Robert Grace Trust.

Structure and management reporting

The ultimate responsibility for the charity lies with the trustees. The day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive. Meetings are held regularly with the trustees, service users and the staff team to ensure the quality of service and the aims of the charity are being met.

Key management

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The trustees have identified five main areas where risks may occur: governance and management, operational, financial, reputational and regulatory.

Governance and management considers the risk of the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members and staff, and the good use of its resources.

Operational considers the risks inherent in the charity's activities including any potential shortcomings in the services provided, staffing, poor health and safety, and the disaster recovery plan, etc.

Financial risks include those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending, poor accounting, etc.

Reputational risk would be possible damage to the charity's reputation.

Regulatory risk considers the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations and poor risk assessment.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

However, they acknowledge also that the charity's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The charity has in place a risk management programme that seeks to identify and mitigate the effects of the risk on its finances. The principal financial risk remains the impact of the general economic conditions and its impact on charitable funding.

Whilst the current level of funding for 2024-2025 suggests that the charity will reach its income targets, the trustees remain mindful that continued efforts need to be made to attract new funding and additional income streams.

The other key risk for the charity, as identified by the trustees, arises because operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are directors of St Vincent's Family Project for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the trustees confirms that:

- ◆ so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- ◆ the trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Trustees' report 31 March 2024

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



PHILIPPA GITLIN

Philippa Gitlin

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 21st October 2024

21 October 2024

Independent auditor's report to the member of St Vincent's Family Project

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and notes to the financial statements. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 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 charitable company 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.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw your attention to the accounting policy on pages 25 and 26 of the financial statements regarding going concern, which sets out the material uncertainties related to going concern. Further details surrounding the uncertainties are outlined on pages 11 and 12 of the Trustees' report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, 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.

Other information (continued)

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.

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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' 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
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small company's regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 the trustees 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'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.

Auditor's 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.

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.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the Senior Statutory Auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- ◆ we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- ◆ carried out substantive testing of expenditure including the authorisation thereof.
- ◆ reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions and substantiated these where appropriate; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's member, 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 charitable company's member those matters we are required to state to it 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 charitable company and the charitable company's member, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Peter Mackereth (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory
Auditor 130 Wood Street
London EC2V 6DL

Date: 25 October 2024

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) Year to 31 March 2024

	Notes	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income:							
Donations and grants		132,031	187,382	319,413	147,393	159,996	307,389
Bank interest		421	—	421	91	—	91
Crèche and Creative Art Therapy fees		—	9,264	9,264	—	5,291	5,291
Miscellaneous		—	—	—	5,232	78	5,310
Total income		132,452	196,646	329,098	152,716	165,365	318,081
Expenditure:							
Charitable activities							
. Provision of services to vulnerable families and children	2	96,679	243,624	340,303	156,622	203,724	360,346
Total expenditure		96,679	243,624	340,303	156,622	203,724	360,346
Net expenditure before transfers		35,773	(46,978)	(11,205)	(3,906)	(38,359)	(42,265)
Transfers between funds	9	(46,978)	46,978	—	(38,359)	38,359	—
Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year	3	(11,205)	—	(11,205)	(42,265)	—	(42,265)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2023		(32,617)	—	(32,617)	9,648	—	9,648
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2024		(43,822)	—	(43,822)	(32,617)	—	(32,617)

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities continued during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	6		1,347		2,020
Current assets:					
Debtors	7	9,203		16,542	
Cash at bank and in hand		5,390		8,853	
Total current assets		14,593		25,395	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(59,762)		(60,032)	
Net current (liabilities) assets			(45,169)		(34,637)
Total net (liabilities) assets			(43,822)		(32,617)
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	9		—		—
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			(43,822)		(32,617)
Total charity funds			(43,822)		(32,617)

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:



PHILIPPA GITLIN

Trustee Philippa Gitlin

Approved by the trustees on: 21 October 2024

St Vincent's Family Project – Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)

Statement of cash flows 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(32,963)	(65,491)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		—	(2,693)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Cash inflows from new borrowing		29,500	25,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(3,463)	(43,184)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023	B	8,853	52,037
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024	B	5,390	8,853

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2024

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow used in operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(11,205)	(42,265)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	673	673
Decrease in debtors	7,339	8,027
(Decrease) in creditors	(29,770)	(31,926)
Net cash used in operating activities	(32,963)	(65,491)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	5,390	8,853

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	8,853	(3,463)	5,390
Loans falling due within one year	(25,000)	(29,500)	(54,500)
Total	(16,147)	(32,963)	(49,110)

Principal accounting policies 31 March 2024

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2024 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The main judgement or estimate that has been made in these financial statements relates to the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets used in determining the annual depreciation charge and the assessment of future income and expenditure as part of the budgetary process and assessment of going concern.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

Pages 11 and 12 detail the considerations and decisions made by the Board during the Summer of 2024 following the cashflow difficulties experienced by the charity. The Board of Trustees have considered the ability of the charity to meet its liabilities as they fall due over the next 12 months and accept that uncertainty remains given the charity's dependence on grant funding from charitable trusts and foundations. However, the Trustees having been assured by the local authority community support body that the project provides a unique and much needed service to disadvantaged families in an area of high deprivation they wish to continue operating those services in the best interests of the beneficiaries.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

Therefore, having examined the income forecast, budgets and operating structure to satisfy themselves that, with the information available and within realistic parameters, this plan is prudent and achievable. Given that we have also put in place increased monitoring to avoid future instability and to support greater financial consistency, the Trustees are of the opinion that the operations should continue.

Having reviewed the available evidence, the directors and trustees have concluded that although there is material uncertainty related to current projections, it is appropriate for the charity to continue to prepare their accounts on the going concern basis.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charitable company is entitled to receipt, the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, grants, bank interest, crèche and creative art therapy fees, income from other trading activities, and miscellaneous income.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is credited to the statement of financial activities once the charitable company is entitled to the funding and the amount receivable has been quantified.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Donated goods are recognised at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably in which case a derived value, being the cost of the item to the donor, is used. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure except where the donated good is a fixed asset in which case the corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the charity's accounting policies.

Income recognition

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income derived from the levying of charges for Crèche and Creative Art Therapy and income

from trading activities is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts and rebates.

Miscellaneous income is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure on the provision of a safe and stimulating environment where parents and children can take part in activities together and as individuals.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charitable company that relate to the general running of the charitable company as opposed to those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day-to-day management of the charitable company's activities.

Costs are apportioned based on the number of sessions provided at the Family Project for each activity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £3,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

♦	Furniture and equipment	25% on cost
♦	Computer equipment	25% on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

General funds represent monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charitable company's charitable objects.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Notes to the financial statements 31 March 2024

1 Donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total funds £
Grants			
National Lottery	—	10,000	10,000
Young Westminster	—	18,128	18,128
Pimlico Millions	—	2,433	2,433
Angela Gallagher	1,000	—	1,000
St Marylebone Educational Foundation	—	5,200	5,200
Westminster Almshouse	10,500	—	10,500
Westminster Winter Grant	—	2,239	2,239
Westminster Ward	—	1,693	1,693
Westminster City Council	15,000	5,000	20,000
Groundwork	—	1,000	1,000
LD Rope	—	5,200	5,200
Ironmongers	—	25,000	25,000
Strand Parish Trust	—	5,000	5,000
Hobsons	—	4,166	4,166
Swire Charitable Trust	15,000	—	15,000
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	44,823	44,823
Edward Harvest Trust	—	2,500	2,500
Westminster Foundation	—	10,000	10,000
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, Charitable Trust	40,000	—	40,000
Methodist Central Hall	23,750	—	23,750
John Lyons Charity	—	45,000	45,000
	105,250	187,382	292,632
Donations			
Other donations	26,781	—	26,781
	26,781	—	26,781
2024 Total funds	132,031	187,382	319,413

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total funds £
Grants			
One Westminster	—	11,000	11,000
Young Westminster	—	23,118	23,118
Garfield Weston	—	15,000	15,000
St Marylebone	—	5,000	5,000
Westminster Amalgamated	—	7,500	7,500
Mercers Trust	—	21,570	21,570
Hyde Park Charitable Trust	—	5,000	5,000
Ironmongers	—	25,000	25,000
Mrs Smith & Mount Trust	—	5,000	5,000
Sisters of The Holy Cross	—	10,000	10,000
Swire Charitable Trust	20,000	—	20,000
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	31,808	31,808
London Catalyst	4,000	—	4,000
Westminster Foundation	10,000	—	10,000
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, Charitable Trust	40,000	—	40,000
John Lyons Charity	30,000	—	30,000
	104,000	159,996	263,996
Donations			
Methodist Central Hall	25,000	—	25,000
Other donations	18,393	—	18,393
	43,393	—	43,393
2023 Total funds	147,393	159,996	307,389

2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Provision of services to vulnerable families and children						
Staff costs	76,975	120,523	197,498	93,477	130,698	224,175
Creative Arts Therapy	—	54,437	54,437	—	56,676	56,676
Family Space	—	14,036	14,036	—	8,340	8,340
Volunteer Space	—	1,614	1,614	1,056	—	1,056
Premises	—	40,840	40,840	28,267	8,010	36,277
Furniture and equipment	—	1,772	1,772	11,070	—	11,070
Insurance	5,455	—	5,455	2,676	—	2,676
Printing, postage, telephone and stationery	—	3,161	3,161	2,076	—	2,076
Recruitment and training	910	—	910	3,368	—	3,368
Travel and subsistence	—	203	203	25	—	25
Professional fees	7,871	—	7,871	4,112	—	4,112
Subscriptions	—	6,943	6,943	6,670	—	6,670
Governance costs	2,850	—	2,850	2,160	—	2,160
Miscellaneous	2,618	95	2,713	1,665	—	1,665
2023 Total funds	96,679	243,624	340,303	156,622	203,724	360,346

3 Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs (note 4)	251,935	280,851
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Current year statutory audit services	2,850	3,120
Depreciation	673	673

As the charity is part of a large group, it is required to have its accounts audited rather than an independent examination. The difference between the independent examination fee and audit fee is £2,500 (2023 - £2,400), which has been paid by the parent charity, DC Services.

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	183,207	206,718
Pension costs	3,516	4,208
Social security costs	10,775	13,249
	197,498	224,175
Contract staff	54,437	56,676
	251,935	280,851

Included within wages and salaries are redundancy costs of £10,679 (2023 – 4,100). The average number of employees, based on head count, was 7 (2023 – 8) whereas the average number of employees, based on full time equivalents, was 6 (2023 – 7). There were no employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including benefits) during the year (2023 – none).

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel (continued)

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The total remuneration (including taxable benefits and employer's pension contributions) of the key management personnel for the year was £64,158 (2023 - £62,807).

None of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services during either year (2023 – none). Expenses were £Nil reimbursed to the trustees (2023 – none).

5 Taxation

St Vincent's Family Project is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023 and	2,693	2,693
Additions	—	—
Disposals	—	—
At 31 March 2024	2,693	2,693
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	673	673
Charge for year	673	673
On disposals	—	—
At 31 March 2024	1,346	1,346
Net book values		
At 31 March 2024	1,347	1,347
At 31 March 2023	2,020	2,020

7 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	3,219	4,682
CAT fees	5,984	11,860
	9,203	16,542

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	2,850	3,120
Amount due to Methodist Central Hall (note 14)	2,412	2,412
Amount due to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (note 14)	54,500	29,500
Deferred income: grants received in advance (see below)	—	25,000
	59,762	60,032
	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 April	25,000	55,000
Amounts released from previous years	(25,000)	(55,000)
Resources deferred in the year	—	25,000
Deferred income at 31 March	—	25,000

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance of the year to which they relate.

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds:

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Family Space Project	—	157,560	(157,560)	—	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	—	39,086	(86,064)	46,978	—
	—	196,646	(243,624)	46,978	—

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Family Space Project	—	113,325	(113,325)	—	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	—	52,040	(90,399)	38,359	—
	—	165,365	(203,724)	38,359	—

The transfers between unrestricted into restricted funds occurs to ensure there is no deficit in the year end position for restricted funds. The specific purposes for which the funds were received and applied in 2023 and 2024 are as follows:

Family Space Project

Funds provided to assist with the Family Space Project.

Creative Arts Therapy Project

Funds provided specifically as a contribution towards the costs associated with the Creative Arts Therapy Project.

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Fund balances are represented by:						
Fixed assets	1,347	—	1,347	2,020	—	2,020
Current assets	14,593	—	14,593	25,395	—	25,395
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(59,762)	—	(59,762)	(60,032)	—	(60,032)
Total net assets	(43,822)	—	(43,822)	(32,617)	—	(32,617)

11 Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2024 the charity had the following future minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of a photocopier:

	2024 £	2023 £
Leases which expire:		
• Within one year	2,538	2,467
• Between one and five years	8,248	9,868
	10,786	12,335

12 Liability of member

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up its member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

13 Control

Control of the charitable company lies with its member and parent entity, DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)). The registered office of DCSVP Services is St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL. The financial statements of DCSVP Services can be obtained from the registered office of DCSVP Services is St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL.

14 Related party transactions

During the year, trustees made £400 to the charity (2023 –none). There are no other related party transactions requiring disclosure (2023 – none).

Methodist Central Hall

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to Methodist Central Hall by virtue of the fact that one of its trustees is a senior employee and trustee of Methodist Central Hall. Two other trustees are active members of the Methodist Central Hall.

- During the year the Project contributed service charges to Methodist Central Hall of £5,844 (2023 - £5,844), £487(2023 - £487) of which was accrued at the year end. In addition, the Project paid rent to Methodist Central Hall of £22,800 (2023 - £22,800). £1,900 (2023 - £1,900) of which was accrued at the year end.
- During the year Methodist Central Hall gave a donation of £23,750 (2023 – £25,000) to the Project for use in meeting core costs.

14 Related party transactions (continued)

Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul CIO

St Vincent Family Project is a subsidiary of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services, which prepares group accounts, including St Vincent Family Project. The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services will pay £2,500 of the audit fee for St Vincent Family Project (2023: £2,400). See note 3 for further detail. the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)) is considered the ultimate controlling party of St Vincent Family Project, as it is its sole member. This Control is normally exercised by the appointment of Trustees. Should the subsidiary drift away from its core mission, Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services has the power also to remove the Trustees of the subsidiary.

The registered office address of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services is St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL. The group accounts of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services can be obtained from the registered office address. The principal purposes and activities of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services are to support charities within the group, including St Vincent Family Project. The principal purposes and activities of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services are to safeguard and deepen the Vincentian character of, and provide support to, the charities within the group, including St Vincent Family Project.

Accounts



**St Vincent's
Family Project**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 March 2023

Charity Registration Number
1142095

Company Registration Number
07638620 (England and Wales)



'I thank all the employees; everything is beautiful, and the place is clean and warm. I felt comfortable with my baby from the first day. Thank you'

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Patron	Lady Viola G Grosvenor
Trustees	Philippa Gitlin (Chair) Ms Christina Asare-Owusu (Until 31 March 2023) Tim Hassell (Appointed 5 January 2023) Teresa Crowley Sister Liz Ferrie DC Sister Kathleen Kennedy DC Deacon Ali McMillan Ifeoma Okafor Rosemary Jackson Joanna Wormell
Principal office	The Methodist Central Hall Storey's Gate Westminster London SW1H 9NH
Telephone:	020 7654 5351
Facsimile:	020 7654 6902
Company registration number	07638620 (England and Wales)
Charity registration number	1142095
Chief Executive	Andrew Varley
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 4th Floor 2½ Devonshire Square London EC2M 4XJ
Solicitors	Wedlake Bell LLP 52 Bedford Row London WC1R 4LR

The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP or the Project) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and constitutes a directors' report for the purposes of company legislation.

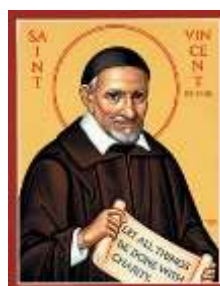
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 24 to 27 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

History

St Vincent's Family Project has its origins with the Spanish government, who in 1975 set up a neighbourhood programme staffed by Spanish Daughters of Charity to work with families from Spain who were living in London. They provided them with support and formed a community to help these young families. This eventually expanded to include all families within the area when the UK Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul became involved in the project in 1996. The project has been based at Methodist Central Hall since 2005 and maintains a strong relationship with the Methodist Central Hall Church. The Project is part of the Integrated Leadership of the South Westminster Family Hub and has links with different local providers, schools, faith organisations and businesses.

The need for our work

South Westminster is an area of contrast between wealth, history and power alongside stark social deprivation. Areas in Pimlico wards are within the top 10% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. It is an area with high pay gaps, high housing and childcare costs and homelessness. There are many different communities and languages spoken sitting amongst the poverty, debt and insecure housing; social isolation is a significant problem in the area. Families with very young children have all the pressures of early parenthood, so it is unsurprising we see relationship conflicts, huge emotional stress on families leading often to mental and physical health problems. Various evidence shows that children in Westminster fare less favourably when it comes to obesity, oral hygiene, well-being, risk of involvement in crime and homelessness.



Principal aims

St Vincent's Family Project aims to support families in Westminster especially those who are experiencing difficulties. The Project aims to address the issues of parenting, child welfare and social exclusion by providing services for parents and children. The charity's intended impact is developing resilience in families in their early years to have a lasting effect on their futures. It aims to offer an experience of community that inspires, supports and enables positive change in the lives of those who use its services.

These aims reflect the purposes for which the charity was set up.

Public benefit

The aims, objectives and activities of the Project are reviewed each year. As part of this process, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The review of activities illustrates the ways in which the charity serves the public benefit.

Values

St Vincent's Family Project has six Vincentian values that underpin our direct work with families and children. These are:

We are Respectful: We celebrate the uniqueness of the individual. We welcome diversity and treat everyone non-judgmentally with equal care and attention.

We are Inspired: We are committed to the nurturing of families in the belief that positive change is possible in a caring and loving environment. We seek to empower people to meet their full potential.

We are Travellers Together: We are privileged to accompany families through a significant part of their journey. They are the heart of our charity, and we work with them in a spirit of mutuality and friendship, always ready to listen and learn from them.

We are Professional: We aim for the highest of standards in our work drawing upon 'best practice' principles and programmes. We will always seek to improve the way we do things.

We are Holistic: We are concerned for the different aspects of people's lives and will provide support wherever possible. We seek to be alert to identify emerging needs and respond to them in a flexible and creative way.

We are Compassionate: We use our resources for the benefit of the families always taking care to make our services affordable and accessible.

Family Space

Family Space is open daily to local families with children (from age 0-5) offering a range of facilities, activities, programmes and support available. We have very good facilities for children and families, to play, relax, share food and receive support. This last year we were able to restore having non-appointment based Drop-In sessions for families for the first time since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

For families on low incomes who need support, we offer a free crèche. We have a Sensory Room, where, amongst other things, sessions are offered to families of children with special educational needs.

For parents, throughout the year we offer a range of parenting courses designed to fit different needs, in group settings, which help parents to realise they are not alone in the many challenges and responsibilities facing them.

We also have programmes to help families with preparing nutritional, affordable meals for young children, including dealing with issues such as having fussy eaters, obesity and oral hygiene.

This year we have had a regular Friday exercise class for mums, and we have provided a lunch one day a week.

Our staff also provide one to one support for vulnerable families struggling with complex issues, typically, finances, poor housing, relationship and health breakdowns, including mental health. They give time and practical help to deal with problems or support the families to bring in additional, specialist support. We can help families get access to more specialist services, and we have had a regular slot this year with a Westminster Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) advice worker.

Throughout the year we offer different fun family activities, including monthly trips, to help families develop, make friends and build confidence.

Theory of Change- Family Space



Family Space (continued)

Impact of Family Space in 2022-2023

Numbers benefiting from offered programmes.

We supported 112 families this year, of which:

- ◆ 32 received one-to-one support
- ◆ 52 took 3 or more programmes
- ◆ 72 took 2 or more programmes
- ◆ 25 different languages were spoken
- ◆ 33 different nationalities used our services.

Programmes, Activities and Events

Coming out of the Covid-19 social restrictions in Spring of 2022, we were excited about having regular Drop-Ins without putting social restrictions on families. We were also anxious that, after two years with these in place, new families would not have heard of us, or be ready to come. However, we actively went out to meet families and leaflet the Pimlico area and found families did start to come in, as families we had supported during the pandemic were ready to move on.

In the spring, we completed a Positive Parenting Programme which 9 families attended and a Healthy Living programme that 10 families completed.

We also ran weekly fitness classes, a Bilingual Child course, a Dad's Group on Saturdays, weekly Baby Massage, and SEN sessions, With the support of Change4Life we also ran a weekly Kids Club, providing exercise and activities for older children from age 5 to 11 years.

Families were also taken on trips to Dockland's Museum, Mudchute Farm and had an Easter Egg Hunt in Kew Gardens.

We also ran a group for families once a month, with parents who have mental health issues, called KidsTime.

Programmes continued in the Summer Holidays where we offered a programme attended by 45 families over 8 days, including:

- ◆ Sports day at St James Park with many competitions and prizes
- ◆ Family nature learning day; focusing on appreciating nature and creating "art".
- ◆ Dad's day: focusing on playing racquet sports in the park (Wimbledon was on after all)
- ◆ Family ZUMBA fun; more exercise for the whole family
- ◆ Trip to the South Bank "love your city day" with picnic and ice-creams.

Family Space (continued)

Programmes, Activities and Events (continued)

- ◆ Outing to Serpentine Lido with picnic
- ◆ Outing to Disney exhibition at Wallace Collection (by special invitation)
- ◆ And we finished with the first coach trip in many years, to Ruislip Lido, where families enjoyed the beach and a train trip through the nature reserve.

All events were free to our families, and all had healthy snacks, drinks and extra “goodies” provided.

Through support from the Marylebone Educational Foundation, we were able to help 30 families with getting children ready with school uniforms and equipment before term started. As Autumn term started we were beginning to do a lot more work for families facing the cost-of-living crisis, including securing the extended Local Hardship fund for 27.

We brought 15 boxes of mostly jackets and tops, from the Twitter offices, and had a £1.00 coat sale in September.

Over this term we had completed the Positive Parenting Programme and Mellow Parenting for Mums.

As we were looking to help families with food costs we began providing lunch on Thursdays and started a Little Chef Crèche on Mondays. We also worked with Real Nappies for London, providing vouchers for parents and welcomed drop-in sessions from the local Citizens Advice Bureau for specialist welfare advice.

We added to our fitness and health focus with a weekly yoga session.

Over Christmas, SVFP took families to Winter Wonderland to see Santa, Chelsea Theatre to see the Christmas pantomime and gave Christmas lunch to Zizzi. We were able to secure Christmas hampers for 30 families from Junior League of London and donations (clothes and toiletries) for a further 35 families from Little Village. And we shared tickets for 40 families for Festive Feast organised by Childhood Trust where families had food, household items donations, gifts, live music, magicians etc. We ended 2022 with a Family Christmas Party and Grotto, with 49 families receiving donated toys and gifts for their children.

Winter programmes continued into January with Thursdays continuing to be where a meal was provided in our Drop-In with a range of activities. A new Mellow Parenting Programme and a Positive Parenting Programme also started.

A dental hygiene programme was successfully delivered to reception classes at Millbank Primary School and our half-term programme included a trip to the cinema for 30 families, a St Valentine's party with family lunch and Prince's Jasmin from “Make a Smile” organization (29 families attended).

Family Space (continued)

Themes

As indicated, the cost-of-living crisis has been a focus for us, particularly in the colder months, with increased fuel bills. That we have had 32 families getting one-to-one support is an indication that we have continued to have families with 'complex' needs, i.e., more than one and of our growing ability to support them.

Partnerships, because of the increased complexity of support, have been a theme for us this year. Our focus has still remained on the need to develop a family's resilience, so rather than try to add other specialisms we have utilized local and other partners for skills and resources.

Being able to re-open our Drop-In has reinforced the value to us of being a Community for local families. Many families have expressed the benefit of having somewhere to go, develop social networks and feel supported, let alone getting all the specific help and programmes. We have kept up with having a lot of activities and events that are fun and bring families together. Included in this is the continuation of activities that promote physical and mental health, which we have done through the year.

Dad's Space

At the beginning of the year we had funding for our Dad's programme, which we had been determined to bring back following the pandemic. The group was available every Saturday morning for fathers and children. The group regularly had 5-6 families on a weekly basis, but although promoting it with families and partner agencies, it did not attract Dad's with support needs. As funds ended, we decided we could not afford to continue it into the new year unfortunately.

Outcomes

Our most recent outcomes evaluation indicates that families agreed or strongly agreed that SVFP helped to:

Reduce social isolation – 100%.

Reduce stress, anxiety and depression – 100%.

Feel more confident about parenting – 79%.

Reduce family conflicts – 89%

Improve social and language skills of children – 79%.

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy

Many children in school struggle because of emotional, mental or behavioural issues. For very young children this is extremely hard to understand and to articulate in order to get help. St Vincent's Family Project provides creative arts therapy for young children in local primary schools. Using drama, arts or dance, our therapists support young children to use play to express themselves, in which the therapist then helps them to further express the things that are causing them to struggle, become aware and take control of them. We use both experienced, qualified therapists to help children in the greatest difficulty as well as supervised students for children with less intense problems.

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy (continued)

The previous year saw us doubling our support in schools as a direct impact of the pandemic causing or exacerbating trauma that pupils experienced. At the start of the year, some schools were struggling to continue to fund therapy going forward, even with grant support we were able to access, so levels dropped. However, our one-to-one work with families settled into a regular session at our project for families with complex trauma issues.

This year we provided regular therapy support to 8 Westminster Primary Schools, for 27 children dealing with a variety of issues.

In addition, 9 families, users of our Family Space received ongoing creative arts therapy for support with trauma.

Comments on the service

'I thank all the employees; everything is beautiful, and the place is clean and warm. I felt comfortable with my baby from the first day. Thank you.'

'my child has grown in confidence with art therapy.'

'Staff are very friendly, it's very helpful for kids to socialize and play with each other, helps parents to learn and express themselves so we like coming here to meet parents, we will continue to come always!'

'thank you to all the team members for their support. My daughter is so much more confident than she was when we first joined. Providing a great warm space for all ages.'

'I wish I had known about SVFP before!!!'

'I feel like SVFP have been amazing for me and my two children. The staff members are so kind and helpful.'

'As a single mother with my first child, I had no idea what I was doing and since my girl goes to the project she feels so happy and the elocution and vocabulary progressed drastically - she also made amazing friends.'

'SVFP has always been the prenursery support for my 3 kids. I love this space.'

'I am having an excellent experience at SVFP.'

'the creche certainly helps kids get prepared to move onto nursery or school.'

'they are doing an excellent job, amazing service and supportive staff. We all parents are very grateful to have free service for ourselves and children.'

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy (continued)

Theory of Change – Creative Arts Therapy



Volunteer Space

We have a robust volunteering programme that provides a range of volunteering activities for local residents, corporations, therapeutic placements, student interns and those wanting to make a difference within the community.

- ◆ Roles include direct work with families, administration, marketing and fundraising.
- ◆ Volunteers can see how a charity works within an urban, hyper-diverse context.
- ◆ Volunteers discover our Vincentian values and can incorporate them and their corresponding behaviours into their good reflective practice.
- ◆ We had 32 volunteers in total including 15 students who came for a voluntary placement and voluntary internship, 9 students from OMNES Education London School, 2 students from University of Essex, and 4 students from CAPA, The Global Education Network.
- ◆ 2,668 hours of volunteered time was given to the charity, valued at £31,883 (*based on London Living Wage*)
- ◆ Volunteers were involved in: parenting courses, healthy living course, 1:1 support, fitness sessions, Drop-In sessions, crèche, dental workshops, outings, events such as Christmas party, sports day, social media and communication, outreach, database management, small fundraising, decorating of the project, and filming and video editing
- ◆ 9 trustees gave time outside of the scheduled board meetings and planning days during the year

Equal opportunities

St Vincent's Family Project strives to apply the principle of equal opportunities throughout the organisation, and to that end regularly reviews its Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy.

The charity is pleased to welcome families, especially those experiencing difficulties, irrespective of age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, gender, religion or status. Its aim is always to help those who would otherwise find themselves marginalised and excluded from the means of support they need.

The charity aims to apply equal opportunities for both paid staff and volunteers.

Safeguarding

The charity recognises the need to protect children from harm and promote their welfare and to that end maintains a robust Child Safeguarding Policy.

All staff and volunteers are required to be checked through the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and receive training in child and adult protection and safeguarding issues. As part of their induction process, they are required to read the charity's policies within the Employee Handbook and/or SVFP Policy Folder.

Fundraising

The year has been very challenging in regard to fundraising. Despite actively pursuing a high level of grants this year in sharp contrast to the previous two years. A number of Trust funds indicated that because of the economic crisis, they had less to distribute but were also having many more applications. In almost all cases where we received feedback from an unsuccessful application, this was the reason. The need to restore the project post pandemic and the increased support needed by families meant we were unable to realistically cut back on services.

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year to 31 March 2023 is given on page 21 of this annual report and financial statements.

During the year, income totalled £318,081, (2022 - £263,483) of which £165,365 (2022 - £130,669) was restricted. Donation income amounted to £307,389, (2022 - £237,875).

Expenditure totalled £360,346 (2022 - £314,278) and included staff costs of £280,851 (2022 - £244,037), premises costs of £36,277 (2022 - £33,643), and recruitment and training costs of £3,368 (2022 - £2,535).

Financial position

At 31 March 2023, the charity had total negative funds of £32,617 (2022 – positive funds of £9,648). All funds were unrestricted.

Financial position (continued)

Reserves policy

The charity is highly committed to ensuring a continuing service to the children and families reliant on its services. In order to provide sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in cash flows and to respond to unforeseen events, the trustees aim to maintain general reserves equal to at least three months of expenditure, which equates to approximately £90,000.

Going concern assessment

The trustees acknowledge that there is a major shortfall, with the charity finishing the year in a deficit. A reduced budget has been actioned over the next twelve months, and trustees will look closely at the service delivered and make any necessary cutbacks to reduce costs.

The year was especially difficult for the Project. On one side was increased demand for support, due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on families, as well as the new impact of the cost-of-living crisis. On the other side, our targeted income to meet these demands was too high, as funds were less available because of the economy. In the previous year we had expanded our use of creative arts therapy in schools and with families with younger children. Though the demand was still increasing last year, schools were generally struggling with their budgets. In some cases, particularly where we had already supported children, we continued to provide therapy using up our reserves rather than abandoning the service for the children.

The year ahead is still challenging, but more predictable, with the trustees agreeing a more conservative fundraising plan and budget for the year. More optimistically, relationships with some corporate supporters were re-established following the pandemic and more opportunities for other fundraising sources than grants have developed again, giving confidence that the charity will finish the current year with replenished reserves.

The Project continues to be an important provider in the area, both strategically and operationally, with very strong links in the community.

Future plans

Through 2023-24, St Vincent's Family Project will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ Continue to reach out to as many vulnerable families, to be aware of us and to encourage them to come to restore the project as a community for families.
- ◆ Utilise partnerships to offer a varied and responsive service.
- ◆ Continue to develop a package of help that will support families most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.
- ◆ Utilise volunteers and students to support the efficacy of our programme.
- ◆ Reduce our outgoings and bring the project to surplus by the end of the year.
- ◆ Explore more use of corporate support for volunteering and income generation.

Governance, structure and management

Governance

The charitable company, which is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)) on 18 May 2011 and is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1142095).

The sole member of the company, and thus its parent entity, is DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)), set up by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, to safeguard the Vincentian ethos in various projects such as St Vincent's Family Project.

In the event of St Vincent's Family Project winding up, the member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Potential SVFP trustees are sourced via suggestions from the Chair, trustees and the Chief Executive. Potential candidates are then interviewed by the Chief Executive with an initial recommendation to the SVFP trustees. The next stage is for an interview by a trustee. The candidate is then asked to attend a trustees' meeting as an observer and asked to make a short statement to the trustees, followed by questions and answers by the candidate and trustees. The trustees take a majority vote on whether to accept the candidate as a trustee. A new trustee must be approved by the Board of DCSVP Services before they can be appointed. On appointment, the new trustee receives a short induction, and they are DBS checked.

The names of the trustees who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this report and financial statements and brief biographical details on each of the trustees are given below:

Ms Christina Asare-Owusu

Christina Asare-Owusu was a member of the congregation at the Methodist Central Hall for over 20 years, teaching in the Junior Church (J C Live!) for over 15 years. She was a member of the Church Council, the Events Committee, a Pastoral Leader, and the Secretary of the Friends of Westminster. She was also a School Governor and served on the Independent Education Appeals Panel for Wandsworth Council. She worked on the News Team at the Mail on Sunday. Christina sadly passed away in year.

Teresa Crowley

Teresa works as a Pastoral Liaison Officer and Careers Leader at Notre Dame School. In both roles she deals with outside agencies and is a school liaison for many different businesses, charities and local authority agencies. Teresa has a degree in Social Sciences and a Post Graduation Qualification in Careers Leadership. She loves her job at Notre Dame working on enrichment projects with the students which include programmes like: an art project around the First World War that was exhibited at The Guildhall, a dance project with Rambert which saw the students perform at their studio and writing a book of memories with the local elderly day centre.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Sister Liz Ferrie

Sister Liz Ferrie has served the Daughters of the Charity of St. Vincent De Paul for 53 years. She is both a qualified Nursery Nurse and RGN for adults. Her working life is one of caring for people of every age and conditions. She has also travelled considerably for her work for humanitarian causes. Having spent 6 years in Paris as English speaking Secretary she returned to England where she has been working on research for the Daughters of Charity.

Philippa Gitlin

Philippa Gitlin worked both as a CEO and trustee in the UK charity sector and served on 3 school governing bodies before retiring in 2010. Since then, she has served on the board of a French Charity addition to providing consultancy on governance to other charities in the UK. She was also until recently a trustee of FARA Foundation UK, a charity supporting services to severely disadvantaged children and families living in poverty in Romania.

Sister Kathleen Kennedy

Sister Kathleen Kennedy entered the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1966. She worked in residential child care for fourteen years, after which she ran a pre-school group in a primary school setting. She qualified as a teacher with Bachelor of Arts with Qualified Teacher Status (BAQTS) and taught in an inner city primary school for sixteen years. She worked as part of a city wide Evangelisation Team in Hull before being appointed to the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity.

Deacon Ali McMillan

Deacon of the Methodist Church at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Deacon Ali McMillan had been a Teacher in Secondary Schools and Sixth form colleges before joining the ministry. She has through her pastoral activities worked with all age ranges in the community.

Ifeoma Okafor

Ifeoma Okafor's first degree was in Microbiology, but she then went on to complete an MSc in Financial Economics and is now a Financial and Accounting Reporting Manager at Standard Chartered Bank PLC. She has a background in supporting charities work and coaching people into employment.

Joanna Wormell

Joanna Wormell, having completed a first degree in Russian, was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 2002. Since 2007 Joanna has worked for RBS and currently holds the position of Managing Director, Global Head of Compliance, Capital Resolution. Though a very experienced traveller she lives in South Westminster.

Rosemary Jackson

Rosemary Jackson works at MasterCard International and holds the position of Sr. Vice President, Real Time Payments Solutions. Working for Mastercard for 20 years, based out of Sydney, Singapore and now London with experience across various roles covering software management, customer project implementation, business analysis, migration of core banking systems, testing and release management, working closely with banks in the UK, Nordics & Baltics, Middle East Africa and Asia Pacific markets.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Tim Hassell

Tim Hassell is the Managing Director of Draker Lettings, a property lettings company in West London. From modest origins in Liverpool, Tim has always been motivated to pass on the kindness and support he experienced growing up and getting to where he is. He has been a Trustee for the Breast Cancer Trust and Robert Grace Trust before

Structure and management reporting

The ultimate responsibility for the charity lies with the trustees. The day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive. Meetings are held regularly with the trustees, service users and the staff team to ensure the quality of service and the aims of the charity are being met.

Key management

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The trustees have identified five main areas where risks may occur: governance and management, operational, financial, reputational and regulatory.

Governance and management look at the risk of the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members and staff, and the good use of its resources.

Operational looks at the risks inherent in the charity's activities including any potential shortcomings in the services provided, staffing, poor health and safety, and the disaster recovery plan, etc.

Financial risks include those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending, poor accounting, etc.

Reputational looks at possible damage to the charity's reputation.

Regulatory looks at the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations and poor risk assessment.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

However, they acknowledge also that the charity's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The charity has in place a risk management programme that seeks to identify and mitigate the effects of the risk on its finances. The principal financial risk remains the impact of the general economic conditions and its impact on charitable funding.

Whilst the current level of funding for 2023-2024 suggests that the charity will reach its income targets, the trustees remain mindful that continued efforts need to be made to attract new funding and additional income streams.

The other key risk for the charity, as identified by the trustees, arises because operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are directors of St Vincent's Family Project for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

- ♦ to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

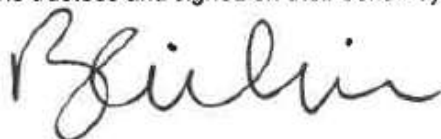
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the trustees confirms that:

- ♦ so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- ♦ the trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 25 September 2023

Independent auditor's report to the member of St Vincent's Family Project

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and notes to the financial statements. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 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 charitable company 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.

Conclusion 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 charitable company'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 and Financial Statements, 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.

Other information (continued)

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.

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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' 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
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small company's regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 the trustees 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'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.

Auditor's 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.

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.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the Senior Statutory Auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- ◆ we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- ◆ carried out substantive testing of expenditure including the authorisation thereof.
- ◆ reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions and substantiated these where appropriate; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

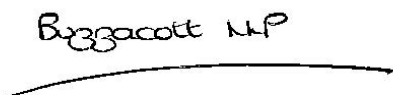
There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's member, 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 charitable company's member those matters we are required to state to it 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 charitable company and the charitable company's member, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

 Buzzacott LLP

Amanda Francis (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

11 October 2023

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) Year to 31 March 2023

	Notes	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income:							
Donations and grants (including Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding)	1	147,393	159,996	307,389	132,688	105,187	237,875
Bank interest		91	—	91	6	—	6
Crèche and Creative Art Therapy fees		—	5,291	5,291	—	25,482	25,482
Miscellaneous		5,232	78	5,310	120	—	120
Total income		152,716	165,365	318,081	132,814	130,669	263,483
Expenditure:							
Charitable activities							
. Provision of services to vulnerable families and children	2	156,622	203,724	360,346	150,838	163,440	314,278
Total expenditure		156,622	203,724	360,346	150,838	163,440	314,278
Net expenditure before transfers		(3,906)	(38,359)	(42,265)	(18,024)	(32,771)	(50,795)
Transfers between funds	9	(38,359)	38,359	—	(32,771)	32,771	—
Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year	3	(42,265)	—	(42,265)	(50,795)	—	(50,795)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2022		9,648	—	9,648	60,443	—	60,443
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2023		(32,617)	—	(32,617)	9,648	—	9,648

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

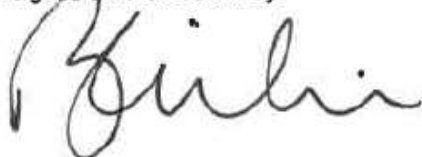
All of the charity's activities continued during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	6		2,020		—
Current assets:					
Debtors	7	16,542		24,569	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,853		52,037	
Total current assets		25,395		76,606	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(60,032)		(66,958)	
Net current (liabilities) assets			(34,637)		9,648
Total net (liabilities) assets			(32,617)		9,648
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	9		—		—
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			(32,617)		9,648
Total charity funds			(32,617)		9,648

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

Approved by the trustees on:

25th September 2023

St Vincent's Family Project – Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)

Statement of cash flows 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(40,491)	(55,162)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,693)	—
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(43,184)	(55,162)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2022	B	52,037	107,199
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2023	B	8,853	52,037

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2023

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow used in operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(42,265)	(50,795)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	673	1,275
Decrease (increase) in debtors	8,027	(19,608)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(6,926)	13,966
Net cash used in operating activities	(40,491)	(55,162)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	8,853	52,037

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	52,037	(43,184)	8,853

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2023 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The main judgement or estimate that has been made in these financial statements relates to the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets used in determining the annual depreciation charge.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees accept that the financial position of the charity continues to require careful monitoring, with a year ending in a deficit and with free reserves below that demanded by the charity's reserves policy.

The 2022-2023 year was an unusually challenging year, with the increased demand following the pandemic, as well as the economic crisis that impacted beneficiaries to the charity as well as funding for the year.

The trustees have planned to meet the challenges ahead with a revised structure and realistic fundraising plan for the year.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

In the meantime, the trustees of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (Charity Registration Number 236803) (see note 12) have confirmed that, if necessary, they will continue to provide financial and other support to the charity to enable it to remain a going concern in the short to medium term.

Given this, the trustees are of the opinion that St Vincent's Family Project will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charitable company is entitled to receipt, the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, grants, bank interest, crèche and creative art therapy fees, income from other trading activities, and miscellaneous income.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is credited to the statement of financial activities once the charitable company is entitled to the funding and the amount receivable has been quantified.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Donated goods are recognised at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably in which case a derived value, being the cost of the item to the donor, is used. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure except where the donated good is a fixed asset in which case the corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the charity's accounting policies.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income recognition (continued)

Income derived from the levying of charges for Crèche and Creative Art Therapy and income from trading activities is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts and rebates.

Miscellaneous income is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure on the provision of a safe and stimulating environment where parents and children can take part in activities together and as individuals.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charitable company that relate to the general running of the charitable company as opposed to those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day-to-day management of the charitable company's activities.

Costs are apportioned based on the number of sessions provided at the Family Project for each activity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £3,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

- ♦ Furniture and equipment 25% on cost
- ♦ Computer equipment 25% on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

General funds represent monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charitable company's charitable objects.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

1 Donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
Grants			
One Westminster	—	11,000	11,000
Young Westminster	—	23,118	23,118
Garfield Weston	—	15,000	15,000
St Marylebone	—	5,000	5,000
Westminster Amalgamated	—	7,500	7,500
Mercers Trust	—	21,570	21,570
Hyde Park Charitable Trust	—	5,000	5,000
Ironmongers	—	25,000	25,000
Mrs Smith & Mount Trust	—	5,000	5,000
Sisters of The Holy Cross	—	10,000	10,000
Swire Charitable Trust	20,000	—	20,000
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	31,808	31,808
London Catalyst	4,000	—	4,000
Westminster Foundation	10,000	—	10,000
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, Charitable Trust	40,000	—	40,000
John Lyons Charity	30,000	—	30,000
	104,000	159,996	263,996
Donations			
Methodist Central Hall	25,000	—	25,000
Other donations	18,393	—	18,393
	43,393	—	43,393
2023 Total funds	147,393	159,996	307,389

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Grants			
City of Westminster Trust	4,065	4,881	8,946
Westminster Foundation	11,928	—	11,928
Westminster Almshouses	10,000	—	10,000
Westminster Amalgamated	8,000	—	8,000
Ironmongers Foundation	—	50,000	50,000
Mercers Trust	—	5,640	5,640
St Marylebone Educational Trust	—	1,591	1,591
R L Glasspool	—	300	300
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	3,000	—	3,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross	15,000	—	15,000
Swire Charitable Trust	52,535	—	52,535
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	14,487	14,487
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000	—	10,000
Edward Harvest Trust	998	—	998
John Lyons Charity	30,000	—	30,000
Two Magpies	15,000	—	15,000
Hyde Park Place	5,000	—	5,000
	165,526	76,899	242,425
Donations			
Methodist Central Hall	16,680	—	16,680
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	60,000	—	60,000
Other donations	18,348	1,000	19,348
	95,028	1,000	96,028
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	28,888	—	28,888
2021 Total funds	289,442	77,899	367,341

2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Provision of services to vulnerable families and children						
Staff costs	93,477	130,698	224,175	85,051	112,196	197,247
Creative Arts Therapy	—	56,676	56,676	—	46,790	46,790
Family Space	—	8,340	8,340	—	4,454	4,454
Volunteer Space	1,056	—	1,056	3,080	—	3,080
Premises	28,267	8,010	36,277	33,643	—	33,643
Furniture and equipment	11,070	—	11,070	3,349	—	3,349
Insurance	2,676	—	2,676	3,505	—	3,505
Printing, postage, telephone and stationery	2,076	—	2,076	3,957	—	3,957
Recruitment and training	3,368	—	3,368	2,535	—	2,535
Travel and subsistence	25	—	25	32	—	32
Professional fees	4,112	—	4,112	3,982	—	3,982
Subscriptions	6,670	—	6,670	5,267	—	5,267
Governance costs	2,160	—	2,160	4,200	—	4,200
Miscellaneous	1,665	—	1,665	2,237	—	2,237
2023 Total funds	156,622	203,724	360,346	150,838	163,440	314,278

3 Net expenditure and net movement in funds for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs (note 4)	280,851	244,037
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
· Current year statutory audit services	3,120	4,920
Depreciation	673	1,275

As the charity is part of a large group, it is required to have its accounts audited rather than an independent examination. The difference between the independent examination fee and audit fee is £2,400, which has been paid by the parent charity, DC Services.

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	206,718	181,754
Pension costs	4,208	3,843
Social security costs	13,249	11,650
	224,175	197,247
Contract staff	56,676	46,790
	280,851	244,037

Included within wages and salaries are redundancy costs of £4,100 (2022 – nil). The average number of employees, based on head count, was 8 (2022 – 8) whereas the average number of employees, based on full time equivalents, was 7 (2022 – 7). There were no employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including benefits) during the year none (2022 – none).

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel (continued)

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The total remuneration (including taxable benefits and employer's pension contributions) of the key management personnel for the year was £62,807 (2022 - £59,574).

No of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services during either year (2022 – none). Expenses were £nil reimbursed to the trustees (2022 – none).

5 Taxation

St Vincent's Family Project is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022 and	5,099	—	5,099
Additions	—	2,693	2,693
Disposals	(5,099)	—	(5,099)
At 31 March 2023	—	2,693	2,693
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	5,099	—	5,099
Charge for year	—	673	673
On disposals	(5,099)	—	(5,099)
At 31 March 2023	—	673	673
Net book values			
At 31 March 2023	—	2,020	2,020
At 31 March 2022	—	—	—

7 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	16,542	21,173
Prepayments	—	3,396
	16,542	24,569

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	3,120	4,920
Amount due to Methodist Central Hall (note 11)	2,412	2,412
Social security and other taxes	—	3,916
Sundry creditors	—	710
Amount due to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (note 12)	29,500	—
Deferred income: grants received in advance (see below)	25,000	55,000
	60,032	66,958

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 April	55,000	45,000
Amounts released from previous years	(55,000)	(45,000)
Resources deferred in the year	25,000	55,000
Deferred income at 31 March	25,000	55,000

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance of the year to which they relate.

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds:

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Core cost transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Family Space Project	—	113,325	(113,325)	—	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	—	52,040	(90,399)	38,359	—
	—	165,365	(203,724)	38,359	—

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Core cost transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Family Space Project	—	65,266	(84,689)	19,423	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	—	65,403	(78,751)	13,348	—
	—	130,669	(163,440)	32,771	—

For those restricted funds which have allowances for “core costs”, the expenditure is charged to unrestricted funds which are then reimbursed via a transfer from restricted funds as shown above. The specific purposes for which the funds were received and applied in 2022 and 2023 are as follows:

Family Space Project

Funds provided to assist with the Family Space Project.

Creative Arts Therapy Project

Funds provided specifically as a contribution towards the costs associated with the Creative Arts Therapy Project.

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Fund balances are represented by:						
Fixed assets	2,020	—	2,020	—	—	—
Current assets	25,395	—	25,395	76,606	—	76,606
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(60,032)	—	(60,032)	(66,958)	—	(66,958)
Total net assets	(32,617)	—	(32,617)	9,648	—	9,648

11 Methodist Central Hall

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to Methodist Central Hall by virtue of the fact that one of its trustees is a senior employee and trustee of Methodist Central Hall. Two other trustees are active members of the Methodist Central Hall.

- ◆ During the year the Project contributed service charges to Methodist Central Hall of £5,844 (2022 - £5,844), £487 (2022 - £487) of which was accrued at the year end. In addition, the Project paid rent to Methodist Central Hall of £22,800 (2022 - £22,800). £1,900 (2022 - £1,900) of which was accrued at the year end.
- ◆ During the year Methodist Central Hall gave a donation of £25,000 (2022 – £Nil) to the Project for use in meeting core costs.

12 Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (the Trust) (a registered charity, Charity Registration No 236803 (England and Wales) and SC039155 (Scotland)) by virtue of the fact that certain of the trustees of the Trust are also trustees of DCSVP Services, the parent organisation of St Vincent's Family Project.

The Daughters have provided a 3-year grant to St Vincent's Family Project to the value of £40,000 per year commencing in this financial year. This grant is for core costs.

Cash flow loans of £29,500 was given by the Daughters to help with the cash flow of the Family Project and is repayable as soon as fund become available. Subsequent to year end, a further £25,000 has been provided.

St Vincent's Family Project is a subsidiary of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services, which prepares group accounts, including St Vincent's Family Project. The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services will pay £2,400 of the audit fee for The St Vincent's Family Project (2022: £1,100). See note 3 for further detail. The registered office address of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul Services is St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL.

13 Related party transactions

During the year, trustees made no donations to the charity (2022 –none). There are no other related party transactions requiring disclosure (2022 – none).

14 Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2023 the charity had the following future minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of a photocopier:

	2023 £	2022 £
Leases which expire:		
. Within one year	2,467	2,626
. Between one and five years	9,868	2,626
	12,335	5,252

15 Liability of member

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up its member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

16 Control

Control of the charitable company lies with its member and parent entity, DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)). The registered office of DCSVP Services is Provincial House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1RE. The financial statements of DCSVP Services can be obtained from the registered office of DCSVP Services is Provincial House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1RE. The financial statements of DCSVP Services can be obtained from the registered office.

Accounts



St Vincent's Family Project

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2022

Charity Registration Number
1142095

Company Registration Number
07638620 (England and Wales)



'We love St. Vincent's Family Project and my daughter had been asking when she can 'go back to school' meaning the Family Space. For us it has been like a school because we have learnt so much.'

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Reference and administration details 31 March 2022

Patron	Lady Viola G Grosvenor
Trustees	Ms Christina Asare-Owusu (Appointed 07.11.2013) Teresa Crowley (Appointed 07.12.2020) Sister Liz Ferrie DC (Appointed 05.05.2021) Philippa Gitlin (Appointed 10.06.2019) Sister Kathleen Kennedy DC (Appointed 04.12.2020) Deacon Ali McMillan (Appointed 07.12.2020) Ifeoma Okafor (Appointed 10.06.2019) Rosemary Jackson (Appointed 23.03.2022) Joanna Wormell (Appointed 13.07.2021)
Principal office	The Methodist Central Hall Storey's Gate Westminster London SW1H 9NH
Telephone:	020 7654 5351
Facsimile:	020 7654 6902
Company registration number	07638620 (England and Wales)
Charity registration number	1142095
Chief Executive	Andrew Varley
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 4th Floor 2½ Devonshire Square London EC2M 4XJ
Solicitors	Wedlake Bell LLP 52 Bedford Row London WC1R 4LR

Trustees' report Year to 31 March 2022

The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP or the Project) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and constitutes a directors' report for the purposes of company legislation.

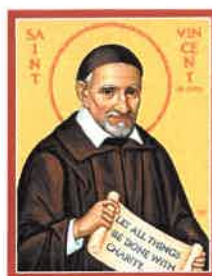
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 28 to 31 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

History

St Vincent's Family Project has its origins with the Spanish government, who in 1975 set up a neighbourhood programme staffed by Spanish Daughters of Charity to work with families from Spain who were living in London. They provided them with support and formed a community to help these young families. This eventually expanded to include all families within the area, when the UK Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul became involved in the project in 1996. The project has been based at Methodist Central Hall for the last fifteen years. It now occupies two compact floors within the Hall, having expanded its usage space about six years ago due to an increase in its provision. SVFP maintains a strong relationship with the Methodist Central Hall Church and two members hold trustee positions with us.

The need for our work

South Westminster is an area of contrast between wealth, history and power alongside stark social deprivation. Areas in Churchill and St James wards are both within the top 10% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. It is in area with high pay gaps and homelessness. There are many different communities and languages spoken sitting amongst the poverty, debt and insecure housing; social isolation is a significant problem in the area. Families with very young children have all the pressures of early parenthood, so it is unsurprising we see relationship conflicts, huge emotional stress on families leading often to mental and physical health problems. Various evidence shows that children in Westminster fare less favourably when it comes to obesity, oral hygiene, well-being, risk of involvement in crime and homelessness.



Principal aims

St Vincent's Family Project aims to support families in Westminster especially those who are experiencing difficulties. The Project aims to address the issues of parenting, child welfare and social exclusion by providing services for parents and children. Our project works to develop resilience in families in their early years to have a lasting impact on their futures. It aims to offer an experience of community that inspires, supports and enables positive change in the lives of those who use its services.

These aims reflect the purposes for which the charity was set up.

Public benefit

The aims, objectives and activities of the Project are reviewed each year. As part of this process, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The review of activities illustrates the ways in which the charity serves the public benefit.

Values

St Vincent's Family Project has six Vincentian values that underpin our direct work with families and children. These are:

We are Respectful: We celebrate the uniqueness of the individual. We welcome diversity and treat everyone non-judgmentally with equal care and attention.

We are Inspired: We are committed to the nurturing of families in the belief that positive change is possible in a caring and loving environment. We seek to empower people to meet their full potential.

We are Travellers Together: We are privileged to accompany families through a significant part of their journey. They are the heart of our charity, and we work with them in a spirit of mutuality and friendship, always ready to listen and learn from them.

We are Professional: We aim for the highest of standards in our work drawing upon 'best practice' principles and programmes. We will always seek to improve the way we do things.

We are Holistic: We are concerned for the different aspects of people's lives and will provide support wherever possible. We seek to be alert to identify emerging needs and respond to them in a flexible and creative way.

We are Compassionate: We use our resources for the benefit of the families always taking care to make our services affordable and accessible.

Family Space

Family Space is open daily to local families with children (from 0-5) offering a range of facilities, activities, programmes and support available. Any family can come in on our Drop-In days, where children can use the Sensory Room, Ball Pool and different toys and books in a safe environment, whilst parents can meet in a friendly community. Staff and volunteers are there to welcome families and make them feel comfortable.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

Family Space (continued)

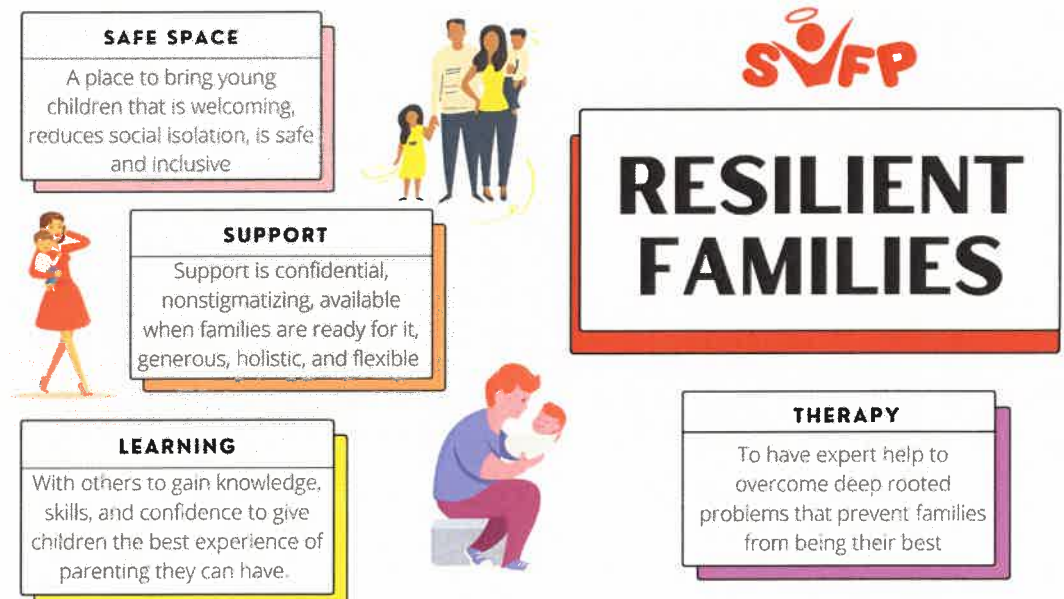
Each year we offer a range of activities that support learning, and our staff can help parents identify any issues around their child's learning and language at an early stage. We have a dedicated Sensory Room for support with children who may have special educational needs.

For parents, throughout the year we offer a range of parenting courses designed to fit different needs, in group settings, which help parents to realise they are not alone in the many challenges and responsibilities facing them.

We also have programmes to help families with preparing nutritional, affordable meals for young children, including dealing with issues such as having fussy eaters, obesity and oral hygiene.

We offer a crèche to families who need support to allow them to have time to do other things. We have offered free massage, exercise classes and other options for parents who need a break.

Our staff also provide one to one support for vulnerable families struggling with complex issues, typically, finances, poor housing, relationship and health breakdowns, including mental health. They give time and practical help to deal with problems or support the families to bring in additional, specialist support. St. Vincent's Family is part of the South Westminster Family Hub, working closely with a range of partner agencies to strengthen the support families receive.



Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy

Many children in school struggle because of emotional, mental or behavioural issues. For very young children this is extremely hard to understand and to articulate in order to get help. St Vincent's Family Project provides creative arts therapy for young children in local primary schools. Using drama, arts or dance, our therapists support young children to use play to express themselves, in which the therapist then helps them to further express the things that are causing them to struggle, become aware and take control of them. We use both experienced, qualified therapists to help children in the greatest difficulty as well as supervised students for children with less intense problems.

Our therapists work closely with schools, carers or parents and can provide group work and online family therapy sessions.



Volunteer Space – we have a robust volunteering programme that provides a range of volunteering activities for local residents, corporations, therapeutic placements, student interns and those wanting to make a difference within the community.

- ◆ Roles include direct work with families, administration, marketing and fundraising.
- ◆ Volunteers can see how a charity works within an urban, hyper-diverse context.
- ◆ Volunteers discover our Vincentian values and can incorporate them and their corresponding behaviours into their good reflective practice.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Equal opportunities

St Vincent's Family Project strives to apply the principle of equal opportunities throughout the organisation, and to that end regularly reviews its Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy.

The charity is pleased to welcome families, especially those experiencing difficulties, irrespective of age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, gender, religion or status. Its aim is always to help those who would otherwise find themselves marginalised and excluded from the means of support they need.

The charity aims to apply equal opportunities for both paid staff and volunteers.

Safeguarding

The charity recognises the need to protect children from harm and promote their welfare and to that end maintains a robust Child Safeguarding Policy.

All staff and volunteers are required to be checked through the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and receive training in child and adult protection and safeguarding issues. As part of their induction process, they are required to read the charity's policies within the Employee Handbook and/or SVFP Policy Folder.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on SVFP

Our provision has been significantly affected by the Covid-19 again this year. In April 2021 we had just restarted having therapists go into schools again following the lockdown from the beginning of the year, and we were providing a mix of online and limited face to face sessions. For families, this compounded the stress of being isolated during the previous 12 months and one of the things we focused on was providing as many physical activities as possible during the summer. With support from Change4Life we finished the summer with a 3-day Olympics for families held in St. James Park.

At the start of the autumn term, we had a new post in our structure of Therapy Programme Manager. This was created to support the increasing demand from schools and from families for support with mental health issues, exacerbated by the two years. During the year we supported 5 additional schools (11 in total) and created therapy programmes for parents, both for group work and one to one using creative arts therapies. Our September programme was beginning to look more like our pre Covid-19 programme with face-to-face activities 5 days a week, with therapists starting in the local schools.

We were still using online meetings and sessions, but there was a significant return to face-to-face work. Because we had worked, if more intensively, with fewer families than before the pandemic, we were anxious that we were losing the numbers we previously had, which was true of many organisations. So, we focused on some outreach work in particular areas and started to plan to return to having an open Drop-In, i.e., where families could just call in without having to make an appointment. Unfortunately, a rise in Covid-19 cases, anxiety over the Omicron variant and some staff illness in early January meant we put off our Drop-In relaunch until April 2022. Westminster has one of the poorest vaccine take up in the country so other than affecting how we worked, we have also worked to engage families resistant or unsure about the vaccine, to consider valid reasons for taking it up.

Achievements and performance

Impact of Family Space in 2021-2022

Numbers benefiting from offered programmes

- ◆ We supported 66 families this year.
- ◆ 46 have English as a second language.
- ◆ 27 are single parent families.
- ◆ 22 different nationalities.



Activity/Programme	Numbers attending
Parenting Programme	27
Healthy Living Programme	26
One to one support	31
Group Therapy	5
One-to-one therapy	11
Crèche	49
My Bilingual Child Course	8

Achievements and performance (continued)

Other activities

In January 2022, we felt able to have our first external trip out with families since before March 2020.

Between January and March 2022, we took families to the Horniman and Docklands Museum and to the Chickenshed Theatre.

Summer Olympics

Notable for being our first big group activity since the start of the pandemic, we had a 3-day event for families which included friendly competitions, art and picnics. We were very well supported by Change4Life in putting this together and providing 'medals' to our young athletes.

Christmas 2021

Although social restrictions and the rise in Covid-19 cases limited us, we were able to provide some Christmas celebrations with our families. This included a trip to the Chelsea Theatre to see the Dick Whittington pantomime, a visit to Winter Wonderland and our grotto. We are extremely grateful to the support for tickets, children's presents, Christmas decorations and food/provision hampers.

Partnerships

Strategically, SVFP continued to be part of the Integrative Leadership Team that forms the South Westminster Family Hub of Early Years services. Again it has been helpful to be part of this to track the changing situation with Covid-19 and how other services interpreted and responded to changes to guidelines. We have also been actively involved in contributing the boroughs Early Years strategy for the next 3 years from 2022.

It has been a good year for operational partnerships to support families. The Cardinal Hume Centre and Shelter we have worked with around support requiring specialist legal knowledge and help for different families. The Westminster Food Bank, Pret A Manager, Westminster Abbey Centre have supported our help with families in food poverty. We partner with St. Marylebone Educational Trust to support families with school age children with the costs of uniform and equipment.

Change4Life partnered with SVFP this year which helped us deliver programmes and events such as our summer Olympic Games as well as supporting staff training. This programme was developed as part of our focus on health and wellbeing.

One to one Support

This year saw another increase in the number of families we have provided one-to-one support to. This is where a family has issues other than around parenting and/or has multiple issues. Typically, these are housing, income, relationship conflicts, many involving support to advocate for families and help steer them through administration and processes. As almost half of our families' parents don't have English as a first language some support here is common as is emotional support, simply because of the cumulative effect of pressures on families.

Achievements and performance (continued)

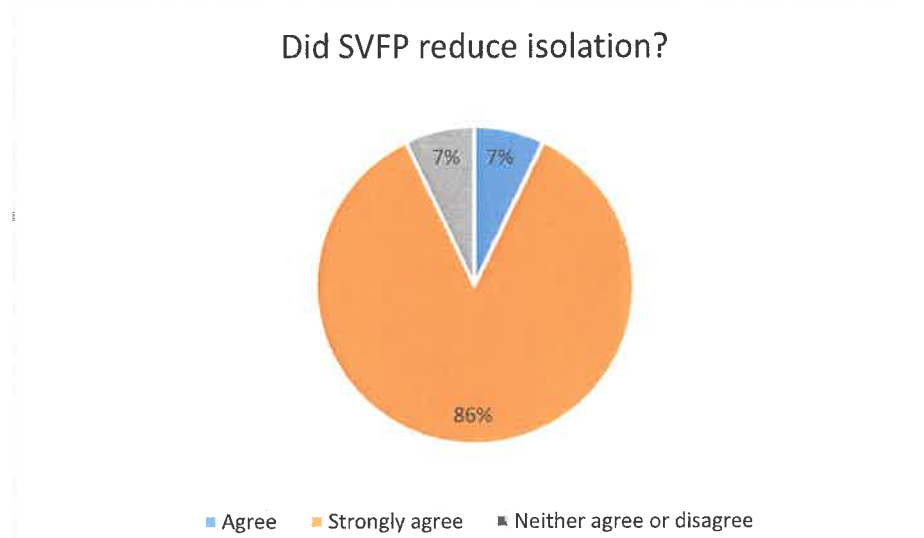
One to one Support (continued)

18 of the 31 families receiving one to one support also had other, mainly statutory services, involved. Generally, our experience of partnership working again has been positive which has helped families who have been anxious about dealing with them.

As with the previous year we have continued to do what we can to support families on low incomes struggling with the increased cost of living. We were very grateful to the Marylebone Educational Trust who provided a grant of £2,000 to be distributed to our families for school uniforms as well as other supporters providing food, provisions, children's clothing, nappies, Christmas gifts as well as individual emergency grants.

Outcomes and feedback from families

We asked families to give feedback on five main questions but asked them to make other comments also.



"Meeting the other parents gave me confidence and allowed me to socialise, also allowed my son to socialise and build his confidence "

"I don't have any family around. I feel connected with other people by joining SVFP programs, drop ins and crèches."

"I love SVFP, they have really been my support system from the past 3 years. They really do make parenting easier and the support is always good. "

"The project has helped through difficult times in my life, the staff always check up on me and my child "

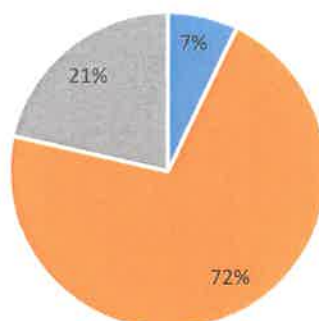
"Every little helps and having a few bubble sessions certainly helped during a difficult time but it also felt overly restricted when all early years settings were reopened but SVFP wasn't.

They were helping a lot during Covid time with the bubble sessions"

Achievements and performance (continued)

Outcomes and feedback from families (continued)

Reduce Stress, depression and anxiety



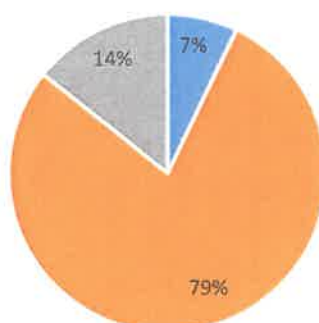
■ Neither agree or disagree ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree

"I was in a domestic abuse relationship, part of this was that my ex was controlling me through the fact he knew I needed help with childcare. SVFP crèche and groups have gave me the freedom to work and not rely on my abusive ex. He now only has contact with our child through a third party and I have no direct contact with him, this wouldn't have been possible without the SVFP crèche. "

"In the last 3 months it's been wonderful knowing there is proper support back. I wanted to choose 'strongly agree' as it massively helped but there were also big gaps where I felt let down due to overly draconian restrictions that felt out of proportion "

"They help a lot with crèche which allows us free time to organise personal appointments like physiotherapy...also through their programs (positive parenting...)"

Improve parenting confidence

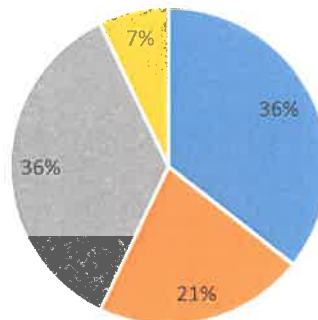


■ Neither agree or disagree ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree

Achievements and performance (continued)

Outcomes and feedback from families (continued)

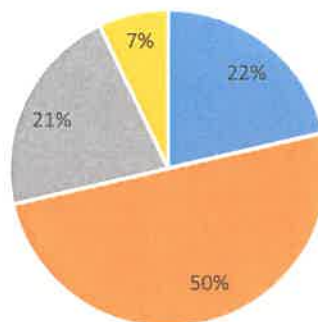
Reduce family conflict



■ Neither agree or disagree ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree

"I feel a great extension to the great therapy provision would be to add some couples' therapies too. Love SVFP's holistic approach but it would be better to include the couple together where necessary."

Improved children's Development



■ Neither agree or disagree ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree

"Socialising with other children at a similar age has helped build my son's confidence and he is saying more words than he did before"

"My children improve their communication, language and socialisation here."

Achievements and performance (continued)

Outcomes and feedback from families (continued)

Other comments:

"Yes, my little one and I feeling very satisfied with the team and the way they treat little ones."

"Thank you for the work you do and the services you offer, it is really a life save for people who are not eligible for other services/ can't afford childcare"

"I think of them as my family when I don't have any here in this country"

"Before Covid, SVFP was a lifeline. Helped me cope with PND, provided a safe space to talk, great sensory and other development options for my baby/toddler, provided much-needed respite with courses and crèche, also enabling real friendships to be formed during those sessions that weren't possible at other playgroups."

Pandemic has changed our ways to live, and the truth is you neither can I say what is the best or the worst. However, I think that there should be more options for little ones to stay connected and play with each other instead of staying with their mothers."

Thank you for the work you do and the services you offer, it is really a life save for people who are not eligible for other services/ can't afford childcare

I think them as my family when I don't have any here in this country

It's my second home"

"I feel that SVFP's strength is connecting people, but also supporting family units of many descriptions in a holistic manner, particularly focusing on the mother's wellbeing which is completely overlooked in this country both medically and otherwise. It provides validation as well as encourages good parenting practices and creates networks of supportive friendships that are crucial to raising a child in a city away where one can feel isolated, particularly but not only, being away from a bigger family structure. I feel immense gratitude to SVFP for being my London family, pulling me out of some very dark times and helping me be the good mother I want to be."

Creative Arts Therapy

The year started for us with recruiting for a Therapy Programme Manager to help with our aim to increase the provision of creative arts therapy to young children and vulnerable families in our area. Having seen the benefits of online therapy during Covid-19 to parents, we wanted to use it much more broadly given the negative mental health impact of the pandemic. Noelle Adames, an experienced Dramatherapist, was appointed and has managed our therapeutic offer since late summer, where we have seen a big growth in the mental health support we have previously offered.

We continue to work in local primary schools, and this also has increased and this year, as well as arts or dramatherapy with individual children and their families, we provided support to an entire school year, including staff, following a bereavement. At that school 60 individuals received some form of therapy.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Creative Arts Therapy (continued)

Of the 10 other schools, this year we had 43 children receiving therapy. There was about the same number of boys to girls receiving therapy.

12 families also received therapy this year. We had groups sessions at our project and also at the Bessborough Hub (formerly Children's Centre). Setting up the groups timed with the anxieties around the Omicron variant and the rise in Covid cases around the New Year. With the general struggle to encourage families to come out again, this is lower than we would like, but are confident this will be easier for the coming year.

We have been very lucky, not just with Noelle, but with great therapists and, this year 3 student therapists.

Volunteer space

We have a small staff team at SVFP and very much rely upon volunteers and students to support our work. Volunteers come from different backgrounds with a range of skills and experience, providing help across different aspects of our work.

The volunteers were involved across a range of activities including online and face to face parenting courses, one-to-one support, fitness sessions, bubble (group) sessions, Drop-In sessions, crèche, outreach, database management, back office.

Dental workshops and events such as sports day, social media and communication. This year we had 20 volunteers in total including 4 students who came for a voluntary placement and voluntary internship. This equated to 2,554 hours of volunteered time to the charity, valued at £28,221.7 (based on London Living Wage).

In addition, 9 Trustees gave time outside of the scheduled board meetings and planning days during the year.

All of our volunteers are able to be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred on behalf of the charity.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Fundraising

Because of the surplus we had at the beginning of the year, we were less active with fundraising this year. Our main source of income came from funders who were either local with an interest and knowledge of Westminster and our work. More directly affected still by Covid-19 was income from individual donations, events and other activities, because of restrictions and later, a lack of confidence of people returning to normal lives.

We are hoping for the start of Spring to be the return to being able to be more active and have greater numbers coming through our doors.

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year to 31 March 2022 is given on page 25 of this annual report and financial statements.

During the year, income totalled £263,483, (2021 - £372,035) of which £130,669 (2021 - £82,100) was restricted. Donation income amounted to £237,875, (2021 - £367,341). A good deal of our income at the start of the year came from the previous year's efforts so we started the year very well and have continued to be able to meet our expenditure target, mainly through grants and donations from local Trust funds. We received support towards our development of online family therapy for families in Westminster impacted by Covid-19 and as noted, partnered the Marylebone Educational Trust to supply grants for school items for families with children of that age.

Expenditure totalled £314,278 (2021 - £269,027) and included staff costs of £244,037, (2021 - £205,363), premises costs of £33,643 (2021 - £31,436), and recruitment and training costs of £2,535 (2021 - £722).

Financial position

At 31 March 2022, the charity had total funds of £9,648. (2021 - funds of £60,443). Of this total, £nil (2021 - £nil) were restricted funds held for specific purposes as specified by the donor. Unrestricted funds were £9,648 (2021 - £60,443), with free reserves (unrestricted funds excluded tangible fixed assets) amounting to £9,648

Reserves policy

The charity is highly committed to ensuring a continuing service to the children and families reliant on its services. In order to provide sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in cash flows and to respond to unforeseen events, the trustees aim to maintain general reserves equal to at least three months of expenditure, which equates to approximately £79,000.

The trustees acknowledge that whilst there is a shortfall for the free reserves requirement, the charity has generated sufficient general funds to eliminate the accumulated deficit brought forward and has almost met the target to have at least three month's expenditure in reserves.

Financial review (continued)

Going concern assessment and response to Covid-19

The Project continued to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic during the 2021-2022 year, especially around Christmas and New Year.

From April 2022, the Project was able to remove all social distancing measures, with the intention of bringing families back in and restore the community it had before the pandemic began. It also launched a focused outreach of families around South Westminster, who may have not been out or who were new families. The Project believes this will start to increase our numbers and over the coming year become closer to what it was before March 2020.

The Project continues to have good relationships with supporters and its increased work in several schools means it has an enhanced role to play in how they manage the well-being of their pupils. Our therapy programme has benefitted from having a dedicated Programme Manager and is looking to continue to offer a range of programmes to meet the different needs of children and families,

The Project was again reliant on Trust funds during 2021-2022, but with social distancing restrictions ending, it is hopeful to carry out different activities and have events which will add some diverse income sources.

Future plans

Through 2022-23, St Vincent's Family Project will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ Continue to develop or offer creative arts therapy to improve the mental health well-being of families and children
- ◆ To reach out to as many vulnerable families, isolated during the pandemic, to be aware of us and to encourage them to come to restore the project as a community for families
- ◆ Provide a new range of fun health related programmes for families and children, including support to families affected by Covid-19
- ◆ Develop a package of help that will support families most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis
- ◆ Embed our Dad's Space programme to encourage fathers to be involved in parenting and get support when they need
- ◆ Revisit our plans for broadening sources of income e.g., by utilising our space more, or through joint initiatives with partners.

Governance, structure and management

Governance

The charitable company, which is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)) on 18 May 2011 and is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1142095).

The sole member of the company, and thus its parent entity, is DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)), set up by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, to safeguard the Vincentian ethos in various projects such as St Vincent's Family Project.

In the event of St Vincent's Family Project winding up, the member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Potential SVFP trustees are sourced via suggestions from the Chair, trustees and the Chief Executive. Potential candidates are then interviewed by the Chief Executive with an initial recommendation to the SVFP trustees. The next stage is for an interview by a trustee. The candidate is then asked to attend a trustees' meeting as an observer and asked to make a short statement to the trustees, followed by questions and answers by the candidate and trustees. The trustees take a majority vote on whether to accept the candidate as a trustee. A new trustee must be approved by the Board of DC services before they can be appointed. On appointment, the new trustee receives a short induction, and they are DBS checked.

The names of the eight trustees who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this report and financial statements and brief biographical details on each of the trustees are given below:

Ms Christina Asare-Owusu

Christina Asare-Owusu has been a member of the congregation at the Methodist Central Hall for over 20 years, teaching in the Junior Church (J C Live!) for over 15 years. She is a member of the Church Council, the Events Committee, a Pastoral Leader, and the Secretary of the Friends of Westminster. She is also a School Governor and serves on the Independent Education Appeals Panel for Wandsworth Council. She works on the News Team at the Mail on Sunday.

Teresa Crowley

Teresa works as a Pastoral Liaison Officer and Careers Leader at Notre Dame School. In both roles she deals with outside agencies and is a school liaison for many different businesses, charities and local authority agencies. Teresa has a degree in Social Sciences and a Post Graduation Qualification in Careers Leadership. She loves her job at Notre Dame working on enrichment projects with the students which include programmes like: an art project around the First World War that was exhibited at The Guildhall, a dance project with Rambert which saw the students perform at their studio and writing a book of memories with the local elderly day centre.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Sister Liz Ferrie

Sister Liz Ferrie has served the Daughters of the Charity of St. Vincent De Paul for 53 years. She is both a qualified Nursery Nurse and RGN for adults. Her working life is one of caring for people of every age and conditions. She has also travelled considerably for her work for humanitarian causes. Having spent 6 years in Paris as English speaking Secretary she returned to England where she has been working on research for the Daughters of Charity.

Philippa Gitlin

Philippa Gitlin worked both as a CEO and trustee in the UK charity sector and served on 3 school governing bodies before retiring in 2010. Since then, she has served on the board of a French Charity addition to providing consultancy on governance to other charities in the UK. She was also until recently a trustee of FARA Foundation UK, a charity supporting services to severely disadvantaged children and families living in poverty in Romania.

Sister Kathleen Kennedy

Sister Kathleen Kennedy entered the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1966. She worked in residential child care for fourteen years, after which she ran a pre-school group in a primary school setting. She qualified as a teacher with Bachelor of Arts with Qualified Teacher Status (BAQTS) and taught in an inner city primary school for sixteen years. She worked as part of a city wide Evangelisation Team in Hull before being appointed to the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity.

Deacon Ali McMillan

Deacon of the Methodist Church at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Deacon Ali McMillan had been a Teacher in Secondary Schools and Sixth form colleges before joining the ministry. She has through her pastoral activities worked with all age ranges in the community.

Ifeoma Okafor

Ifeoma Okafor's first degree was in Microbiology, but she then went on to complete an MSc in Financial Economics and is now a Financial and Accounting Reporting Manager at Standard Chartered Bank PLC. She has a background in supporting charities work and coaching people into employment.

Joanna Wormell

Joanna Wormell, having completed a first degree in Russian, was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 2002. Since 2007 Joanna has worked for RBS and currently holds the position of Managing Director, Global Head of Compliance, Capital Resolution. Though a very experienced traveller she lives in South Westminster.

Rosemary Jackson

Rosemary Jackson works at MasterCard International and holds the position of Sr. Vice President, Real Time Payments Solutions. Working for Mastercard for 20 years, based out of Sydney, Singapore and now London with experience across various roles covering software management, customer project implementation, business analysis, migration of core banking systems, testing and release management, working closely with banks in the UK, Nordics & Baltics, Middle East Africa and Asia Pacific markets.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting

The ultimate responsibility for the charity lies with the trustees. The day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive. Meetings are held regularly with the trustees, service users and the staff team to ensure the quality of service and the aims of the charity are being met.

Key management

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In addition to the risks associated with Covid-19 (see above), the trustees have identified five main areas where risks may occur: governance and management, operational, financial, reputational and regulatory.

Governance and management look at the risk of the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members and staff, and the good use of its resources.

Operational looks at the risks inherent in the charity's activities including any potential shortcomings in the services provided, staffing, poor health and safety, and the disaster recovery plan, etc.

Financial risks include those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending, poor accounting, etc.

Reputational looks at possible damage to the charity's reputation.

Regulatory looks at the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations and poor risk assessment.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management (continued)

However, they acknowledge also that the charity's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The charity has in place a risk management programme that seeks to identify and mitigate the effects of the risk on its finances. The principal financial risk remains the impact of the general economic conditions and its impact on charitable funding.

Whilst the current level of funding for 2022-2023 suggests that the charity will reach its income targets, the trustees remain mindful that continued efforts need to be made to attract new funding and additional income streams.

The other key risk for the charity, as identified by the trustees, arises because operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are directors of St Vincent's Family Project for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the trustees confirms that:

- ◆ so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- ◆ the trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Philippa Gittlin



Trustee

Approved by the trustees on:

4 November 2022

Independent auditor's report to the member of St Vincent's Family Project

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and notes to the financial statements. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 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 charitable company 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.

Conclusion 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 charitable company'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 and Financial Statements, 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.

Other information (continued)

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.

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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' 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
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small company's regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 the trustees 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'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.

Auditor's 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.

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.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the Senior Statutory Auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- ◆ we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011) and safeguarding regulations.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- ◆ carried out substantive testing of expenditure including the authorisation thereof.
- ◆ reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions and substantiated these where appropriate; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

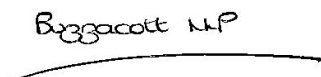
There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's member, 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 charitable company's member those matters we are required to state to it 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 charitable company and the charitable company's member, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

 Buzzacott LLP

Amanda Francis (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

12 December 2022

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) Year to 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income:							
Donations and grants (including Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding)	1	132,688	105,187	237,875	289,442	77,899	367,341
Bank interest		6	—	6	28	—	28
Crèche and Creative Art Therapy fees		—	25,482	25,482	—	4,201	4,201
Miscellaneous		120	—	120	465	—	465
Total income		132,814	130,669	263,483	289,935	82,100	372,035
Expenditure:							
Charitable activities							
. Provision of services to vulnerable families and children	2	150,838	163,440	314,278	145,839	123,188	269,027
Total expenditure		150,838	163,440	314,278	145,839	123,188	269,027
Net (expenditure) income before transfers		(18,024)	(32,771)	(50,795)	144,096	(41,088)	103,008
Transfers between funds	9	(32,771)	32,771	—	(27,990)	27,990	—
Net (expenditure) income and net movement in funds for the year	3	(50,795)	—	(50,795)	116,106	(13,098)	103,008
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2021		60,443	—	60,443	(55,663)	13,098	(42,565)
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2022		9,648	—	9,648	60,443	—	60,443

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities continued during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	6		—		1,275
Current assets:					
Debtors	7	24,569		4,961	
Cash at bank and in hand		52,037		107,199	
Total current assets		76,606		112,160	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(66,958)		(52,992)	
Net current assets (liabilities)			9,648		59,168
Total net assets (liabilities)			9,648		60,443
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	9		—		—
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			9,648		60,443
Total charity funds			9,648		60,443

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:

Philippa Gittin

[Signature]

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on:

4 November 2022

St Vincent's Family Project – Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)

Principal accounting policies 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash (outflow)flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	(55,162)	111,682
Cash flows from financing			
Repayment of loan		—	(60,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(55,162)	51,682
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2021	B	107,199	55,517
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2022	B	52,037	107,199

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2022

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow provided by operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	(50,795)	103,008
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	1,275	1,275
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(19,608)	5,700
Increase in creditors	13,966	1,699
Net cash provided by operating activities	(55,162)	111,682

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	52,037	107,199

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	107,199	(55,162)	52,037

Principal accounting policies 31 March 2022

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2022 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The main judgement or estimate that has been made in these financial statements relates to the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets used in determining the annual depreciation charge.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees accept that the financial position of the charity continues to require careful monitoring with free reserves still below that demanded by the charity's reserves policy.

The period since the onset of Covid-19 saw the charity increase its income following previous years when it had finished the year in deficit. During that time, it established a good relationship with funders who understood the charity and provided regular support and showed flexibility during the pandemic. Going forward the charity is looking to develop more long-term relationships with funders, as well as diversifying other streams, for example increasing its donations stream, which was limited during the pandemic.

The trustees recognise that maintaining and increasing income will be challenging, but the charity's work continues to be essential, especially given the cost-of-living-crisis, impacting families on low incomes.

The charity utilised the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for a short while

Assessment of going concern (continued)

In the meantime, the trustees of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (Charity Registration Number 236803) (see note 12) have confirmed that, if necessary, they will continue to provide financial and other support to the charity to enable it to remain a going concern in the short to medium term.

Given this, the trustees are of the opinion that St Vincent's Family Project will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charitable company is entitled to receipt, the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, grants, bank interest, crèche and creative art therapy fees, income from other trading activities, and miscellaneous income.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is credited to the statement of financial activities once the charitable company is entitled to the funding and the amount receivable has been quantified.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Donated goods are recognised at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably in which case a derived value, being the cost of the item to the donor, is used. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure except where the donated good is a fixed asset in which case the corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the charity's accounting policies.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income derived from the levying of charges for Crèche and Creative Art Therapy and income from trading activities is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts and rebates.

Miscellaneous income is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure on the provision of a safe and stimulating environment where parents and children can take part in activities together and as individuals.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charitable company that relate to the general running of the charitable company as opposed to those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day-to-day management of the charitable company's activities.

Costs are apportioned based on the number of sessions provided at the Family Project for each activity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £3,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

- ♦ Furniture and equipment 25% on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

General funds represent monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charitable company's charitable objects.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

1 Donations and grants (including Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £
Grants			
City of Westminster Trust	—	4,000	4,000
Westminster Foundation	—	11,000	11,000
Westminster Almshouses	15,000	—	15,000
Westminster Amalgamated	—	8,000	8,000
ESC Lottery Fund	—	4,000	4,000
Mercers Trust	—	21,030	21,030
St Marylebone Educational Trust	—	2,000	2,000
Mrs LD Rope 3 rd Charity	—	15,000	15,000
Quaker Social Action	—	1,486	1,486
Strand Parishes	—	400	400
Young Westminster	—	8,186	8,186
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	15,000	30,085	45,085
DPC	5,000	—	5,000
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	40,000	—	40,000
Strand Parishes	5,000	—	5,000
John Lyons Charity	30,000	—	30,000
	110,000	105,187	215,187
Donations			
Other donations	6,286	—	6,286
	6,286	—	6,286
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	16,402	—	16,402
2022 Total funds	132,688	105,187	237,875

1 Donations and grants (including Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding) (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Grants			
City of Westminster Trust	4,065	4,881	8,946
Westminster Foundation	11,928	—	11,928
Westminster Almshouses	10,000	—	10,000
Westminster Amalgamated	8,000	—	8,000
Ironmongers Foundation	—	50,000	50,000
Mercers Trust	—	5,640	5,640
St Marylebone Educational Trust	—	1,591	1,591
R L Glasspool	—	300	300
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	3,000	—	3,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross	15,000	—	15,000
Swire Charitable Trust	52,535	—	52,535
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	14,487	14,487
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000	—	10,000
Edward Harvest Trust	998	—	998
John Lyons Charity	30,000	—	30,000
Two Magpies	15,000	—	15,000
Hyde Park Place	5,000	—	5,000
	165,526	76,899	242,425
Donations			
Methodist Central Hall	16,680	—	16,680
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	60,000	—	60,000
Other donations	18,348	1,000	19,348
	95,028	1,000	96,028
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	28,888	—	28,888
2021 Total funds	289,442	77,899	367,341

2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Provision of services to vulnerable families and children						
Staff costs	85,051	112,196	197,247	83,932	94,874	178,806
Creative Arts Therapy	—	46,790	46,790	—	26,558	26,558
Family Space	—	4,454	4,454	—	1,756	1,756
Volunteer Space	3,080	—	3,080	76	—	76
Premises	33,643	—	33,643	31,436	—	31,436
Furniture and equipment	3,349	—	3,349	8,855	—	8,855
Insurance	3,505	—	3,505	3,350	—	3,350
Printing, postage, telephone and stationery	3,957	—	3,957	3,821	—	3,821
Recruitment and training	2,535	—	2,535	722	—	722
Travel and subsistence	32	—	32	—	—	—
Professional fees	3,982	—	3,982	3,531	—	3,531
Subscriptions	5,267	—	5,267	1,882	—	1,882
Governance costs	4,200	—	4,200	6,624	—	6,624
Miscellaneous	2,237	—	2,237	1,610	—	1,610
2022 Total funds	150,838	163,440	314,278	145,839	123,188	269,027

3 Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs (note 4)	244,037	205,364
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
. Current year statutory audit services	4,920	6,624
. Previous year	—	1,044
Depreciation	1,275	1,275

As the charity is part of a large group, it is required to have its accounts audited rather than an independent examination. The difference between the independent examination fee and audit fee is £1,100, which has been paid by the parent charity, DC Services.

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	181,754	164,811
Pension costs	3,843	3,518
Social security costs	11,650	10,477
	197,247	178,806
Contract staff	46,790	26,558
	244,037	205,364

The average number of employees, based on head count, was 8 (2021 – 7) whereas the average number of employees, based on full time equivalents, was 7 (2021 – 6). There were no employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including benefits) during the year (2021 – none).

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The total remuneration (including taxable benefits and employer's pension contributions) of the key management personnel for the year was £59,574 (2021 - £58,719).

No of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services during either year (2021–none). Expenses were £Nil reimbursed to the trustees (2021–none).

5 Taxation

St Vincent's Family Project is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2021 and at 31 March 2022	5,099
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2021	3,824
Charge for year	1,275
At 31 March 2022	5,099
Net book values	
At 31 March 2022	—
At 31 March 2021	1,275

7 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	21,173	4,961
Prepayments	3,396	—
	24,569	4,961

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	4,920	5,580
Amount due to Methodist Central Hall (note 11)	2,412	2,412
Social security and other taxes	3,916	—
Sundry creditors	710	—
Deferred income: grants received in advance	55,000	45,000
	66,958	52,992
	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income at 1 April	45,000	45,000
Amounts released from previous years	(45,000)	(45,000)
Resources deferred in the year	55,000	45,000
Deferred income at 31 March	55,000	45,000

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance of the year to which they relate.

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds:

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Core cost transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Family Space Project	—	65,266	(84,689)	19,423	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	—	65,403	(78,751)	13,348	—
	—	130,669	(163,440)	32,771	—

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Core cost transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Family Space Project	—	63,112	(65,572)	2,460	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	13,098	18,988	(57,616)	25,530	—
	13,098	82,100	(123,188)	27,990	—

For those restricted funds which have allowances for “core costs”, the expenditure is charged to unrestricted funds which are then reimbursed via a transfer from restricted funds as shown above. The specific purposes for which the funds were received and applied in 2021 are as follows:

Family Space Project

Funds provided to assist with the Family Space Project.

Creative Arts Therapy Project

Funds provided specifically as a contribution towards the costs associated with the Creative Arts Therapy Project.

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Fund balances are represented by:						
Fixed assets	—	—	—	1,275	—	1,275
Current assets	76,606	—	76,606	112,160	—	112,160
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(66,958)	—	(66,958)	(52,992)	—	(52,992)
Total net assets	9,648	—	9,648	60,443	—	60,443

11 Methodist Central Hall

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to Methodist Central Hall by virtue of the fact that one of its trustees is a senior employee and trustee of Methodist Central Hall. Two other trustees are active member of the Methodist Central Hall.

- ◆ During the year the Project contributed service charges to Methodist Central Hall of £5,844 (2021 - £5,844), £487 (2021 - £487) of which was accrued at the year end. In addition, the Project paid rent to Methodist Central Hall of £22,800 (2021 - £22,800). £1,900 (2021 - £1,900) of which was accrued at the year end.
- ◆ During the year Methodist Central Hall gave a donation of £Nil (2021 – £16,680) to the Project for use in meeting core costs.

12 Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (the Trust) (a registered charity, Charity Registration No 236803 (England and Wales) and SC039155 (Scotland)) by virtue of the fact that certain of the trustees of the Trust are also trustees of DCSVP Services, the parent organisation of St Vincent's Family Project.

The Daughters have provided a 3-year grant to St Vincent's Family Project to the value of £40,000 per year commencing in this financial year. This grant is for core costs. DC Services contributed to the audit fee of St Vincent's Family Project during the year, as outlined in note 3.

13 Related party transactions

During the year, no trustee made donations to the charity of £nil (2021 – one trustee donated £300). There are no other related party transactions requiring disclosure (2021 – none).

14 Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2022 the charity had the following future minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of a photocopier:

	2022 £	2021 £
Leases which expire:		
· Within one year	2,626	2,626
· Between one and five years	2,626	5,252
	<u>5,252</u>	<u>7,878</u>

15 Liability of member

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up its member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

16 Control

Control of the charitable company lies with its member and parent entity, DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)). The registered office of DCSVP Services is Provincial House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1RE. The financial statements of DCSVP Services can be obtained from the registered office.

Accounts



St Vincent's Family Project

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2021

Charity Registration Number
1142095

Company Registration Number
07638620 (England and Wales)



' just getting a call from staff to ask how I am was nice and helped me to ground myself. Having the WhatsApp group and doing sessions such as baking has been great.'

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Patron	Lady Viola G Grosvenor
Trustees	Mr Anthony Aldridge (Resigned 01.06.2020) Ms Christina Asare-Owusu (Appointed 07.11.2013) Sister Margaret Barrett DC (Resigned 07.12.2020) Teresa Crowley (Appointed 07.12.2020) Sister Liz Ferrie DC (Appointed 05.05.2021) Philippa Gitlin (Appointed 10.06.2019) Leezah Hertzmann (Resigned 05.10.2020) Dr Rosemary Keenan (Resigned 01.01.2020) Sister Kathleen Kennedy DC (Appointed 4.12.2020) Deacon Ali McMillan (Appointed 07.12.2020) Judith Mitchell (Resigned 01.06.20) Ifeoma Okafor (Appointed 10.06.2019) Sister Teresa Tighe (Resigned 01.06.2020) Joanna Wormell (Appointed 13.07.2021)
Principal office	The Methodist Central Hall Storey's Gate Westminster London SW1H 9NH
Telephone:	020 7654 5351
Facsimile:	020 7654 6902
Company registration number	07638620 (England and Wales)
Charity registration number	1142095
Chief Executive	Andrew Varley
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 4th Floor 2½ Devonshire Square London EC2M 4XJ
Solicitors	Wedlake Bell LLP 52 Bedford Row

Reference and administration details 31 March 2020

London
WC1R 4LR

Trustees' report Year to 31 March 2021

The trustees present their statutory report together with the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP or the Project) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and constitutes a directors' report for the purposes of company legislation.

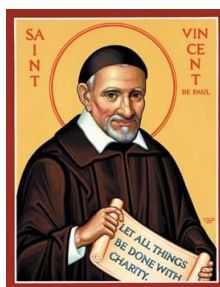
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 34 of the attached financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

History

St Vincent's Family Project has its origins with the Spanish government, who in 1975 set up a neighbourhood programme staffed by Spanish Daughters of Charity to work with families from Spain who were living in London. They provided them with support and formed a community to help these young families. This eventually expanded to include all families within the area, when the UK Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul became involved in the project in 1996. The project has been based at Methodist Central Hall for the last fifteen years. It now occupies two compact floors within the Hall, having expanded its usage space about six years ago due to an increase in its provision. SVFP maintains a strong relationship with the Methodist Central Hall Church and three members hold trustee positions with us.

The need for our work

South Westminster is an area of contrast between wealth, history and power alongside stark social deprivation. Areas in Churchill and St James wards are both within the 2015 top 10% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. It is an area with high pay gaps and homelessness. There are many different communities and languages spoken sitting amongst the poverty, debt and insecure housing; social isolation is a significant problem in the area. Families with very young children have all the pressures of early parenthood, so it is unsurprising we see relationship conflicts, huge emotional stress on families leading often to mental and physical health problems. Various evidence shows that children in Westminster fare less favourably when it comes to obesity, oral hygiene, well-being, risk of involvement in crime and homelessness.



Principal aims

St Vincent's Family Project aims to support families in Westminster especially those who are experiencing difficulties. The Project aims to address the issues of parenting, child welfare and social exclusion by providing services for parents and children. Our project works to develop resilience in families in their early years to have a lasting impact on their futures. It aims to offer an experience of community that inspires, supports and enables positive change in the lives of those who use its services.

These aims reflect the purposes for which the charity was set up.

Public benefit

The aims, objectives and activities of the Project are reviewed each year. As part of this process, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The review of activities illustrates the ways in which the charity serves the public benefit.

Values

St Vincent's Family Project has six Vincentian values that underpin our direct work with families and children. These are:

We are Respectful: We celebrate the uniqueness of the individual. We welcome diversity and treat everyone non-judgmentally with equal care and attention.

We are Inspired: We are committed to the nurturing of families in the belief that positive change is possible in a caring and loving environment. We seek to empower people to meet their full potential.

We are Travellers Together: We are privileged to accompany families through a significant part of their journey. They are the heart of our charity and we work with them in a spirit of mutuality and friendship, always ready to listen and learn from them.

We are Professional: We aim for the highest of standards in our work drawing upon 'best practice' principles and programmes. We will always seek to improve the way we do things.

We are Holistic: We are concerned for the different aspects of people's lives and will provide support wherever possible. We seek to be alert to identify emerging needs and respond to them in a flexible and creative way.

We are Compassionate: We use our resources for the benefit of the families always taking care to make our services affordable and accessible.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies

Family Space

Family Space is open daily to local families with children (from 0-5) offering a range of facilities, activities, programmes and support available. Any family can come in on our Drop-In days, where children can use the Sensory Room, Ball Pool and different toys and books in a safe environment, whilst parents can meet in a friendly community. Staff and volunteers are there to welcome families and make them feel comfortable.

Each year we offer a range of activities that support learning and our staff can help parents identify any issues around their child's learning and language at an early stage. We have a dedicated Sensory Room for support with children who may have special educational needs.

For parents, throughout the year we offer a range of parenting courses designed to fit different needs, in group settings, which help parents to realise they are not alone in the many challenges and responsibilities facing them.

We also have programmes to help families with preparing nutritional, affordable meals for young children, including dealing with issues such as having fussy eaters, obesity and oral hygiene.

We offer a crèche to families who need support to allow them to have time to do other things. We have offered free massage, exercise classes and other options for parents who need a break.

Our staff also provide one to one support for vulnerable families struggling with complex issues, typically, finances, poor housing, relationship and health breakdowns, including mental health. They give time and practical help to deal with problems or support the families to bring in additional, specialist support. St. Vincent's Family is part of the South Westminster Family Hub, working closely with a range of partner agencies to strengthen the support families receive.



Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Creative Arts and Drama Therapy

Many children in school struggle because of emotional, mental or behavioural issues. For very young children this is extremely hard to understand and to articulate in order to get help. St Vincent's Family Project provides creative arts therapy for young children in local primary schools. Using drama, arts or dance, our therapists support young children to use play to express themselves, in which the therapist then helps them to further express the things that are causing them to struggle, become aware and take control of them. We use both experienced, qualified therapists to help children in the greatest difficulty as well as supervised students for children with less intense problems.

Our therapists work closely with schools, carers or parents and can provide group work and online family therapy sessions.



Volunteer Space – we have a robust volunteering programme that provides a range of volunteering activities for local residents, corporations, therapeutic placements, student interns and those wanting to make a difference within the community.

- ◆ Up to 50 volunteers per annum.
- ◆ Roles include direct work with families, administration, marketing and fundraising.
- ◆ Volunteers can see how a charity works within an urban, hyper-diverse context.
- ◆ Volunteers discover our Vincentian values and are able to incorporate them and their corresponding behaviours into their good reflective practice.

Activities, specific objectives and relevant policies (continued)

Equal opportunities

St Vincent's Family Project strives to apply the principle of equal opportunities throughout the organisation, and to that end regularly reviews its Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy.

The charity is pleased to welcome families, especially those experiencing difficulties, irrespective of age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, gender, religion or status. Its aim is always to help those who would otherwise find themselves marginalised and excluded from the means of support they need.

The charity aims to apply equal opportunities for both paid staff and volunteers.

Safeguarding children

The charity recognises the need to protect children from harm and promote their welfare and to that end maintains a robust Child Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding adults

Many of the families who use the services of St Vincent's Family Project are vulnerable for a range of reasons. A Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse Policy seeks to protect adults from any kind of exploitation or abuse.

All staff and volunteers are required to be checked through the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and receive training in child and adult protection and safeguarding issues. As part of their induction process, they are required to read the charity's policies within the Employee Handbook and/or SVFP Policy Folder.

During this year SVFP invested in an online safeguarding management system, MyConcern, which made management of safeguarding concerns achievable working remotely. Indeed the system is an improvement on our previous manual one, helping with information sharing, reporting and having access to a lot of online support and advice.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on SVFP

The year gone has been dominated by the impact of Covid-19 with the first lockdown in place before the year had started. Most of our plans and activities changed substantially through the year and we were forced, like many others, into finding new ways to provide support to vulnerable families and children.

Family Space

With the closure of our project due to the lockdown we were, at the start of the year, unable to provide any of our regular services, activities or programmes.

During the first weeks of the pandemic we provided support and direction to families using telephone, e-mail and social media. Much of this included help to access food, basic essentials and information relating to Covid-19 and lockdown. And, families still needed support around housing, parenting, relationship and other issues they were struggling with.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on SVFP (continued)

Family Space (continued)

Our staff were now working from home and we had begun learning to use social media platforms to provide support including holding group sessions online for the first time.

We realised at the beginning a lot of our families had no, or limited access, to the internet so with supporters we were able to donate laptops to families which made an enormous difference to the help and services they could receive.

By the summer we could see many families were getting frustrated at being in social isolation. By this point, with help from the Facilities Team at the Methodist Central Hall, we were able to begin to see families for respite, and keep them Covid-19 safe. This was a great outlet for families and also allowed us to gain experience of having Covid-19 safe programmes, so by the autumn we were able to offer a blended programme of virtual and face to face Family Space.

The autumn programme included our first Group Parenting Programme of the year, alongside Community 'bubbles' of small family groups, a crèche as well as one to one sessions. Our crèche focussed on nature, thus taking children into the park and therefore giving them much needed physical activity, as well as learning and social interaction.

Throughout the summer we had not been able to use our many and valued volunteers, but in the autumn of 2020 we again needed them, albeit in smaller numbers because of the social distancing restrictions.

Family Space, given more familiarity with online help, was able to provide activities for exercise and cooking, such as a recipe challenge. Previously they had been at our project aimed at parents, but because they were being done at home online, they were adapted to include children and have turned out to be beneficial to all the family members.

Though not possible to hold our Christmas party for families we did provide a Covid-19 safe Grotto with Santa, Elves and donated gifts from especially generous supporters.

Unfortunately because of the lockdown in place by the start of 2021, we decided to suspend our face to face activities to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, which was especially high in central London. However, we continued to improve our ability to offer online services and though the lockdown was severe for families, the programmes have been positive and well received.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on SVFP (continued)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16 November	17 November	18 November	19 November	20 November
Tele hotlines/ advice/ support 9.00 am – 3.00 pm Community bubble 10.30am – 12.00pm 1.00pm – 2.30pm	PPP 10.30am-11.00am 11.00 - 11.30am Community bubble 10.30am – 12pm 1.00pm – 2.30pm	Community bubble 10.30am – 12pm 1.00pm – 2.30pm	Curiosity Nature crèche 10.30am – 12pm Community bubble 1.00-2.30pm	ZOOM Fitness Class 11.00-11.30am 11.45am – 12.15pm Felicity's Live ZOOM Baby massage
23 November	25 November	26 November	27 November	28 November
Tele hotlines/ advice/ support 9.00 am – 3.00 pm Community bubble 10.30am – 12.00pm 1.00pm – 2.30pm	PPP 10.30am-11.00am 11.00 - 11.30am Community bubble 10.30am – 12pm 1.00pm – 2.30pm	Community bubble 10.30am – 12pm 1.00pm – 2.30pm	Curiosity Nature crèche 10.30am – 12pm Community bubble 1.00-2.30pm	ZOOM Fitness Class 11.00-11.30am 11.45am 12.15pm Felicity's Live ZOOM Baby massage

(Example of a blended programme over 2 weeks (Nov.2020))

Achievements and performance

Impact of Family Space in 2020-2021

51 families received support

Numbers benefiting from offered programmes

Parenting programme or advice	29
Toddler learnings zoom	9
Healthy Living zoom	11
Bubble session	22
Nature crèche	21
One to one support	30
Total	122

One to One Support

In 2019-2020 Family Space helped 175 families, mostly through the group courses and programmes it ran throughout the year, with many other families visiting the project and joining in the community and activities. One to one support had been increasing but had to be managed with a few severely struggling families on top of all that.

With the complete change Covid-19 has brought we have seen far fewer families but have been providing closer, more intense, one to one work through the period. This is simply because we have had more capacity added to the additional stress on already vulnerable families.

A great deal has been around emotional support, particularly managing fraught family relationships. Each family we worked with had a key support worker from our staff as well as a volunteer who they could talk to on a regular basis through the period, which for most was critical when feeling isolated.

We have also, although we are not specialist welfare advisors, been far more involved in helping families with financial issues, of course made keener by the lockdowns. Some of our achievements for the families included:

- ◆ Emergency grant donation for individual families:
- ◆ Furniture grants from Eaton Foundation for 2 families (table and chairs, beds and mattress; rugs; children desks; wardrobes)
- ◆ 2 pushchairs from Salvation Army
- ◆ Supply of nappies and pull ups from Little Village
- ◆ 13 donations of laptops
- ◆ A grant of £1,500 from St. Marylebone Educational Trust to be used for our families for school uniforms/equipment.
- ◆ From £430 - £930 one off payment in Sainsbury voucher for 21 families from Covid-19 Respite Fund.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Impact of Family Space in 2020-2021 (continued)

Partnerships

We continued this year to work closely with partner agencies of the South Westminster Family Hub. The one to one Family Space work saw most families having different professionals involved with regular 'team around the family' meetings taking place, albeit online for much of the year.

The partnership was critical through the year as we were able to co-ordinate services to best meet the needs of families during Covid-19. Support in accessing laptops and, at the start of lockdown, ensuring families received food and basic items was managed via partnerships. At the start of the year the Family Hub incorporated Youth Services into its group, which practically helps where families have children of varied ages, but also intergrates strategic planning better for families.

Case Study for Family Space

This is an interview carried out prior to Mother's Day 2021, asking one of our mum's what her experience of Covid-19 was.

♦ *How has Covid-19 made being a mum different from the previous year?*

'The first word that comes to mind is 'intense'. Online schooling meant all the girls had to change their routines, and I as a parent had to be responsible for them logging on and doing the work etc. Before lockdown I had one-to-one time with L, but during the pandemic I found myself spread thinly trying to meet all their needs.

Having children of different age ranges was difficult: my teenager wanted space, the toddler wanted to be doing things and then I had to make sure I gave time to the middle child too.

The SVFP sessions were really important for L because small children get agitated without social interaction and lose out on their development. It feels like a whole year of development has been lost.

My 16-year-old's education was really disrupted. She missed out on celebrating end of term after her GCSEs and her Beauty college course has been very slow because she can't work on practical things. She has found studying in an overcrowded flat difficult because she is living with an active toddler. It has been a very de-motivating year for teenagers who have been left uncertain about their future.'

♦ *What has been the worst thing about the pandemic for you?*

'The intensity has put a strain on relationships, particularly with N. Before, we both could have gone out to cool off or get support from our networks.

We have found it difficult to deal with each other's flaws. Before you could let things go, but being together 24/7, small imperfections become major. Also just feeling responsible for all the relationships is hard.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Impact of Family Space in 2020-2021 (continued)

Case Study for Family Space (continued)

What has been the worst thing about the pandemic for you? (continued)

I have auto immunity problems and caught Covid-19. That was very hard and the recovery was painful.'

♦ *What positives have there been from this year?*

'Me and my eldest went to such a dark place this year but have now come out. I have learnt to value the time I have had with my children and got to know them better than I would have. Before they would spend hours at school, and with feeding and sleeping etc., we didn't have as much time together.

Especially with N, before the pandemic I thought she didn't need me as much, but I now realise she does need me still a bit.'

♦ *How have you coped during this time?*

'Particularly at the beginning I was able to do some cycling. I really appreciated the one hour of exercise outdoors.

Finding out how funny my children are and really seeing their different personalities has been enjoyable.

SVFP support's; just getting a call from staff to ask how I am was nice and helped me to ground myself. Having the WhatsApp group and doing sessions such as baking has been great.'

♦ *What are you most looking forward to when the pandemic is over?*

'Being able to go on outings. Before I would have taken trips with girls, say to London Zoo, for granted. I want to be able to take them to see more places. Doing the small things like going for a hot chocolate with them and walking through the parks.'

♦ *What will you be doing on Mothers' Day?*

'If my kids make me a cup of tea and toast. that would be great! But I have come to think more about my responsibility for loving myself. I have to do things to make myself happy. I might have a workout in the morning. Maybe do something Italian for dinner, like Spaghetti Bolognese or Lasagne.'

Creative Arts Therapy

The Impact of Covid-19 on Creative Arts and Dramatherapy

With the first lockdown of the year, along with our Family Space, local schools also closed down, preventing our therapists from continuing. In the first few months we were very concerned that the progress made was not completely lost, so maintained contact with families, schools and other agencies including giving art/drama related activities for children to do during lockdown.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Creative Arts Therapy (continued)

The Impact of Covid-19 on Creative Arts and Dramatherapy (continued)

Our Lead Therapist created some online programmes for using household items for families to do art with their children, which were very popular in the early part of lockdown.

During the summer, rather than wait for schools to re-open, with support we invested in developing online family therapy and by the end of the summer we were using our arts and drama therapy to help families in Westminster, something which the donations of laptops greatly helped. Our Lead Therapist gained a certificate following a summer course on providing only therapy.

We carried on providing this even after the schools re-opened and have retained this provision to date. Our therapists are still learning and developing their skills, but we have learnt the online option gives us an extra flexibility which allows us to do important work with families we otherwise would not be able to do. For parents with limited time availability this provided a release from the pressures they faced during Covid-19 which did not put another burden upon them.

Schools Provision

When schools re-opened in autumn 2020 our therapists were able to go back into most of them. One in particular chose not to increase the risk of the virus spreading so would not allow visiting services to come. Certainly we found schools to be under pressure given the increased stress on the children coming to them, so support has been critical.

Again the lockdown from the January term hindered the progress we had started to make, but we were able to work with some children who were in schools as well as using online therapy where this was appropriate.

By the end of the year we worked with 7 schools. They are Westminster Cathedral School, St. Clement Danes, St. Matthews, St Joseph's, Burdette Coutts, St. Vincent De Paul, All Souls Primary School, St. Gabriel's and St. Peter's Eaton Square.

Clinical Placement Provision

At the beginning of the year we have had therapy students from the University of Hertfordshire and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama whose placements have been affected by the changes in social distancing rules. One began working at our project in the autumn until the lockdown rules came into place. They have been able to carry on with schools work and their placements have been extended to allow for them to catch up on getting face to face experience. Given the extra pressure on schools we are very pleased to have them, although their work is closely supervised so they work with children appropriate for their level of experience.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Volunteer space

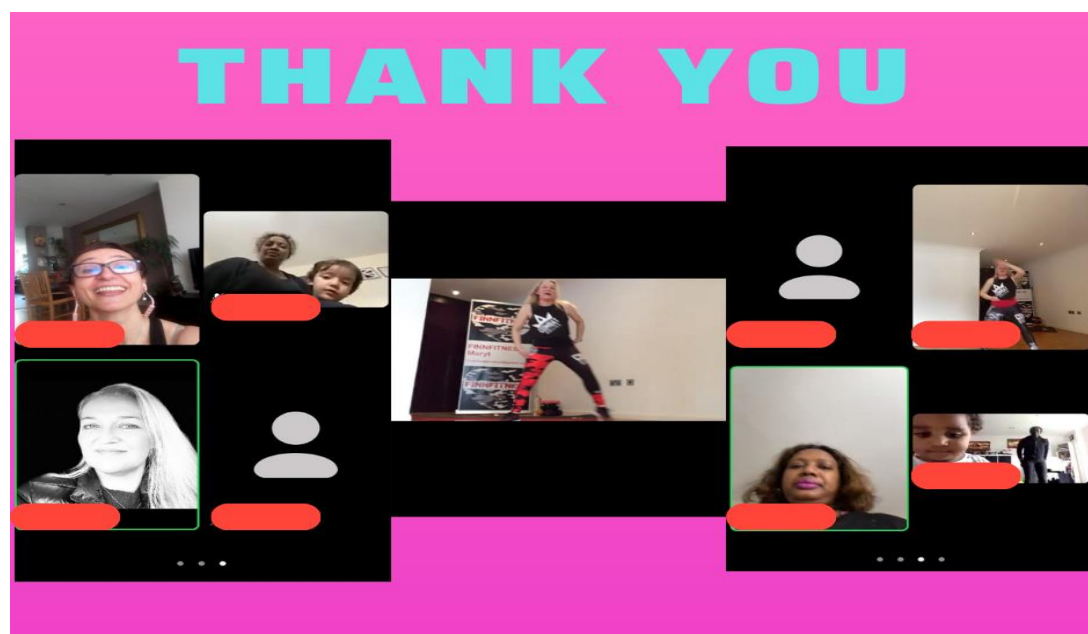
Volunteers continue to be the heart of our team. This includes local residents, London-based Therapeutic Placements, UK and international student interns. We offer our valued volunteers an induction programme, training opportunities when appropriate, regular supervisions, and consider them as part of the service delivery team. They have opportunities to do direct face-to-face work with our families and to support our back office operations, including fundraising and marketing, database management, and help with events. Volunteers are making a positive impact in our families' lives, and support our charity to achieve our goals and mission. In return, they get many different skills which help them with their confidence, learn to understand how a small charity operates, and benefit from getting to know the local community.

The pandemic has affected the volunteering as most of our face to face work had to be reduced. However, the charity has quickly adapted and many volunteers have been involved in providing phone and online support to our families, facilitating online toddlers and parenting groups, and exercise classes. Thanks to the involvement of local volunteers, the project was able to deliver small face to face support groups for vulnerable families and deliver outdoor crèche. In addition, volunteers played a key part in organising a socially distanced Christmas grotto for our vulnerable families.

Impact for 2020/2021

- ◆ 12 volunteers in total
- ◆ 870 hours of volunteered time to the charity, valued at £9,439.00
- ◆ 8 trustees gave time outside of the scheduled board meetings and planning days during the year

All of our volunteers are able to be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred on behalf of the charity.



Achievements and performance (continued)

Quality Assurance

This year we have not used our outcomes evaluation due to the limited provision we have been able to deliver. Because of Covid-19. We use therapists who are qualified, have membership of a recognised professional body and receive continuing clinical supervision. All our student therapists are managed and supervised according to placement agreements with their places of education. Our Parenting Programmes all have evaluation methodologies recognised by the Early Intervention Foundation and our Therapy uses the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire Framework.

Fundraising

The Impact of Covid-19 on fundraising

Initially following the first lockdown there was a great deal of uncertainty about how supporters would respond, and some initially were struggling to meet up to decide causing some delay to decisions. Through the year we have seen a mix of funders who have not been able to donate or changed their funding to Covid-19 related activities or who were extremely generous or flexible in their support of charities.

We had planned to carry out a number of activities at our project during the year to increase the diversity and amount of income we had, but these have been completely suspended because of lockdown. Income from our crèche, using donations, events and online fundraising have been badly affected too.

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year to 31 March 2021 is given on page 28 of this annual report and financial statements.

During the year, income totalled £372,035 (2020 - £214,403) of which £82,100 (2020 - £120,470) was restricted. Donation income amounted to £367,341 (2020 - £189,655). A good deal of our income at the start of the year came from the previous year's efforts so we started the year very well and have continued to be able to meet our expenditure target, mainly through grants and donations from local Trust funds. We received support towards our development of online family therapy for families in Westminster impacted by Covid-19 and, as noted, partnered the Marylebone Educational Trust to supply grants for school items for families with children of that age.

Expenditure totalled £269,027 (2020 - £277,854) and included staff costs of £205,363 (2020 - £210,077), premises costs of £31,436 (2020 - £32,841), and recruitment and training costs of £722 (2020 - £3,078).

Financial position

At 31 March 2021, the charity had total funds of £60,443 (2020 - deficit funds of £42,565). Of this total, £nil (2020 - £13,098) were restricted funds held for specific purposes as specified by the donor. Unrestricted funds were £60,443 (2020 in deficit -£55,663), with free reserves (unrestricted funds excluded tangible fixed assets) amounting to £59,168.

Financial review (continued)

Reserves policy

The charity is highly committed to ensuring a continuing service to the children and families reliant on its services. In order to provide sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls in income due to timing differences in cash flows and to respond to unforeseen events, the trustees aim to maintain general reserves equal to at least three months' of expenditure, which equates to approximately £67,000.

The trustees acknowledge that whilst there is a slight shortfall for the free reserves requirement, the charity has generated sufficient general funds to eliminate the accumulated deficit brought forward and has almost met the target to have at least three month's expenditure in reserves.

Going concern assessment and response to Covid-19

Since March 2020, the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak had spread worldwide and caused extensive disruptions to businesses as well as economic activities globally with no exception for the UK.

From the end of February 2020, having been at capacity on a regular basis with up to 30 families regularly coming to the Family Space Drop-In, following the start of the spread of COVID-19 numbers dropped dramatically to a third of that. On 17 March following the Government direction, Family Space and our programmes all closed. By the end of the month schools were unable to allow children into their buildings for our therapy work to continue and some staff had been furloughed. We started providing support and information to families through the use of Zoom and other social media platforms.

The Project starts they year in a good financial position, with well-developed relationships with key partners and supporters. Following the year gone we are, like other services, expecting an increased demand on our service, both in terms of families coming out of lockdown and the needs arising through that. Particularly mental health, the impact of lockdown on children's development and the economic effect will, we expect, hit our families hard in the coming months.

Although we will expect to retain our core provision to families, because it works, we do want to build from our increased one to one work and use of therapy to provide more intensive support, without losing the community activities and group programmes which many families benefit from and enjoy.

We have recruited a new Therapy Programme Manager to help us develop our therapy offer, not just to schools but to our families with younger children.

During the last year we have relied even more so on grants and donations from supporters, with little or no opportunity to create fundraising events or develop alternate sources of income through our activities. Anticipating that lockdown will ease and we can return to 'normal' activities, this year we expect to return to these and also look for new opportunities, which had been part of our plans before the pandemic struck.

Future plans

Through 2021-22, St Vincent's Family Project will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ To continue to review our Covid-19 risk assessment so we can provide services to families safely to our maximum capacity.
- ◆ Continue to utilise online services as part of our offer, either as separate programmes or blended with face to face programmes.
- ◆ Develop a (free) membership model, that allows us to categorise and therefore manage better the different levels of need in our project e.g. families requiring intensive support are Gold Members, users of group programmes are Silver, users of Drop-In and activities are Bronze members. This will help us to clarify the targeting of resources.
- ◆ Embed the Therapy Programme Manager post to improve our therapeutic offer.
- ◆ Revisit our plans for broadening sources of income e.g. by utilising our space more, or through joint initiatives with partners.
- ◆ To improve our capacity at meeting the needs of families in economic hardship at an early stage. That is to be preventative, rather than develop a specialism in welfare advice.
- ◆ To continue to develop learning and development opportunities for staff and volunteers, including additional online courses, development of Vincentian Values programme and more use of Family Hub training.
- ◆ To fill our Board places and to improve the diversity of trustees.

Governance, structure and management

Governance

The charitable company, which is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)) on 18 May 2011 and is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1142095).

The sole member of the company, and thus its parent entity, is DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)), set up by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, to safeguard the Vincentian ethos in various projects such as St Vincent's Family Project.

In the event of St Vincent's Family Project winding up, the member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Potential SVFP trustees are sourced via suggestions from the Chair, trustees and the Chief Executive. Potential candidates are then interviewed by the Chief Executive with an initial recommendation to the SVFP trustees. The next stage is for an interview by a trustee. The candidate is then asked to attend a trustees' meeting as an observer and asked to make a short statement to the trustees, followed by questions and answers by the candidate and trustees. The trustees take a majority vote on whether to accept the candidate as a trustee. On appointment, the new trustee receives a short induction and they are DBS checked.

The names of the eight trustees who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this report and financial statements and brief biographical details on each of the trustees are given below:

Ms Christina Asare-Owusu

Christina Asare-Owusu has been a member of the congregation at the Methodist Central Hall for over 20 years, teaching in the Junior Church (J C Live!) for over 15 years. She is a member of the Church Council, the Events Committee, a Pastoral Leader, and the Secretary of the Friends of Westminster. She is also a School Governor and serves on the Independent Education Appeals Panel for Wandsworth Council. She works on the News Team at the Mail on Sunday.

Teresa Crowley

Teresa works as a Pastoral Liaison Officer and Careers Leader at Notre Dame School. In both roles she deals with outside agencies and is a school liaison for many different businesses, charities and local authority agencies. Teresa has a degree in Social Sciences and a Post Graduation Qualification in Careers Leadership. She loves her job at Notre Dame working on enrichment projects with the students which include programmes like: an art project around the First World War that was exhibited at The Guildhall, a dance project with Rambert which saw the students perform at their studio and writing a book of memories with the local elderly day centre.

Sister Liz Ferrie

Sister Liz Ferrie has served the Daughters of the Charity of St. Vincent De Paul for 53 years. She is both a qualified Nursery Nurse and RGN for adults. Her working life is one of caring for people of every age and conditions. She has also travelled considerably for her work for humanitarian causes. Having spent 6 years in Paris as English speaking Secretary she returned to England where she has been working on research for the Daughters of Charity.

Philippa Gitlin

Philippa Gitlin worked both as a CEO and trustee in the UK charity sector and served on 3 school governing bodies before retiring in 2010. Since then she has served on the board of a French Charity addition to providing consultancy on governance to other charities in the UK. She is currently also a trustee of FARA Foundation UK, a charity supporting services to severely disadvantaged children and families living in poverty in Romania.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance (continued)

Sister Kathleen Kennedy

Sister Kathleen Kennedy entered the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1966. She worked in residential child care for fourteen years, after which she ran a pre-school group in a primary school setting. She qualified as a teacher with Bachelor of Arts with Qualified Teacher Status (BAQTS) and taught in an inner city primary school for sixteen years. She worked as part of a city wide Evangelisation Team in Hull before being appointed to the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity.

Deacon Ali McMillan

Deacon of the Methodist Church at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, Deacon Ali McMillan had been a Teacher in Secondary Schools and Sixth form colleges before joining the ministry. She has through her pastoral activities worked with all age ranges in the community.

Ifeoma Okafor

Ifeoma Okafor's first degree was in Microbiology but she then went on to complete an MSc in Financial Economics and is now a Financial and Accounting Reporting Manager at Standard Chartered Bank PLC. She has a background in supporting charities work and coaching people into employment.

Joanna Wormell

Joanna Wormell, having completed a first degree in Russian, was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 2002. Since 2007 Joanna has worked for RBS and currently holds the position of Managing Director, Global Head of Compliance, Capital Resolution. Though a very experienced traveller she lives in South Westminster.

Structure and management reporting

The ultimate responsibility for the charity lies with the trustees. The day to day management is delegated to the Chief Executive. Meetings are held regularly with the trustees, service users and the staff team to ensure the quality of service and the aims of the charity are being met.

Key management

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Risk management

The trustees undertake an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces categorising the risks between those affecting the governance and management of the charity, operational risks, financial risks, reputational risks and those which occur because of circumstances outside of the charity's control such as changes in government policy, laws and regulations. They regularly review the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place, to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and ensure that action is taken to implement changes to those policies, systems and procedures should they be needed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In addition to the risks associated with Covid-19 (see above), the trustees have identified five main areas where risks may occur: governance and management, operational, financial, reputational and regulatory.

Governance and management looks at the risk of the charity, suffering from a lack of direction, at the skills and training of its members and staff, and the good use of its resources.

Operational looks at the risks inherent in the charity's activities including any potential shortcomings in the services provided, staffing, poor health and safety, and the disaster recovery plan, etc.

Financial risks include those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending, poor accounting, etc.

Reputational looks at possible damage to the charity's reputation.

Regulatory looks at the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with laws and regulations and poor risk assessment.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

However, they acknowledge also that the charity's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The charity has in place a risk management programme that seeks to identify and mitigate the effects of the risk on its finances. The principal financial risk remains the impact of the general economic conditions and its impact on charitable funding.

Whilst the current level of funding for 2021-2022 suggests that the charity will reach its income targets, the trustees remain mindful that continued efforts need to be made to attract new funding and additional income streams.

The other key risk for the charity, as identified by the trustees, arises because operationally the charity works with children and vulnerable adults. The trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those that the charity serves. This means that all those who work or volunteer for the charity and work with children or vulnerable adults must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are directors of St Vincent's Family Project for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the trustees confirms that:

- ◆ so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- ◆ the trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Trustees' report Year to 31 March 2021

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Philippa Gitlin
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 16 November 2021

Independent auditor's report to the member of St Vincent's Family Project

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent's Family Project (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and notes to the financial statements. 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 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 charitable company 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.

Conclusion 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 charitable company'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 and Financial Statements, 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.

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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' 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
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 the trustees 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'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.

Auditor's 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.

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.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the Senior Statutory Auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- ◆ we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011) and safeguarding regulations.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ carried out substantive testing of expenditure including the authorisation thereof;
- ◆ reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions and substantiated these where appropriate; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- ◆ enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Independent auditor's report Year to 31 March 2021

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's member, 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 charitable company's member those matters we are required to state to it 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 charitable company and the charitable company's member, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Amanda Francis (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

17 November 2021

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) Year to 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income:							
Donations and grants (including Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding)	1	289,442	77,899	367,341	91,160	98,495	189,655
Bank interest		28	—	28	59	—	59
Crèche and Creative Art Therapy fees		—	4,201	4,201	—	21,975	21,975
Other trading activities		—	—	—	1,148	—	1,148
Miscellaneous		465	—	465	1,566	—	1,566
Total income		289,935	82,100	372,035	93,933	120,470	214,403
Expenditure:							
Charitable activities							
. Provision of services to vulnerable families and children	2	145,839	123,188	269,027	136,166	141,688	277,854
Total expenditure		145,839	123,188	269,027	136,166	141,688	277,854
Net income (expenditure) before transfers		144,096	(41,088)	103,008	(42,233)	(21,218)	(63,451)
Transfers between funds	9	(27,990)	27,990	—	14,994	(14,994)	—
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	3	116,106	(13,098)	103,008	(27,239)	(36,212)	(63,451)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2019		(55,663)	13,098	(42,565)	(28,424)	49,310	20,886
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2020		60,443	—	60,443	(55,663)	13,098	(42,565)

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities continued during the above two financial years.

Balance sheet 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	6		1,275		2,550
Current assets:					
Debtors	7	4,961		10,661	
Cash at bank and in hand		107,199		55,517	
Total current assets		112,160		66,178	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(52,992)		(111,293)	
Net current assets (liabilities)			59,168		(45,115)
Total net assets (liabilities)			60,443		(42,565)
Represented by:					
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	9		—		13,098
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund			60,443		(55,663)
Total charity funds			60,443		(42,565)

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:

Philippa Gitlin
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 16 November 2021

St Vincent's Family Project – Company Registration Number 07638620 (England and Wales)

Principal accounting policies 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	111,682	10,215
Cash flows from financing			
Repayment of loan		(60,000)	—
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		51,682	10,215
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2020	B	55,517	45,302
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2021	B	107,199	55,517

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2021

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow provided by operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	103,008	(63,451)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	1,275	1,274
Decrease (increase) in debtors	5,700	(6,834)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	1,699	79,226
Net cash provided by operating activities	111,682	10,215

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	107,199	55,517

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	(4,483)	111,682	107,199
Loans falling due within one year	60,000	(60,000)	—
Total net debt	55,517	51,682	107,199

Principal accounting policies 31 March 2021

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2021 with comparative information given in respect to the year to 31 March 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The main judgement or estimate that has been made in these financial statements relates to the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets used in determining the annual depreciation charge.

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees accept that the financial position of the charity continues to require careful monitoring with free reserves still slightly below that demanded by the charity's reserves policy. Trustees acknowledge and recognise the potential impact of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic on the future operations of the charity, its beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders and on wider society.

The period since the onset of Covid-19 has seen the charity increase its income and at the date of approving these accounts it is in a much healthier position financially as funds have been received for Covid-19 activities e.g. online family therapy. Additionally, a number of funders have allowed the use of previously restricted monies for core/general purposes. In addition, during the year, the trustees of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust agreed to convert their loan of £60,000 into a donation.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The charity utilised the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for a short while which provided income for furloughed staff, but as it increased services these staff were brought back and are active again. The charity will continue to apply for other government funding to which it is entitled.

Trustees acknowledge and recognise the potential impact of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic on the future operations of the charity, its beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders and on wider society. As well as the personal risk to health of its staff, the charity expects to lose some traditional sources of income as the result of the cancellation and/or adaptation of planned programmes and the physical absence of key personnel. But, despite continued uncertainty, the response of the charity to operational needs and the successful income generation during the period means they are cautiously optimistic about its' future.

In the meantime, the trustees of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (Charity Registration Number 236803) (see note 12) have confirmed that, if necessary, they will continue to provide financial and other support to the charity to enable it to remain a going concern in the short to medium term.

Given this, the trustees are of the opinion that St Vincent's Family Project will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charitable company is entitled to receipt, the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, grants, bank interest, crèche and creative art therapy fees, income from other trading activities, and miscellaneous income.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is credited to the statement of financial activities once the charitable company is entitled to the funding and the amount receivable has been quantified.

Income recognition (continued)

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Donated goods are recognised at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably in which case a derived value, being the cost of the item to the donor, is used. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure except where the donated good is a fixed asset in which case the corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the charity's accounting policies.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income derived from the levying of charges for Crèche and Creative Art Therapy and income from trading activities is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts and rebates.

Miscellaneous income is measured at fair value and accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure on the provision of a safe and stimulating environment where parents and children can take part in activities together and as individuals.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charitable company that relate to the general running of the charitable company as opposed to those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day to day management of the charitable company's activities.

Costs are apportioned based on the number of sessions provided at the Family Project for each activity.

All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £3,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

- ♦ Furniture and equipment 25% on cost

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

General funds represent monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charitable company's charitable objects.

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

1 Donations and grants (including Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Grants			
City of Westminster Trust	4,065	4,881	8,946
Westminster Foundation	11,928	—	11,928
Westminster Almshouses	10,000	—	10,000
Westminster Amalgamated	8,000	—	8,000
Ironmongers Foundation	—	50,000	50,000
Mercers Trust	—	5,640	5,640
St Marylebone Educational Trust	—	1,591	1,591
R L Glasspool	—	300	300
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	3,000	—	3,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross	15,000	—	15,000
Swire Charitable Trust	52,535	—	52,535
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	14,487	14,487
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000	—	10,000
Edward Harvest Trust	998	—	998
John Lyons Charity	30,000	—	30,000
Two Magpies	15,000	—	15,000
Hyde Park Place	5,000	—	5,000
	165,526	76,899	242,425
Donations			
Methodist Central Hall	16,680	—	16,680
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	60,000	—	60,000
Other donations	18,348	1,000	19,348
	95,028	1,000	96,028
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	28,888	—	28,888
2021 Total funds	289,442	77,899	367,341
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £
Grants			
Westminster City Council	—	1,000	1,000
Westminster Foundation	—	10,000	10,000
MyWestminster Fund	—	7,141	7,141
Ironmongers Foundation	—	25,000	25,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross	25,000	—	25,000
Buzzacott Stuart Defries Memorial Fund	1,000	—	1,000
The Pimlico Million	—	1,500	1,500
The St Giles-in-the-Fields and William Shelton Educational Charity	—	15,000	15,000
The Woodward Charitable Trust	—	500	500
Local Giving	500	—	500
London Catalyst	—	2,000	2,000
John Lewis Partnership	—	6,000	6,000
Vintners Company	—	5,000	5,000
Sr Harold Hood's Charitable Trust	2,000	—	2,000
	28,500	73,141	101,641
Donations			
Methodist Central Hall	45,290	—	45,290
Other donations	17,370	25,354	42,724
	62,660	25,354	88,014
2020 Total funds	91,160	98,495	189,655

2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £
Provision of services to vulnerable families and children						
Staff costs	83,932	94,874	178,806	76,478	104,297	180,775
Creative Arts Therapy	—	26,558	26,558	—	29,302	29,302
Family Space	—	1,756	1,756	—	4,999	4,999
Volunteer Space	76	—	76	—	3,090	3,090
Premises	31,436	—	31,436	32,841	—	32,841
Furniture and equipment	8,855	—	8,855	3,263	—	3,263
Insurance	3,350	—	3,350	4,099	—	4,099
Printing, postage, telephone and stationery	3,821	—	3,821	4,128	—	4,128
Recruitment and training	722	—	722	3,228	—	3,228
Travel and subsistence	—	—	—	570	—	570
Professional fees	3,531	—	3,531	6,582	—	6,582
Subscriptions	1,882	—	1,882	1,117	—	1,117
Governance costs	6,624	—	6,624	2,700	—	2,700
Miscellaneous	1,610	—	1,610	1,160	—	1,160
2021 Total funds	145,839	123,188	269,027	136,166	141,688	277,854

3 Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs (note 4)	205,363	210,077
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
· Current year statutory audit services	6,624	4,680
· Previous year	1,044	—
Depreciation	1,275	1,274

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	164,811	167,156
Pension costs	3,518	3,219
Social security costs	10,477	10,400
	178,806	180,775
Contract staff	26,557	29,302
	205,363	210,077

The average number of employees, based on head count, was 7 (2020 – 9) whereas the average number of employees, based on full time equivalents, was 6 (2020 – 6). There were no employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including benefits) during the year (2020 – none).

4 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees consider that they together with the Chief Executive comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The total remuneration (including taxable benefits and employer's pension contributions) of the key management personnel for the year was £58,719 (2020: - £58,735).

No of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services during either year (2020–none). Expenses were £Nil reimbursed to the trustees (2020–none).

5 Taxation

St Vincent's Family Project is a registered charity and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2020 and at 31 March 2021	5,099
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2020	2,549
Charge for year	1,275
At 31 March 2021	3,824
Net book values	
At 31 March 2021	1,275
At 31 March 2020	2,550

7 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Accrued income	—	7,141
Other debtors	4,961	3,520
	4,961	10,661

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals	5,580	3,600
Amount due to Methodist Central Hall (note 11)	2,412	2,412
Loan from Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (note 12)	—	60,000
Sundry creditors	—	281
Deferred income: grants received in advance	45,000	45,000
	52,992	111,293

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income at 1 April	45,000	25,000
Amounts released from previous years	(45,000)	(25,000)
Resources deferred in the year	45,000	45,000
Deferred income at 31 March	45,000	45,000

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance of the year to which they relate.

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted funds:

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Core cost transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Family Space Project	—	63,112	(65,572)	2,460	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	13,098	18,988	(57,616)	25,530	—
	13,098	82,100	(123,188)	27,990	—

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Core cost transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
Sensory Room	15,651	—	(8,969)	(6,682)	—
Family Space Project	—	75,095	(72,339)	(2,756)	—
Creative Arts Therapy Project	33,659	45,375	(60,380)	(5,556)	13,098
	49,310	120,470	(141,688)	(14,994)	13,098

For those restricted funds which have allowances for “core costs”, the expenditure is charged to unrestricted funds which are then reimbursed via a transfer from restricted funds as shown above. The specific purposes for which the funds were received and applied in 2021 are as follows:

Sensory Room

Funds provided to assist with the sensory room. The transfer to core costs relate to the capitalisation of furniture and equipment for the sensory room.

Family Space Project

Funds provided to assist with the Family Space Project.

Creative Arts Therapy Project

Funds provided specifically as a contribution towards the costs associated with the Creative Arts Therapy Project.

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £
Fund balances are represented by:						
Fixed assets	1,275	—	1,275	2,550	—	2,550
Current assets	112,160	—	112,160	53,080	13,098	66,178
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(52,992)	—	(52,992)	(111,293)	—	(111,293)
Total net assets (liabilities)	60,443	—	60,443	(55,663)	13,098	(42,565)

11 Methodist Central Hall

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to Methodist Central Hall by virtue of the fact that one of its trustees is a senior employee and trustee of Methodist Central Hall. Two other trustees are active member of the Methodist Central Hall.

- ♦ During the year the Project contributed service charges to Methodist Central Hall of £5,844 (2020 - £5,844), £487(2020 - £487) of which was accrued at the year end. In addition, the Project paid rent to Methodist Central Hall of £22,800 (2020 - £22,800). £1,900 (2020 - £1,900) of which was accrued at the year end.
- ♦ During the year Methodist Central Hall gave a donation of £16,680 (2020 – £45,290) to the Project for use in meeting core costs.

12 Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust

St Vincent's Family Project is connected to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (the Trust) (a registered charity, Charity Registration No 236803 (England and Wales) and SC039155 (Scotland)) by virtue of the fact that certain of the trustees of the Trust are also trustees of DCSVP Services, the parent organisation of St Vincent's Family Project.

At the end of the previous financial year, the charity had a £60,000 interest free loan from Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust (note 8). This loan was converted into a donation in the year. The trustees of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Charitable Trust have confirmed that, if necessary, they will continue to provide financial and other support to the charity to enable it to remain a going concern in the short to medium term.

13 Related party transactions

During the year, one trustee made donations to the charity of £300 (2020 – one trustee donated £1,500). There are no other related party transactions requiring disclosure (2020 – none).

14 Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2021 the charity had the following future minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of a photocopier:

	2021 £	2020 £
Leases which expire:		
. Within one year	2,626	2,626
. Between one and five years	5,252	7,659
	7,878	10,285

15 Liability of member

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up its member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

16 Control

Control of the charitable company lies with its member and parent entity, DCSVP Services, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1149326) and a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 07638065 (England and Wales)). The registered office of DCSVP Services is Provincial House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1RE. The financial statements of DCSVP Services can be obtained from the registered office.