

Registered Company Number 07787718 (England & Wales)
Registered Charity Number 1144562

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2024



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Chairman's statement and annual review

Professor Duncan Macrae, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The past twelve months have seen very significant achievements as well as significant challenges. Our volunteer neonatal and newborn resuscitation teams have been at the forefront of efforts to expand the European Resuscitation Council's Newborn Life Support (NLS) program across Vietnam. Their dedication has also advanced our neonatal postgraduate teaching, helping to improve outcomes for premature and sick babies.

A highlight for me this year has been the measurable impact of our neonatal postgraduate training program. This program over the past nine years has contributed to improved survival rates for preterm and critically ill babies at major hospitals in Hanoi and Da Nang. It is inspiring and encouraging to see hospitals in central and southern Vietnam seeking our training. This training addresses the deficit of specialist neonatal education in Vietnam.

The evolving regulatory framework for INGOs in Vietnam, coupled with economic challenges in some sectors, has underscored the importance of forward planning. In response, we have supported the establishment of a Vietnamese NGO, the Center for the Support of the Development of Maternal and Neonatal Care in Vietnam (SSVN) that will work alongside us, drawing on UK expertise and funding. This partnership is a step toward strengthening our existing collaborations and building a foundation for future programs.

This year we also completed a training needs analysis of midwives' perceptions of their continuous professional development in providing respectful intranatal maternal care. This included the validation and translation of the Birth Satisfaction Scale-Revised (BSS-R), an internationally recognized tool for measuring postpartum women's birth satisfaction. These initiatives, developed in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, were published in *Nurse Education Today* and the *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology*. We are proud to lead in advancing respectful midwifery care.

Looking ahead, our priorities include diversifying income streams and emphasizing the value for money our medical volunteers bring, the value of their time being more than double the total cash spend for running the programmes. We will also maintain our commitment to addressing health inequalities, ensuring our efforts achieve the greatest impact for preterm and sick babies.



Executive Director's statement

Suzanna Lubran MBE - Executive Director

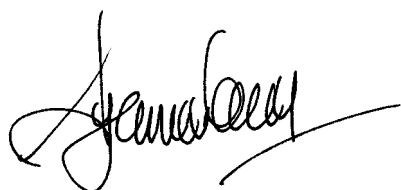
As we conclude the final year of our current business plan, we look ahead with determination and optimism. Our forthcoming three-year strategy reflects our unwavering commitment to ending preventable newborn deaths in Vietnam. We plan to scale up our programs, maximise their impact, and ensure their sustainability, by supporting the Center for the Support of the Development of Maternal and Neonatal Care in Vietnam (SSVN) to take a leading role in developing programmes to improve care for preterm and sick babies.

Our approach builds on proven solutions, while addressing the persistent challenges that hinder progress in reducing neonatal mortality and morbidity. A key priority is advocating for Newborn Life Support (NLS) training to become mandatory for all healthcare professionals involved in resuscitating newborns. The adoption of standardised, mandatory resuscitation programs globally has played a pivotal role in reducing neonatal mortality. Scaling up the NLS program is essential to providing equitable care at birth for every baby.

I am continually inspired by the transformative feedback from health professionals participating in our NLS training. Comments such as, *"this course helped me change incorrect practice,"* highlight the life-saving impact of this program. Equally heartening are accounts of successful outcomes where adherence to the NLS algorithm avoided the need for intubation, enabling babies to be placed skin-to-skin with their mothers soon after birth. Sustainability remains a cornerstone of our efforts, with doctors, nurses, and midwives being trained as future instructors to ensure the programme's long-term success.

Beyond resuscitation, we will continue to advocate for increased healthcare staffing and greater recognition of parents as essential partners in their babies' care. Current nurse-to-baby staffing levels are inadequate, limiting even the most dedicated nurses' ability to deliver the highest quality care.

Raising the funds to support our programs has been particularly challenging this year. We are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our long-standing sponsors, individual donors, and the vibrant sports community. Together, their generosity fuels our mission to give every newborn the chance to thrive.



Realising the promise of a life, love, family and achievement for every baby

This report details our progress against our goals, it is a review of our journey, achievements and challenges over the past year.

We hope the report inspires many more people to support our mission to end preventable newborn deaths in Vietnam.



About Newborns Vietnam

Newborns Vietnam is a medical education charity working in partnership with Vietnam's Ministry of Health and over 150 hospitals to drive fundamental improvements in the country's maternal and neonatal care systems.

We are committed to reducing neonatal mortality and enhancing the health of newborns and their mothers in regions with high levels of neonatal mortality, particularly in Southeast Asia, with a primary focus on Vietnam.

Our mission is simple yet profound: to "save newborn lives." We achieve this by bringing international experts to Vietnam to deliver specialist medical education. Our approach goes beyond advocacy; we engage in active, practical partnerships that yield measurable results and support their adoption at a national level, maximising societal benefits. We empower and support healthcare professionals to lead systemic change by adapting British models of training and care systems to suit Vietnam's context.

We believe that the foundation for saving newborn lives starts with getting the basics right for every mother and baby. Simple yet effective practices—such as skin-to-skin care at birth, early breastfeeding, minimizing unnecessary separation of mother and baby, and maintaining effective hand hygiene—are critical. Through collaborative efforts with our public health partners, we create nurturing learning environments to build capacity and knowledge, supporting excellence in basic maternal and newborn care and advanced neonatal intensive care.

In the past 35 years, Vietnam has made remarkable progress in reducing maternal and infant mortality. However, neonatal mortality and morbidity remain persistent challenges. Vietnam currently lacks a standardized mandatory newborn resuscitation program, a proven intervention that has significantly reduced neonatal mortality worldwide.

Our Newborn Life Support (NLS) program is directly aligned with the Ministry of Health's goals outlined in the National Action Plan for Children. It supports reducing the infant mortality rate from approximately 15 per 1,000 live births to under 9.5 per 1,000 by 2025 and under 9 per 1,000 by 2030. The NLS course provides comprehensive knowledge and hands-on instruction in the initial resuscitation of newborns, designed for all healthcare workers who may be called upon to resuscitate a baby. This year, we made significant strides in developing a faculty of Vietnamese NLS-trained instructors across Vietnam.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 contains a legal requirement that all charities' aims are for the public benefit. The Charity Commission in its "Charities and Public Benefit" guidance states that there are two key principles to be met in order to show that an organisation's aims are for the public benefit.

- There must be an identifiable benefit.
- Benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

Regular evaluation of outcome data for babies undergoing intensive care demonstrates the clear and positive benefit our programmes have for thousands of babies, their families and the healthcare professionals who care for them. This is particularly through: the provision of UK specialist neonatal training and our world recognised newborn resuscitation programme, quality improvement projects and audits leading to improvement of practice in neonatal units, highlighting the challenges for neonatal care and solutions to address these through supportive advocacy for the adoption of simple but effective solutions to improve care at birth and the hours thereafter.

The aims of our charity are firstly to advocate for increased policy attention and global funding, secondly to develop interventions aimed at reducing neonatal mortality such as neonatal nursing and clinical training programmes that are suitable for use across Vietnam. We also provide life-saving neonatal equipment, and, in partnership with public health providers, support the development of managed neonatal networks with national and regional centres of excellence. Networks enable cascading of skills and knowledge to healthcare workers in the poorest areas and for those with the least access to medical services.

Implementing our strategy to end preventable newborn deaths

Our 2020-2024 business plan set out an ambitious vision: to deliver direct, tangible outcomes for premature and sick babies and their families. This strategy was informed by 11 years of experience working in Vietnam and deep insight into the systemic challenges within neonatal care. These challenges include a highly theoretical education system, the absence of an organizational framework for designating care in lower-level hospitals, inadequate staffing, poorly maintained equipment, the lack of a safe neonatal transport service, and the absence of mandatory national newborn resuscitation training.

The strategy identified three priority areas that could significantly improve neonatal care outcomes in Vietnam:

The strategy set our aims to achieve the three most important factors identified in the business plan that could improve neonatal care outcomes in Vietnam:

- 1) the implementation of standardised post-graduate training for neonatal doctors and nurses including work-based competency assessment, through the establishment of a revised national curriculum,
- 2) the implementation of standardised resuscitation training and certification through the establishment of a National Resuscitation Organisation for Vietnam and,
- 3) the establishment of managed neonatal networks across the country. Within each network the hospitals work together to provide different levels of safe consistent care. Each network would have a dedicated transport system to move sick babies safely to the hospitals in the network that provide the more specialized care.

By focusing on these priorities, we are laying the foundation for lasting improvements in neonatal care, ensuring every newborn in Vietnam has a chance to survive and thrive.

Impact in the year - what we did

In 2023-24 we scaled up the Newborn Life Support (NLS), with 428 health professionals from 40 provinces receiving training. We signed new partnership agreements implemented with the National Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital, Hanoi, Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy and Tu Du Hospital, HCM to deliver the roll out of the NLS training nationwide. We launched an NLS scholarship scheme to maximise the participation of doctors, nurses and midwives from the poorest provinces. We delivered neonatal post graduate training for a second cohort of doctors at the National Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital, Hanoi and completed the first stage of our respectful midwifery training needs analysis with Edinburgh Napier University with four hospitals.

Newborn Life Support (NLS) - Achievements 2023-24

NLS headline achievements at March 2024:

- **3 New Partnerships for delivery of NLS**
- **428 health professionals from 40 provinces received training**
- **Launch of the NLS scholarship scheme at the British Consulate, HCMC**



NLS Training



NLS Training



Launch of the NLS Scholarship Scheme at the British Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City



Signing of Scholarship Agreement between Newborns Vietnam and Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy.



NLS Candidates receiving NLS Scholarships



NLS Candidates receiving CME Certificates

Strategy Goal 1: Neonatal post graduate training for junior doctors

Our UK neonatal consultants delivered our neonatal post graduate training programme for neonatal doctors working within the neonatal intensive care unit at National Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital, and Vietnam National Children's Hospital, both in Hanoi.

The course is adapted from the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Level 1 curriculum. The course is taught by UK Tertiary Level NHS Neonatal Consultants. Nine doctors were enrolled, nine doctors completed the course.

The primary objective of following a competency-based curriculum is to translate theory into practice, thereby providing doctors with excellent clinical knowledge and skills which could be used in their everyday practice. The overall aim is to foster a good clinical approach to each baby, an ability to initiate appropriate care and to formulate individual management plans logically and safely.

The doctors on the course were assessed continuously using a variety of methods including case-based discussion (CBD), miniClinical Examination (miniCex) and direct observation of practical procedures (DOPS). All assessments were entered into each doctor's personal e-portfolio, which was a record of his/her training journey. The doctors were also expected to make personal entries into two sections of their e-portfolio including reflections on their practice, seeking best practice to manage a complex/rare problem following a literature search, learning points from formal educational sessions, and records of their practical skills. This could be considered as an introduction to future continuing professional development.

Over the course of the training programme there was clear evidence of progress and increasing confidence in the ward round presentations. The doctors were inquisitive and eager to learn with active engagement in discussions and respectful querying and challenging of decisions. English language understanding and confidence in spoken English improved throughout the 10-month training period.

Theoretical knowledge was good; however, developing a systematic approach took more time to evolve and will require ongoing consolidation and development as the second Level 1 course progresses.

The Quality Improvement Projects were a success and highlighted areas of practice to improve on, chosen by the doctors themselves.

Formal assessment of all the doctors was undertaken at completion of the Level 1 course. This comprised two written papers (testing the application of knowledge and skills in different clinical scenarios), the presentation of an audit or quality improvement project, an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE), a Viva and an assessment of their e-portfolio - marked according to pre-set criteria. The overall pass mark was set at 60%.

All doctors passed the exam with very good marks, which were shared with the Director Board. The average mark for this cohort was 79%.

Level 1 Examination Results

Vietnam National Children's Hospital Candidates											
No.	Paper 1 (max 100)	Paper 2 (max 50)	QI Project (max 50)	e- Portfolio (max 50)	OSCE (max 30)	OSCE percent	Viva (max 20)	Viva %	Clinical percent (60% pass)	Total (max 300)	Total %
1	76.3	39.0	38.5	44.2	24.6	82	16.6	83	82	239	80
2	79.3	31.7	39.4	44.8	24.6	82	14.8	74	79	235	78

National Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital Candidates											
No.	Paper 1 (max 100)	Paper 2 (max 50)	QI Project (max 50)	e- Portfolio (max 50)	OSCE (max 30)	OSCE percent	Viva (max 20)	Viva %	Clinical percent (60% pass)	Total (max 300)	Total %
1	85.0	36.2	38.6	40.8	25.9	86	12.5	63	77	239	80
2	80.3	37.6	33.3	46.0	24.6	82	12.0	60	73	234	78
3	93.3	34.0	35.6	44.5	27.9	93	18.8	94	93	254	85
4	85.7	36.4	40.1	39.3	29.3	98	16.8	84	92	248	83
5	81.7	36.0	39.3	41.8	26.5	88	18.3	91	90	244	81
6	82.3	33.7	32.5	30.0	25.7	86	12.0	60	75	216	72
7	82.7	39.2	31.1	40.8	23.8	79	12.0	60	72	230	77



Graduation Ceremony for Doctors receiving their Level 1 Certificates.

Strategy Goal 2: Empowering midwives

Midwives and clinical managers from Tu Du, Hung Vuong Hospitals, in Ho Chi Minh City, and Hanoi Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital and Dong Anh and Gia Lam General Hospitals in Hanoi, participated in a training needs analysis carried out by Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) during the period April – May 2023, and 200 women participated in the validation for Vietnam of the 10-item Birth Satisfaction Scale-Revised (BSS-R). The BSS-R is a quick and easy survey instrument recommended by the International Consortium for Health Outcome Measures as the tool of choice for measuring women's birth satisfaction.

A validated version of the Vietnamese-BSS-R was approved on 9 April 2024 and published as an open access validation paper the reference below:

MacVicar, S., Jordon, A., Vu, H., Tran, H.N., Greig, Y., Thi Tuyet Nguyen, H., Norris, G., Martin, C.R, Hollins Martin, C.J. (2024). Translation and validation of Vietnamese version of the Birth Satisfaction Scale-Revised (BSS-R). *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology*. 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02646838.2024.2338176>

The training needs analysis assessed the continuous professional development (CPD) requirements of the four hospitals. Tu Du and Hung Vuong Hospitals midwifery workforce confirmed their commitment to engage with the development of a Respectful Maternal Care (RCM) continuous professional development (CPD) education programme in 2025. The training needs study paper was published in *Nurse Education Today* in May 2024.

Strategy Goal 3: National Newborn Life Support resuscitation programme

Since the Ministry of Health's Department of Science, Technology Training's approval of the European Resuscitation Council's Newborn Life Support (NLS) as the single programme for Vietnam to be taught by UK/EU instructors until Vietnam achieves a fully qualified faculty of instructors, we have made good progress in rolling out the NLS program nationwide.

Vietnam has made remarkable progress over the past 35 years in reducing maternal and infant mortality. However, despite these achievements, neonatal mortality and morbidity remains a persistent challenge in the health system.

Birth asphyxia remains the leading cause of death, brain damage, autism, ADHD, seizures, and cerebral palsy. For babies who do not breathe at birth, every second can mean the difference between life, death, or disability. For those who survive, 80% will face lifelong health challenges, placing enormous financial and emotional burdens on families, communities, and society. The adoption of a national standardised mandatory resuscitation programme has contributed significantly to reduction in neonatal mortality worldwide.

By bringing UK newborn resuscitation instructor to Vietnam to teach an internationally recognised newborn resuscitation course we are empowering health professionals with critical skills to save babies' lives. Our UK Newborn Life Support (NLS) instructors teach doctors, nurses, and midwives to master newborn resuscitation techniques using lifelike manikins and real-life scenarios. These hands-on simulations are not just lessons—they are lifesavers. Every trained professional will go on to save thousands of lives and, in turn, become future trainers, multiplying the impact across generations.

The timeline for an independent Vietnamese NLS faculty for four NLS course is late 2025. In 2023 identified a three new partners as potential European Resuscitation Council course centres and signed new partnership agreements with the National Obstetrics and Gynaecology Hospital, Hanoi, Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy and Tu Du Hospital, Ho Chi Minh City, together with Vietnam National Children's Hospital we delivered 12 NLS courses to 354 health professionals in 33 provinces and 15 fully trained as instructors, and a further 15 undergoing training as instructors.

To maximise participation of health professionals from the poorest provinces, Newborns Vietnam has established an NLS Scholarship Scheme to meet the cost of education materials, travel and accommodation. It was pleasing to see candidates from many central highland mountainous provinces participating in the March 2024 NLS course.

Strategy Goal 4: Neonatal network

The neonatal managed network set up to ensure that hospitals providing different types of neonatal care worked closely together, reduce unnecessary transfers and overcrowding at central hospitals. The lack of central hospital support and resources at the majority of the local hospitals the managed network as envisaged has had limited impact. All the hospitals have benefitted from the equipment we donated and from the NLS training. One of the hospitals is on course to achieve designation from Ministry of Health as a Centre of Excellence for breast feeding. The lack of a safe transport system remains a major factor in poor outcomes. The development of our simple low-cost baby transporter trolley system is progressing, and we expect to handover the first units in mid 2025.

Fundraising

This year presented significant challenges in raising the funds necessary to support our programs. These challenges arose amidst the introduction of a new regulatory framework for foreign NGOs and economic difficulties in certain sectors.

In response, we focused on fostering strong connections with our supporters, ensuring they understood the tangible impact their generosity has made. We strive to make every supporter feel valued, connected to our mission, and proud of the achievements their contributions have enabled.

Without the commitment and generosity of our many partners, none of this year's successes would have been possible. As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening existing partnerships while actively cultivating new ones. We will pursue innovative initiatives to enhance our visibility and secure the funding needed to advance our vital mission of saving newborn lives.



Newborns Vietnam runout at BIM Group Phu Quoc Ironman.

Next year: our targets for 2024-2025

In the year ahead there will be new challenges as we address the full impact to changes to the regulatory framework in Vietnam for foreign non-governmental organisations, develop our three year business plan and support the development of SSVN to work with us at a local level to carry our mission forward.

Our aim remains to achieve a self-sustaining Vietnamese faculty of Newborn Life Support (NLS) instructors for the north, south and centre of Vietnam by the end of 2025 and a Vietnamese Generic Instructor Course (GIC) faculty by 2026.

In partnership with SSVN will continue to roll out the NLS programme across the country, supporting the four Vietnamese ERC approved course centres to plan and lead the ongoing delivery of NLS training in Vietnam.

We will encourage and support our partner hospitals to develop their vision to deliver change with the goal of improving neonatal outcomes and to foster a culture for improvement. We will promote setting up of Perinatal teams - obstetricians, midwives, neonatologists and neonatal nurses, a multi-disciplinary "bottom-up" approach to quality improvement. Our teaching will focus on identifying the barriers to change to develop a realistic road map with clear goals.

Caring for sick babies is challenging for parents, families and healthcare teams in all countries. In Vietnam there can be many barriers which prevent parents from being with their baby. Parents are not visitors. Babies have the very best long-term developmental outcomes if their parents are able to be partners in delivering their baby's care on the neonatal unit. COVID adversely impact progress in this important area, we will redouble our efforts to encourage neonatal units to ensure that every mother and father have access to their sick baby.

We will use the next phase of respectful midwifery programme to deliver a programme to develop compassionate respectful care at birth.

Legal and administrative information

Charity name

Newborns Vietnam

Charity registration number

1144562

Company registration number

7787718

Legal Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Each member is liable to contribute a sum not exceeding £10 in the event of the charity being wound up.

Registered company office

75 Maygrove Road,
London NW6 2EG

Bankers

Barclays Bank
38 Islington Green
London N1 8EH

Vietcombank
140-142 Le Loi Street
Danang City
Vietnam

Auditors

Goldwins Limited
Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
London NW6 2EG

Solicitors

Hogan Lovells International LLP
38th Floor, Bitexco Financial Tower
2 Hai Trieu, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City
Vietnam

Chairman of the board of trustees

Dr Duncan Macrae

Trustees

Mr Nguyen Long (resigned on 25 January 2024)

Mrs Suzanna Lubran MBE (Executive Director)

Mr Tien Hoanh Nguyen

Mr Desmond Poon,

Mr Martin Reimann (resigned in 2024/25)

Ms Thi Khanh Dung Khu (resigned on 1 October 2023)

Mr John Nicholas Robinson

Ms Samantha Campbell

Mr Bang H Trinh

Charity contact details

Newborns Vietnam

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Telephone: 01392 770 108

Email: info@newbornsvietnam.org

Website: www.newbornsvietnam.org

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Newborns Vietnam is registered as a charity with the UK's Charity Commission and is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales on 26th September 2011 and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 15th September 2011.

Newborns Vietnam is also licensed by the People's Aid Co-ordinating Committee (PACCOM) of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations (VUFO), to operate as an International Non-Governmental Organisation in Vietnam.

Management

Members of the company elect a voluntary Board of Trustees (whom are also known as Directors), to be responsible for the overall governance and direction of the charity. Trustees are selected by the Board with regard to their suitability for the role, with the skills and experience to support our organisational growth, ensure good governance, transparency and provide highly specialist medical knowledge.

The Board currently has nine Trustees, including a Chairman and Treasurer. Typically, the full Board meets four times a year, with additional meetings held by specialist committees, currently comprising a Medical, Education and Finance, each of which is under the direction of two or more Trustees.

The day-to-day management of the charity's programmes are delegated to the Executive Director and are delivered in accordance with the approved delivery plan and annual budget.

Our vision and values

Our vision is a world where there are no preventable deaths of newborn infants, where every birth is celebrated, and mothers and babies survive and realise their full potential. We are determined to do more to stop babies from dying the day they are born, or in days after their birth.

We are determined advocates working to raise awareness of neonatal mortality and advancing solutions informed by research and our direct experience. Our work is guided and informed by our commitment to getting the basics of newborn care right for every baby.

As an organisation we have a single-minded vision, and we act on it every day with commitment and passion. We work as one determined and ambitious team to end preventable newborn deaths in Vietnam.

- **One focus.** We keep our beneficiaries at the heart of everything we do and it's essential that everyone at Newborns Vietnam has a beneficiary-oriented mindset.
- **Always looking to improve.** We continuously look for ways to do things better, both internally and for our beneficiaries.
- **Ambitious.** We're committed to achieving more on behalf of the parents of newborns born sick.
- **Step up.** We believe in doing what we say we do. We always rise to the occasion.
- **Openness.** we are committed to a culture of teamwork and collaboration
- **Inclusiveness** - we respect people, value diversity and are committed to equality.
- **Partnership** - we know that we will not advance neonatal care on our own, we collaborate with others and together we support our public health partners to bring about change.
- **Stewardship** - we take great care of the resources entrusted to us by others, whether this is money, time or trust, and we are open and transparent in our reporting.
- **Inspire** - through our work and our sports platform we inspire others to come together to help end preventable newborn deaths.

Thank You

We greatly appreciate and thank our strategic partners, UK medical and nursing volunteers, companies, athletes, and the thousands of individuals for supporting us through another challenging year! Each and every donation is making a difference to the life chances of newborns in Vietnam.

Alba Spa Hotel, Alchemy Asia, British Chamber of Commerce, Chops, BIM Group, British Embassy Hanoi, British Consulate HCM, Doan Ket International, Edrington, Empire City, Tony Foster, Gaw Capital, Grant Thornton, Greenhat, Harbour Energy, Hogan Lovells International LLP, Hong Ngoc Hospital, Kind Heart Foundation, KMS Solutions. KMS Technology, Maestoso, Melia VinPearl Hue, Craig Martin, Ms Jady, MTTS, NRE Group, Purple Asia, Regna, Renaissance School, Staff Exeter Neonatal Unit, Dominic Scriven, S Commerce, Sioux HighTech Software, Sunrise Events, Swire Long Lunch, Topas Travel, J Van Mars Foundation, VietBay, VNG Corporation, WINK Hotels, Zoomations and all the other companies and organisations who have supported us with finance and in-kind resources.

Ken Atkinson, Amy Bennett, Susan Blake, Anne Bulgar, Emma Carter, James Cherry, Fraser Christie, Warrick Cleine, Alex Crane, Lauren Crispin, Nam Dao Phuong, Tuyen Doan, Gaston Fernandez, Sara Forde, Tony Foster, Tram Le, Duncan Macrae, Leigh Martens, Victoria Martin, Huynh Nguyen, Gloria Pantling, Hayley Parnell, Jan Peat, Thomas Siese, Sam Snellgrove, Chloe Stephens, Khuong Su, Phuong Thy Lan, Maxine Valpy, Elfie Vietnam, Natasha Webb and all the anonymous supporters and donators.

Financial Review

After successfully emerging from the restrictions of COVID in 2022/23, the Charity's level of operations and finance in 2023/24 in some ways follow on from last year, however in other ways they have changed.

Firstly, the proportion of spend is similar, with two-thirds (65.3%) of spend being on training and development programmes (compared to 74.3% in 2022/23), and approaching a third (32.6%) of spend being on medical equipment and consumables (compared to 20.3% in 2022/23), the remainder being in fundraising activities (2.1% of spend compared to 5.4% in 2022/23).

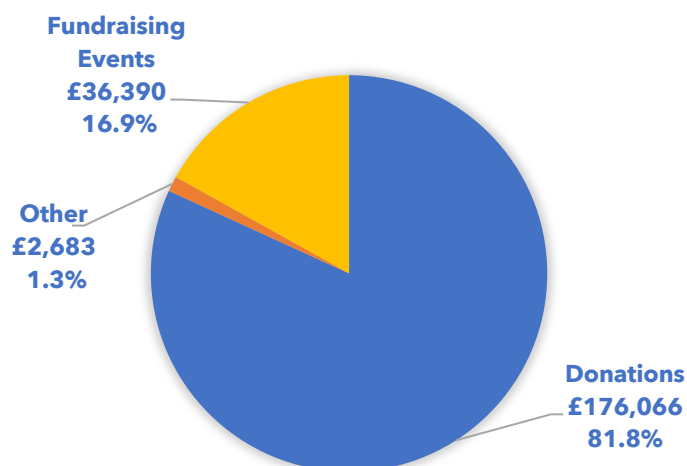
However, the overall level of spend has reduced by nearly 24% from £547k in 2022/23 to £418k in 2023/24. This is primarily due to the new local NGO, the Center for the Development of Maternal and Neonatal Care in Vietnam (SSVN) taking on responsibilities for programmes that previously were entirely managed by Newborns Vietnam.

As last year's Financial review anticipated, income has fallen in 2023/24, reducing from £547k in 2022/23 by 53% to £215k. This is primarily the result of the regulatory change in November 2022 under which local corporate sponsors are unable to donate to foreign NGOs operating in Vietnam.

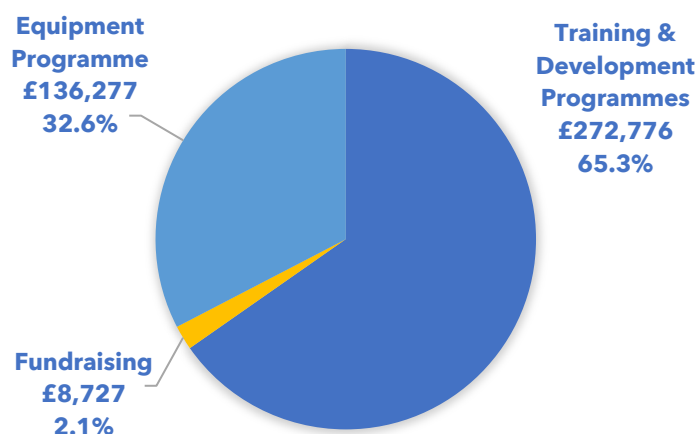
The annual deficit for 2023/24 is £203k (compared to £89k in 2022/23, meaning that the Newborns Vietnam has resources of £442k to commence the year 2024/25, so as in previous years, the charity is in a strong financial position to deliver its currently planned activities in the year ahead.

2024/25 will be an important year for the charity, as it moves towards completion of the activities set out in its 5 Year Business Plan (2020 -2024) and develops its plans for the future.

INCOME 2023 - 2024



EXPENDITURE 2023 - 2024



Reserve Policy

The charity's trustees have agreed that its reserve policy requires the retention of sufficient financial resources necessary to meet our legal obligations resulting from a closure of the organisation over a three-month period. The calculated sum includes; the gross cost of staff (if any) for two months and an allowance for redundancy, a set sum based on the general running costs budget for small contractual commitments, and reasonable allowances for the termination of any large (over £3,375 per annum) contracts that are held. The allowance is reviewed at least on a quarterly basis, or upon the taking on of any new large contractual commitment.

Trustees' statement and responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Newborns Vietnam for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with 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).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company [and the group] and of the income and expenditure of the charitable [company/group] for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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 the group] and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

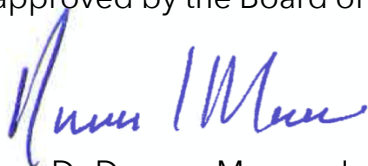
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 27th January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Duncan Macrae, Interim Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members and trustees of Newborns Vietnam

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Newborns Vietnam (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as of 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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 trustees' annual 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. 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' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual 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' annual report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
 - the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
 - certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
 - we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit;
- or
- the directors 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' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, 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 are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the

financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.

- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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.

Anthony Epton

Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Goldwins Limited

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

75 Maygrove Road, West Hampstead, London NW6 2EG

Date: 27 January 2025

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year-ended 31st March 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations (Individual & Corporate)		124,740	51,326	176,066	382,948
Other trading activities	5	36,390	-	36,390	75,689
Investments (Bank interest)		2,683	-	2,683	1,534
Total income		163,813	51,326	215,139	460,171
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	8,727	-	8,727	31,375
Charitable activities	7	349,775	59,278	409,053	515,367
Total expenditure		358,502	59,278	417,780	546,742
Net (expenditure) before transfers		(194,689)	(7,952)	(202,641)	(86,571)
Transfer between funds		(8,755)	8,755	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses)					
Foreign Exchange gains / (losses)		3,087	-	3,087	(2,247)
Net Movement in funds		(200,357)	803	(199,554)	(88,818)
Balance brought forward		591,858	49,628	641,486	730,304
Total funds carried forward	13	391,501	50,431	441,932	641,486

Balance sheet at 31st March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Current assets					
	Stocks 10	2,500	-	2,500	3,924
	Debtors and prepayments 11	172	-	172	7,546
	Cash at bank and in hand	395,809	50,431	446,240	683,908
		398,481	50,431	448,912	695,378
Creditors					
	Amounts falling due in one year 12	(6,980)	-	(6,980)	(53,892)
		391,501	50,431	441,932	641,486
Net current assets					
Funds					
	13				
	Unrestricted funds			391,501	591,858
	Restricted Funds			50,431	49,628
Total funds				441,932	641,486

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Approved by the trustees on 27th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



John Nicholas Robinson - Trustee
Company registration no. 07787718

The attached notes form part of the financial statements.

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

- a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 - effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.
- b) Going concern. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Income received in advance for the provision of specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowances for absolute and slow-moving items.

Debtors

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in these notes to the financial statements.

2 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022/23 £
Incoming from:			
Donations (Individual & Corporate)	271,118	111,830	382,948
Activities for generating funds	75,689	-	75,689
Investments (Bank interest)	1,534	-	1,534
Total income	348,341	111,830	460,171
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	31,375	-	31,375
Charitable activities	373,986	141,381	515,367
Total expenditure	405,361	141,381	546,742
Net income / (expenditure) before transfers	(57,020)	(29,551)	(86,571)
Other recognised gains /(losses)			
Foreign Exchange gains /(losses)	(2,247)	-	(2,247)
Transfer between funds	(44,419)	44,419	-
Net movement in funds	(103,686)	14,868	(88,818)
Balance brought forward	695,544	34,760	730,304
Total funds carried forward	591,858	49,628	641,486

3 Exchange Rates

Exchange rate of Vietnam Dong to Pounds Sterling are those quoted as the transfer rate by the Vietcombank (Joint Stock Commercial Bank of Vietnam) for the day given at the bank headquarters.

4 Trustee Remuneration and benefits.

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ending 31st March 2024. There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31st March 2024, other than those noted in the related parties note 15.

5 Other trading activities

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Fundraising events	36,390	75,689

6	Cost of generating voluntary income	2023-24	2022-23
		£	£
	Fundraising activities	5,428	15,906
	Add Governance costs	3,299	15,469
		<hr/> 8,727	<hr/> 31,375
7	Charitable activities	2023-24	2022-23
		£	£
	Medical staff training	207,279	302,985
	Medical equipment & consumables	108,402	93,730
		<hr/> 315,681	<hr/> 396,715
	Add Governance costs	93,372	118,652
		<hr/> 409,053	<hr/> 515,367
8	Governance costs	2023-24	2022-23
		£	£
	Bank charges	390	763
	Operational costs	92,381	130,058
	Audit fees	3,900	3,300
		<hr/> 96,671	<hr/> 134,121
	Less: Allocated to fundraising activities	(3,299)	(15,469)
	Less: Allocated to charitable activities	(93,372)	(118,652)
		<hr/> -	<hr/> -
9	Analysis of staff cost	2023-24	2022-23
	(Programme and Finance Staff)	£	£
	Wages	63,598	100,030
	On-costs	8,747	1,860
		<hr/> 72,345	<hr/> 101,890

None of the employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) during the year of more than £60,000 (2023: none).

Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was six (2023: six) At the end of the year, there were four employees.

10	Stock	2023-24	2022-23
		£	£
	Finished goods	2,500	3,924

11 Debtors	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Donations receivable	172	7,546
	<u>172</u>	<u>7,546</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Training, equipment and operation creditors	6,980	53,796
Other creditors	-	96
	<u>6,980</u>	<u>53,892</u>

13 Movement in funds in 2023-2024

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	Transfer between funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
- General fund	591,858	(191,602)	(8,755)	391,501
Restricted funds				
- Midwifery training	34,478	3,362	-	37,840
- Network safe transport system	10,916	(19,671)	8,755	-
- Network medical equipment	4,234	-	-	4,234
- NLS training scholarships	-	8,357	-	8,357
Sub-Total	49,628	(7,952)	8,755	50,431
Total Funds	641,486	(199,554)	-	441,932

Net movement of funds in 2023-2024

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains & Losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
- General fund	163,813	358,502	3,087	(191,602)
Restricted funds				
- Midwifery training	36,676	33,314	-	3,362
- Network Safe Transport System	-	19,671	-	(19,671)
- Network Medical Equipment	-	-	-	-
- NLS training	14,650	6,293	-	8,357
Sub-Total	51,326	59,278	-	(7,952)
Total Funds	215,139	417,780	3,087	(199,554)

Movement in funds in 2022-2023

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	Transfer between funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
- General fund	695,544	(59,267)	(44,419)	591,858
Restricted funds				
- Midwifery training	-	34,478	-	34,478
- Network Safe Transport System	18,483	(7,567)	-	10,916
- Network Medical Equipment	16,277	(12,043)	-	4,234
- NLS Training	-	(44,419)	44,419	-
Sub-Total	34,760	(29,551)	44,419	49,628
Total funds	730,304	(88,818)	-	641,486

Net movement of funds in 2022-2023

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains & Losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
- General fund	348,341	(405,361)	(2,247)	(59,267)
Restricted funds				
- Midwifery training	34,478	-	-	34,478
- Network safe transport system	-	(7,567)	-	(7,567)
- Network medical equipment	16,643	(28,686)	-	(12,043)
- NLS training	60,709	(105,128)	-	(44,419)
Sub-Total	111,830	(141,381)	-	(29,551)
Total funds	460,171	(546,742)	(2,247)	(88,818)

14 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 01 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	683,908	(237,668)	446,240
Total cash and cash equivalents	683,908	(237,668)	446,240

	At 01 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	722,475	(38,567)	683,908
Total cash and cash equivalents	722,745	(38,567)	683,908

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions to disclose for the year.