

SOLIHULL ACTION THROUGH ADVOCACY

England & Wales · Charity number 1146073

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07945421
Registered	2012-02-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Solihull Action Through Advocacy 11-13 Land Lane Marston Green Solihull B37 7DE
Phone	01217064696
Email	office@solihulladvocacy.org.uk
Website	www.solihulladvocacy.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 4.1 THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS(THE OBJECTS) ARE TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO OBTAIN FULL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS CITIZENS AND INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY IN SOLIHULL AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SUPPORT.4.2 FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE "SOCIALLY EXCLUDED" MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: AGE, DISABILITY, IMPAIRMENT, POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT, RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN AND ASYLUM SEEKERS.

Activities: 1 to 1 issue based advocacy; Self advocacy groups; Changing Lives Self Adv. group linked to Partnership Board; Vulnerable Parent Advocacy; Supporting Volunteers in Citizen Advocacy Partnerships, Peer advocacy & Groups in residential/supported living settings; Experts by Experience, assessing services in care homes; Aspirations, Choice & Empowerment Project; Self Advocacy Transition Project; IMCA

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- Solihull

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£727,168	£711,758	£207,412	19
2024-03-31	£649,336	£581,315	£192,002	20
2023-03-31	£579,753	£530,698	£123,981	20
2022-03-31	£555,490	£544,517	£74,926	20
2021-03-31	£550,031	£533,249	£63,953	20

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Catherine Nolan		2021-01-29
Dr Susan Lanz		2023-02-06
Gary Michael Anthoney		2024-12-10
JANE EMMA WILLIAMS		2012-02-16
Jessica James		2019-05-14
John Roundell		2021-01-29
Joshua John Moreton		2023-02-06
Philip Edward John Marshall		2019-05-14

Accounts

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2025

Charity number: 1146073

Company limited by guarantee: 7945421

**Solihull Action through Advocacy
Report and Financial Statements
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Solihull Action through Advocacy
Legal and administrative information

Trustees and Directors

Gary Anthoney	Appointed 10 December 2024. Finance Committee (from February 2025)
Jessica James	
Dr Susan Lanz	
Philip Marshall	Finance Committee
Joshua Moreton	Finance Committee (until February 2025)
Catherine Nolan	
Christopher Rinaldi (Chair)	Appointed 1 October 2024
John Roundell	Finance Committee
Jane Williams	

Chief Executive Officer

Christine Forde

Principal Office and Registered Address

11 - 13 Land Lane
Marston Green
Solihull
B37 7DE

Independent examiner

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 6NE

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

It is a privilege to introduce this year's Annual Report and Accounts as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees. At Solihull Action Through Advocacy (SAtA), we are proud to stand alongside and support some of the most vulnerable members of our community; people with autism and learning disabilities, many of whom face additional challenges and complexities in their lives. Whether due to multiple diagnoses, physical disabilities, or challenges with mental health, these individuals often encounter significant barriers to accessing the support they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Following the year end, we are delighted to share that SAtA has been successful in securing the contract to continue delivering statutory and parent advocacy services on behalf of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for at least a further five years, starting from October 2025. This achievement is a strong endorsement of the high-quality advocacy support we provide and a clear demonstration of the continued trust the Council places in our work and our values.

In January 2025 our organisation successfully retained its Advocacy Quality Performance Mark (QPM) recognising the high standards, professionalism, and quality of our independent advocacy services. It gives commissioners and those who use our services reassurance that we are focussed on ensuring delivery of quality services. The QPM Assessor found that:

“All external stakeholders and people who used advocacy services reflected on the highest standards of independent advocacy delivered by SAtA. It is clear that SAtA has an excellent reputation with people who use services, stakeholders and within the wider independent advocacy sector.”

Despite continued challenges ranging from increased pressures on health and social care services, the enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis, our team of staff and volunteers have remained unwavering in their commitment to delivering high-quality advocacy. Their work ensures that people's rights are upheld, that their voices are heard, and that they are supported to make informed choices about their lives and maintain their independence.

Much of our advocacy work is preventative in nature. It plays a vital role in helping people to stay well, be part of their communities, and reduce the need for more intensive health and social care interventions. The demand for our one-to-one advocacy casework continues to grow, both in terms of volume and complexity. Our advocates work in partnership with professionals across services to ensure person-centred approaches that lead to better, more meaningful outcomes.

Our Community Advocacy has also gone from strength to strength. Building support networks remains at the heart of our community work, and our Circles of Support initiative continues to provide opportunities for people to build lasting friendships and establish networks of mutual support. We've also continued to host our popular Coffee and Catch-Up sessions, which offer safe, welcoming spaces for people who may be isolated or lacking in confidence to meet others, develop new interests, and feel a sense of belonging.

In our Collective Advocacy work, we have made significant progress on key areas such as healthcare and mental health. We are a key member of the Learning Disability Partnership Board at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, with members of our own Learning Disability Council actively contributing to its work. We have also remained closely involved with the NHS's LeDeR programme, "Learning from Lives and Deaths - people with a learning disability and autistic people". Building on this, we have launched a new initiative to gather the voices of people with lived experience, helping assess progress towards the LeDeR strategic priorities and influencing improvements in service delivery.

The Board of Trustees has spent time reflecting on and refining our strategic direction over the past year. The year has been a challenging one to ensure the organisation was well prepared for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's re-tender of its advocacy services. As mentioned, we are delighted to have been successful following the procurement process. We have also worked to ensure a sustainable balance between our service delivery and funding, particularly due to the Government's evolving renewed focus on health and social care and its impact on the regional landscape of integrated care across Solihull and Birmingham. This work is vital in ensuring we remain responsive, resilient, and ready for the future.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Chief Executive, Christine Forde, and her leadership team, along with every member of staff and all our volunteers. Their hard work, passion, and dedication ensure that we continue to deliver outstanding support to those who need us most. As Chair, I am inspired by the compassion and perseverance I see every day, and I look forward to contributing to the continued development and impact of this incredible organisation.

Finally, we would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who fund our work. Your continued support and confidence in us are truly appreciated, and together, we are making a real and lasting difference in the lives of those we support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Rinaldi'.

Christopher Rinaldi, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The Trustees' report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 14 to 16 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2012 and registered as a Charity on 23 February 2012 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The company is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility of managing the business of the charitable company and for the purposes of Charity law the Trustees of the Charity are also Directors of the company. The Trustees / Directors who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1.

All Trustees gave their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in the accounts. Trustee vacancies are advertised locally and regionally. Trustees are appointed for their skills and expertise. All new Trustees undergo an induction process and receive a Trustee pack with relevant information about the organisation.

Day to day responsibility for management of the organisation is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive.

All major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded;
- to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society;
- to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

'Socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: age, disability, impairment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown and asylum seekers.

Solihull Action through Advocacy achieves its objectives through the provision of free independent advocacy. Having regard to these achievements, and the public benefit that they provide, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has met the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

In assessing the success of the Charity in the period, the Trustees have had regard principally to the number of people to whom the Charity has provided a service and the proportion of those individuals who achieved an outcome mostly or completely in line with their wishes. In addition the Trustees hold as a key criteria the need to deliver the Charity's services within its budget and to make a contribution to its unrestricted reserves.

The Charity utilises volunteers in a variety of roles from service delivery to Governance. Across the period, 23 people have volunteered including within our Peer Visitor service, Learning Disability Council, as Citizen Advocates, members of our Advisory Committee and the Trustees themselves.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance

1. Advocacy Case Work

Our casework service has continued to be an important source of support for some of the most marginalised people as the health and social care sector, along with the wider community, continued to struggle with and be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis and other challenges. Over the course of the year we received over 688 new referrals and have provided a one-to-one independent advocacy case work service to 810 people across 1,323 cases (an increase of 13% on last year). 281 of those people (35%) are new to SAAtA. The nature of cases is also increasingly more complex due to the diverse needs and challenges of individuals who require our support.

Solihull First Advocacy - This year is the fifth year of delivering our service providing all local-authority funded statutory and non-statutory advocacy in Solihull. In total, the service has worked with 662 people across 1,142 cases. 213 (38%) of those people were new to SAAtA.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) – We continue to provide an advocacy service to individuals who have been assessed as lacking capacity and are entitled to the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate. This includes those subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and those entitled to the support of a Relevant Person's Representative. These are entitlements that were created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to ensure that individuals who lack capacity in respect of certain decisions are not deprived of the ability to input into best interest decisions about their lives.

Care Act - We provide support under the Care Act 2014 to those who are going through the process of assessment, support planning or review as well as safeguarding processes. This service is provided to any person who has a substantial difficulty engaging with the process and does not have another suitable person to support them.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) – We provide advocacy support to individuals who have been detained under a section of the Mental Health Act 1983. The majority of those cases are supporting people who have been detained in hospital under section 2 or section 3 for assessment and treatment. IMHAs ensure that detained individuals understand what their situation is, what their rights are, help to ensure their voice is heard in care and treatment decisions and to plan for their return into the community.

NHS Complaints - We provide advocacy support to people who wish to make a complaint about treatment they have received from the NHS. This can include making complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman if required.

Non-Statutory Advocacy - We work with people whose situations do not meet the criteria for any of the statutory advocacy roles above but who have important issues that they need advocacy support with. We assist people with issues such as housing, employment, healthcare, finances, social care, access to services, bullying and hate crime. Commonly, people come to us because they have no one else who they can turn to for support. We also see this advocacy provision as an important service that has successfully supported people who may otherwise present to health and social care services.

Parents Advocacy - Our service for parents with a learning disability provides advocacy support during child protection proceedings or pre-proceedings. These are cases that usually revolve around whether a parent is able to care for the child(ren) or whether they should be cared for by a relative or someone else. In many cases this results in them being removed from the care of their parents. Support from an advocate ensures that parents are fully engaged in the decision-making process and also that all options to support parents to continue caring for their own child(ren) have been considered and explored. We have worked on 73 parents advocacy cases this year (an increase of 15% on last year).

Young People - We have continued to provide support to young people with learning disabilities and autism, particularly those who are in transition into adulthood. Key issues within this group include education such as Education Health and Care Plans, employment, relationships and mental health (with the latter remaining an increasing challenge among young people). This work is funded by BSol ICB. We have worked on 32 cases in the year.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. Community Advocacy

Peer Visitors

We have continued with our Peer Visitor project where a peer with disabilities, supported by a volunteer visiting residents at 9 residential homes for people with learning disabilities. They look at the surroundings, talk to residents and staff and consider how they would feel if it were them living there. They then feedback back their findings to management at the home.

Following their observations the peer visitors were impressed:

- that some homes had received some refurbishment and redecoration. The colour scheme used was liked by the peers because of the bright colours, and the ease of accessibility around the homes were good.□
- how staff at three homes managed bereavement with the people living there. The staff managed the communication sensitively and compassionately.□
- the people in the homes were well supported and cared for by the staff.

It was fed back to management across all the homes that the homes had challenges in providing transport to people to enable them to access community activities. This remains an ongoing challenge.

This year we have been pleased to welcome a four-legged Peer Visitor to our team – Tilly. Tilly accompanies our Peer Visitors on visits to homes where everyone likes dogs. This helps to relax the people we are visiting and brings them some enjoyment. It makes everyone happy and builds on our positive relationships.

Circles of Support

This is an important initiative which helps to meet a gap in our community. It enables vulnerable people to establish new friendships which builds on their support network to meet their own particular needs and goals through co-production. This work is funded by the NHS.

We have worked on a one-to-one basis with 36 individuals this year. The length of that support has varied depending on a variety of factors. For example:□

- The length of time needed to build trusting relationship
- The level of social anxiety felt by the person
- The length of time the person has been isolated from community integration
- The complex nature of the person's needs
- What suitable activities are available in their local area

Poor mental health has unfortunately been a common theme during this year. This has been demonstrated by people not wanting to leave their homes and even feeling suicidal. We have managed to keep these relationships ongoing due to the trust we have developed, by providing regular activities and community engagement. It is important that the people set their own agenda and go forward at their own pace. We co-work with other external professionals where appropriate.

We have been making good use of our Coffee and Catch Up sessions particularly at The Core venue where attendance has been up to 20 people. This enables people to make connections in a relaxed environment, practicing their social skills and hearing about other social opportunities.

HS2 has further developed this work by providing funding that enabled SAAtA to deliver 82 workshops to 69 people. It enables vulnerable people to establish new friendships which builds on their support network to meet their own particular needs and goals through co-production.

We continue to see the benefits of all this work as people feel positive about life, a sense of belonging, having friends, and increased well-being but also notably feeling safe. The aim is also focussed on prevention by reducing dependency on formal health and social care services. These forms of advocacy help to promote individual self-advocacy and improve their confidence.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. Community Advocacy (continued)

Boobs on the go/in the know

We were fortunate to receive funding from the Pink Ribbon foundation which we have put to good use by spreading awareness of breast cancer and cancer screening amongst the learning disability community in Solihull. We built a small team of women with Learning disabilities who created a presentation and delivered it to supported living homes, day centres and colleges. The presentation was also delivered to health professionals, and our team of women led a discussion with professionals about how they could help to make some improvements. They explained the need for reasonable adjustments, clear details about screening and breast cancer treatment, and offered advice on how to communicate well with patients who have learning disabilities. As part of this work, we also set up a women's wellbeing group which takes place monthly at a local hospice and we are delighted that it will continue after the end of this project with the support of volunteers.

Capturing change

During this time we have continued our active support of LeDeR (Learning from experiences of Life and death of people with Learning disabilities) with the ICB funded project Capturing Change. We have worked jointly with Midland Mencap and Experts by Experience to capture healthcare experiences of People with Learning Disabilities and Autism. We have focused on experiences of Annual Health Checks, moving between Primary and Secondary Care and co-facilitated a series of workshops with Marie Curie looking at planning for end of life, and supporting people to make informed choices around this sensitive but important topic. We have shared our findings with the ICB's LeDeR Governance board to bring about an awareness and understanding of the issues encountered by people accessing health services and what changes or reasonable adjustments can be made to improve their experiences and accessibility.

3. Collective Advocacy

Solihull Learning Disability Council (LDC)

The Council has continued to meet monthly. This year the work of the LDC has continued to include:

- Undergoing training with Mencap on how to plan and execute a positive campaign about any issue they choose to.
- Discussion on how the work of the LDC could be promoted to reach a wider audience so that more voices are heard.
- Creating their own personal stories as a contribution to Disability Week on the topic of 'Do You See Me?'.
- Discussion on the importance of having an understanding and awareness of signs of cancer amongst people with learning disabilities. This influenced SATa to start developing future work in this area.

Influencing Work

The Learning Disability Council Chair is pleased to have continued to be Chair of Solihull Council's Learning Disability Partnership Board which is now in its second year. The LDC were able to influence the agenda of the Partnership Board to discuss the specific support needed by carers with learning disabilities. As a consequence of raising this people with learning disabilities were invited to take part in a consultation on ways to improve support or carers. They also initiated a task and finish group to look at the lack of evening activities available for people with learning disabilities with a view to increasing what is on offer. This work will be continuing into the following year.

LeDeR - This NHS programme identifies learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disabilities or autism. Following our inclusion in the local LeDeR steering group we continue to be part of the regular "Oversight Panel" which looks at completed LeDeR reviews with a view to seeing what actions can be taken to improve systems and processes. LeDeR is a service improvement programme for people with learning disability or autism. As an extension to this work, we are supporting people with lived experience to share their views and experiences of using healthcare services and to identify whether the NHS is meeting its priorities contained in the ICB's LeDeR strategic plan. This work will determine the actions that are needed to improve the experiences of accessing health services as well as highlighting areas of good practice. The priorities can be found here: [LeDeR Priorities](#).

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

3. Collective Advocacy (continued)

Influencing Work (continued)

JAND Strategic Board - We were invited to sit as part of the Joint Additional Needs and Disabilities Board. As part of this we contributed to the drafting of the new Joint Additional Needs Strategy for Solihull, as well as the associated action plans. The Strategy can be viewed here: [JAND Strategy](#).

Solihull Council Safeguarding Board – We are also a member of Solihull Council's Safeguarding Board which enables us to use and share our knowledge and experience of the local community alongside other key stakeholders across Solihull.

Plans for future periods

In consultation with our staff and the people who use our services, our strategic plan for 2025-26 will focus on:

1. Continue to deliver a high-quality, 1-2-1 case work advocacy service to protect people's rights and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard
2. Develop new "community advocacy" projects to promote and support inclusion for people with a learning disability or autism to support sustainable funding of this work
3. Develop and grow "collective advocacy" work to influence positive change
4. Improve impact measurement methodologies and reporting (maximising use of data and information)
5. Improve marketing and raise the profile of our Charity

As we move into 2025/26 and beyond, our focus is now on pushing forward with the development of our Community and Collective Advocacy activity. Some of this work is underway including the delivery of our Circles of Support which has become an established part of our community work.

We will also continue with the delivery of the new project funded by BSol ICB to ensure that the voices and experiences of people with learning disabilities and autism are central to assessing the progress towards the LeDeR strategic plan and in determining the actions that need to be taken to improve their experiences and to build on areas of good practice.

Our Advisory Committee will continue to review its membership to ensure it is diverse and representative of the Solihull community.

We will also be focussing some of our attentions on improving our ability to capture, measure and articulate the impact of our work and using that to inform future services, as well as to support building our profile and influencing local, regional and national policy and practice.

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an income of £727,168 (2024: £649,336) and expenditure of £711,758 (2024: £581,315) resulting in net income for the year of £15,410 (2024: £68,021). The fund balance at 31 March 2025 is £207,412 (2024: £192,002), of which £14,022 (2024: £13,007) is restricted and £193,390 (2024: £178,995) is unrestricted.

The increase in other charitable income shown in note 4 (2025: £215,609 versus 2024: £136,102) is primarily due to new projects which commenced during this period.

The Trustees are particularly grateful to the members of the Board's Finance Committee, the CEO and Finance Manager for their work in supporting the Trustees to ensure careful and prudent management of the Charity's finances.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial review (continued)

The principal financial risks faced by the Charity are regularly monitored by the Board of Trustees and by its Finance Committee, as well as on a continual basis by the CEO and Management Team. The main risks to which the Trustees feel attention should be drawn are:

- Dependency on a small number of large funding streams: Approximately 65% of income for 2024-25 was derived from contracts with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (although this is split across multiple contracts) and this presents some risk in terms of sustainability in the long term. Our main contract will be extended at least for a further five years from October 2025. The Trustees have set income generation targets and fundraising plans to encourage diversification of income streams to help mitigate this risk.
- Failure to achieve income generation targets: As with most similar charities, there is a recurrent risk that the Charity will fail to meet its fundraising / income generation targets in any given year. The Trustees have set challenging but achievable targets and progress towards them is monitored regularly by the Board's Finance Committee. In addition, unrestricted funds held in reserves can be deployed to make up for under-performance in fundraising if the Trustees consider that to be prudent and appropriate.

Reserves

The Reserves Policy sets out the Trustees' rationale for setting its target reserves figure and takes due regard of the Charity Commission guidance CC19. In setting the reserves target, the Trustees consider contracted future income streams, levels of committed expenditure, cash flow requirements, and identified risks on the risk register.

The target reserves figure is formally reviewed annually and ordinarily as part of the budget setting process. A comparison of the actual and target reserves figure is monitored throughout the year.

In summary, the reasons for which funds are retained as reserves include:

- To ensure the continuity of an activity in the event of a significant variation or total loss of funding for that activity. This is a high priority for SATa.
- To fund unforeseen and unavoidable running costs or capital expenditures that may arise.
- To fund running costs for the short-term in the instance of cash-flow timing problems.

A free reserves target figure of £125,000 was approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2025. Free reserves at 31 March 2025 were £96,222 (2024: £96,500) which is less than this target. The Trustees will endeavour in the coming year to increase the free reserves figure via their ongoing budgetary controls and search for new income opportunities, in order to move closer to this target. Furthermore, designated funds of £82,755 (as at 31 March 2025) are available to transfer to the general fund at the Trustees' discretion.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006. This report was approved by the Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall
Finance Committee



John Roundell
Finance Committee

03/12/2025

Date

Independent examiner's report
To the Trustees of Solihull Action through Advocacy

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 11 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
(Fellow of the ICAEW)

8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
CV32 6NE

3 December 2025

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	6,164	-	6,164	4,944
Charitable activities	4	533,399	184,481	717,880	641,720
Investments		3,124	-	3,124	2,672
		<u>542,687</u>	<u>184,481</u>	<u>727,168</u>	<u>649,336</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	-	-	4,634
Charitable activities	5	515,888	188,731	704,619	576,476
Other		5,330	1,809	7,139	205
		<u>521,218</u>	<u>190,540</u>	<u>711,758</u>	<u>581,315</u>
Net income		21,469	(6,059)	15,410	68,021
Transfers between funds	15	(7,074)	7,074	-	-
Net movement in funds		14,395	1,015	15,410	68,021
Balance at start of year	15	178,995	13,007	192,002	123,981
Balance at end of year	15	<u>193,390</u>	<u>14,022</u>	<u>207,412</u>	<u>192,002</u>

There were no recognised gains and losses for the charitable company for the current or prior years other than those included in the statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure arises from continuing activities.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Company limited by guarantee: 7945421
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

		31 March 2025	31 March 2024
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	14,413	2,784
Current assets			
Debtors	11	2,243,217	823,280
Cash at bank and in hand		211,240	260,622
		2,454,457	1,083,902
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(758,744)	(619,401)
Net current assets		1,695,713	464,501
Total assets less current liabilities		1,710,126	467,285
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(1,502,714)	(275,283)
Total net assets		207,412	192,002
Funds			
Restricted	15	14,022	13,007
Unrestricted	15	193,390	178,995
		207,412	192,002

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall
Finance Committee



John Roundell
Finance Committee

03/12/2025

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	
Net cash from operating activities			
Net income	15,410	68,021	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	1,523	1,346	
Loss on sale of fixed assets	181	-	
Interest income shown in investing activities	(3,124)	(2,672)	
Increase in debtors	(1,419,937)	(37,848)	
Increase in creditors	1,366,774	107,746	
Net cash provided by operating activities	(39,173)	136,593	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest and dividends	3,124	2,672	
Purchase of fixed assets	(13,333)	(1,102)	
Net cash provided by investing activities	(10,209)	1,570	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(49,382)	138,163	
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	260,622	122,459	
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	211,240	260,622	
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	211,240	260,622	
Analysis of changes in net debt	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	260,622	(49,382)	211,240

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

{a} General information and basis of preparation

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a private Charitable Company incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee, is limited to £10 per member of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the Charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are: to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded; to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society; to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity, rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

{b} Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

{c} Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

The Charity receives government grants in respect of its advocacy projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the Charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

All income arises in the United Kingdom.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{d} Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the costs of fundraising
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises the direct costs of the provision of advocacy services and associated overhead expenses

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

{e} Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity, but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative payroll costs, premises costs, office costs and governance costs. Support costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities, and raising funds. Any support costs which cannot be directly attributed to individual funds are apportioned according to the gross payroll cost incurred by each fund. The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

{f} Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computers and office equipment	33.3% reducing balance
--------------------------------	------------------------

Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off to the SoFA in the year of purchase.

{g} 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.

{h} Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

{i} Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the Charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{j} Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

{k} Tax

The Charity is an exempt Charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a Charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the Charity, to be able to continue as a going concern.

3 Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Other donations and gift aid	6,164	4,944

All donations are unrestricted.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Contracts with Solihull MBC	469,131	452,850
Grants	33,140	52,768
Other charitable income	215,609	136,102
	<u>717,880</u>	<u>641,720</u>

All grant income is restricted. £151,341 (2024:£46,649) of other charitable income is restricted. All other income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2024 Total £
Direct staff costs	297,450	63,200	360,650	343,653
Direct premises costs	66	-	66	662
Direct office costs	3,796	10,947	14,743	483
Other direct costs	118,866	98,878	217,744	143,993
Total direct costs	420,178	173,025	593,203	488,791
Support costs (note 6)	95,710	15,706	111,416	87,685
	515,888	188,731	704,619	576,476

6 Allocation of support costs

Support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities and other expenditure, being apportioned between individual funds on the basis of the direct payroll cost incurred by each fund. Total support costs comprise the following:

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £
Support costs included in expenditure on charitable activities	
Staff costs	55,485
Premises costs	27,084
Office costs	20,348
Depreciation	1,523
Loss on disposal	181
Professional fees	540
Governance	2,949
Other costs	3,306
	111,416
Support costs included in other expenditure	6,285
	117,701

7 Net movement in funds for the year

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,523	1,346
Fees payable to the independent examiner:	2,645	2,060

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner (2024: £nil).

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
The staff costs were:		
Wages and salaries	366,196	307,053
Social security costs	23,314	16,214
Pension contributions	18,017	15,593
	<u>407,527</u>	<u>338,860</u>
Other staff costs	8,608	29,877
	<u>416,135</u>	<u>368,737</u>

The other staff costs comprise mainly staff cover, travel, recruitment and training costs. No employee received annual emoluments in excess of £50,000 (2024: none). The average monthly number of staff employed during the year was:

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	No.	No.
Charitable Activities	16	15
Other	3	3
	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>

9 Trustees' expenses and remuneration

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2024: £nil). Expenses paid to the Trustees in the year totalled £nil (2024: £nil) and there were no donations made by Trustees (2024: £nil). There were no other related party transactions (2024: none).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers and office equipment £
Cost	
At 31 March 2024	16,830
Additions	13,333
Disposals	(1,224)
At 31 March 2025	<u>28,939</u>
Depreciation	
At 31 March 2024	14,046
Charge for year	1,523
Disposals	(1,043)
At 31 March 2025	<u>14,526</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	<u>14,413</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,784</u>

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

11 Debtors	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	128,265	60,725
Other debtors	5,801	2,198
Prepayments and accrued income	2,109,151	760,357
	<u>2,243,217</u>	<u>823,280</u>

Prepayments and accrued income include £2,104,526 (2024: £755,732) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts are recognised as due to the Charity under the terms of the contracts but the associated income is deferred to the relevant future periods, see notes 12 and 13. Included within prepayments and accrued income is £1,502,714 (2024: £275,283) due after more than one year. £288,671 (2024: £145,231) of accrued income is restricted. The increase in accrued income at 31 March 2025 compared with 31 March 2024 is primarily due to the renewal of the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council contract until October 2030.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	49,199	9,842
Accruals and deferred income	709,545	604,730
Taxation and social security	-	4,829
	<u>758,744</u>	<u>619,401</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due within one year includes £687,799 (2024: £579,691) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2026. (2024: recognised in the year ended 31 March 2025). £280,628 (2024: £191,908) of deferred income due within one year is restricted.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>1,502,714</u>	<u>275,283</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due after more than one year are in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the years ending 31 March 2027, 31 March 2028, 31 March 2029 and 31 March 2030 (2024: recognised in the year ending 31 March 2026). All accruals and deferred income are due within five years. No interest is chargeable. £94,030 (2024: £66,095) of deferred income due after more than one year is restricted. The increase in deferred income at 31 March 2025 compared with 31 March 2024 is primarily due to the renewal of the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council contract until October 2030.

14 Deferred income	£
At 1 April 2024	854,974
Additions during the year	1,915,230
Amounts released to income	(579,691)
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,190,513</u>

Deferred income comprises amounts, received or receivable, which are in respect of work to be undertaken in future periods, see notes 12 and 13.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

15 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balance b/f £	Income £	Expend- iture £	Fund transfers £	Fund balance c/f £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	99,284	22,041	(12,518)	1,828	110,635
Designated funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Solihull First	5,000	416,085	(440,806)	19,721	-
Parents Advocacy	-	42,738	(35,140)	(7,598)	-
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	5,464	1,169	-	-	6,633
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Peer Visitors	747	10,308	(16,384)	5,329	-
Circles of Support	-	50,346	(16,370)	-	33,976
Designated funds - Other					
IT development & security	50,000	-	-	(23,521)	26,479
Website development	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Project accounting	5,000	-	-	(5,000)	-
Finance and HR	-	-	-	8,000	8,000
Staff development	8,500	-	-	(5,833)	2,667
	<u>79,711</u>	<u>520,646</u>	<u>(508,700)</u>	<u>(8,902)</u>	<u>82,755</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>178,995</u>	<u>542,687</u>	<u>(521,218)</u>	<u>(7,074)</u>	<u>193,390</u>
Restricted funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Baron Davenport	189	750	-	-	939
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Awards for All	2,710	-	-	-	2,710
HS2	-	20,724	(27,689)	6,965	-
Restricted funds - Collective Advocacy					
LeDeR	10,023	147,941	(149,215)	-	8,749
Restricted funds - Other					
CB & HH Taylor	85	-	-	-	85
Eveson Trust	-	10,000	(10,109)	109	-
Sheldon Trust	-	1,666	(1,000)	-	666
Pink Ribbon	-	3,400	(2,527)	-	873
	<u>13,007</u>	<u>184,481</u>	<u>(190,540)</u>	<u>7,074</u>	<u>14,022</u>
Total funds	<u>192,002</u>	<u>727,168</u>	<u>(711,758)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>207,412</u>

Transfers made from the general fund to the restricted funds are to ensure they are not in deficit at the year end.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

15 Summary of fund movements (continued)

Designated funds are held for the following purposes:

Solihull First	Provision of statutory and non-statutory advocacy for adults residing and/or receiving services in Solihull. This includes advocacy provided under the Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Mental Health Act as well as NHS Complaints. It also includes issue-based, non-statutory advocacy for adults living in Solihull.
Parents Advocacy	One to one support for parents with a learning disability who are going through child protection proceedings.
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.
Peer Visitors	Peer-led quality monitoring visits to Local Authority residential care homes.
Circles of Support	A program to help reduce social isolation and build long-term supportive networks for people with learning disabilities.
IT development & security	For replacing IT equipment and for IT security costs.
Website development	For ongoing development of the website.
Project accounting	To expand the accounting system to incorporate quarterly project reporting and monthly cash flows.
Finance and HR	To develop systems, processes and knowledge.
Staff development	For investment in staff training courses and career development.

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Baron Davenport	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
Awards for All	Building Connections project providing sessions for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to meet and get support, socialise and build relationships.
HS2	Project funding to reduce the isolation of people in north Solihull that were affected by the HS2 construction.
LeDeR	Learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disability and autism is a project for the NHS. The project covers the geographical areas of Solihull and Birmingham and involves talking to people with lived experience to understand their views and experience of accessing health services.
CB & HH Taylor	To support young people with learning disabilities or autism into adulthood.
Eveson Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Sheldon Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Pink Ribbon	To educate women and facilitate peer support on the importance of obtaining regular breast cancer screening checks

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

16 Analysis of net assets by fund	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	14,413	-	14,413
Debtors	1,954,546	288,671	2,243,217
Cash	111,231	100,009	211,240
Current liabilities	(478,116)	(280,628)	(758,744)
Long term liabilities	(1,408,684)	(94,030)	(1,502,714)
	<u>193,390</u>	<u>14,022</u>	<u>207,412</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the Charitable Company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Premises	
	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Not later than one year	18,500	18,500
Later than one year and not later than five years	27,750	9,250
	<u>46,250</u>	<u>27,750</u>

	Office equipment	
	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Not later than one year	996	996
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,490	3,486
	<u>3,486</u>	<u>4,482</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £18,500 (2024: £18,500) for premises and £996 (2024: £1,281) for office equipment.

18 Controlling party and ultimate controlling party

The controlling party and ultimate controlling party of the Charitable Company is the Board of Trustees / Directors of Solihull Action through Advocacy.

Accounts

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2024

Charity number: 1146073

Company limited by guarantee: 7945421

**Solihull Action through Advocacy
Report and Financial Statements
Contents**

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Solihull Action through Advocacy
Legal and administrative information

Trustees and Directors

Jonathan Bright	Resigned 30 April 2023
Jessica James	
Dr Susan Lanz	
Philip Marshall	Finance Committee
Joshua Moreton	Finance Committee
Kornelia Narazinska	Resigned 3 July 2023
Catherine Nolan	
John Roundell	Finance Committee
Jane Williams	

Chief Executive Officer

Christine Forde

Principal Office and Registered Address

11 - 13 Land Lane
Marston Green
Solihull
B37 7DE

Independent examiner

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 6NE

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

We support people with autism and learning disabilities who are some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Some of them will have more complex needs because they may have more than one diagnosis, a physical disability or suffer from poor mental health. Across all of the advocacy services we provide, our aim is for people to live happier and healthier lives.

However, there are challenges that have made it harder for this aim to be achieved. For instance, there can be difficulties faced by people needing health services because of the increase in demand across the system and in a way that can accommodate their particular needs. We also see that many people still feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and remain anxious about leaving their homes. Alongside this, there is the cost of living crisis which has had a severe impact on some people and how they are able to utilise their limited resources. This has caused difficult decisions and choices to be made whilst at the same time as wanting to lead fulfilling lives. However, our advocates have continued to provide quality support in these continuing challenging circumstances.

In relation to the one-to-one advocacy casework that we provide to people, it continues to increase both in volume as well as in the nature and complexity of the support required. We work alongside other professionals to enable a person-centred approach to be undertaken and to maximise the positive impact that can be achieved to improve outcomes. Our advocates delivering one-to-one advocacy ensure that people's rights are protected, and that their views, wishes and feelings are heard and listened to. We support people to make their own informed choices about their lives and to maintain their independence.

Our Community Advocacy work has proved to be a continued success. Building support networks within the community is the theme that links our various community work streams. At the centre of this has been our Circles of Support which helps to build new friendships and establish a support network. Many of the people we support involves a range of advocacy interventions being used to meet their individual needs.

We also continue to hold our 'Coffee and Catch-Up' sessions to enable people who are isolated or lack confidence to meet new people so they can widen their social and support networks and developing new interests. These sessions are held in a number of venues across Solihull and are a great first step as well as follow on step for our Circles of Support initiative.

Meanwhile, our Collective Advocacy work has continued to look into the important areas of healthcare and mental health support for people with learning disabilities, and this year saw the formation of a new Learning Disability Partnership Board led by Solihull Council. Members of our own Learning Disability Council (LDC) form part of its membership.

We also continue to influence partners in the NHS in connection with the LeDeR programme, which identifies learning from the lives and deaths of people with learning disabilities or autism. As an extension to this work, we have commenced the delivery of a new initiative to hear directly from people with lived experience to help assess the progress being made towards the LeDeR strategic plan priorities. This work will determine the actions that are needed to improve their experiences of accessing health services as well as highlighting areas of good practice.

The Board of Trustees spent some time during the past year maintaining an overview of its strategy and progress towards balancing workload and funding across all our advocacy activities. The Board also considered the implications going forward for delivering advocacy services in Solihull following the move to an integrated care board model that plans and delivers health care needs across Solihull and Birmingham.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our Chief Executive, Christine Forde, her leadership team and all of our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication, ensuring that we continue to provide a very efficient, high quality service to those in the local community who need our support.

Finally, not just on behalf of everyone at SATa but also of the people we serve, I would like to thank each and every one of the people and organisations who have funded and continue to fund our work. We are very grateful for your support and the trust you place in us.



Philip Marshall, Chair of Governance Committee

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The Trustees' report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 13 to 15 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2012 and registered as a Charity on 23 February 2012 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The company is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility of managing the business of the charitable company and for the purposes of Charity law the Trustees of the Charity are also Directors of the company. The Trustees / Directors who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1.

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association there must be at least 3 Trustees holding office. The term of office of a Trustee continues until they retire or are removed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Articles. All Trustees gave their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in the accounts. Trustee vacancies are advertised locally and regionally. Trustees are appointed for their skills and expertise. All new Trustees undergo an induction process and receive a Trustee pack with relevant information about the organisation.

Day to day responsibility for management of the organisation is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive.

All major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded;
- to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society;
- to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

'Socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: age, disability, impairment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown and asylum seekers.

Solihull Action through Advocacy achieves its objectives through the provision of free independent advocacy. Having regard to these achievements, and the public benefit that they provide, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has met the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

In assessing the success of the Charity in the period, the Trustees have had regard principally to the number of people to whom the Charity has provided a service and the proportion of those individuals who achieved an outcome mostly or completely in line with their wishes. In addition the Trustees hold as a key criteria the need to deliver the Charity's services within its budget and to make a contribution to its unrestricted reserves.

The Charity utilises volunteers in a variety of roles from service delivery to Governance. Across the period, 23 people have volunteered including within our Peer Visitor service, Learning Disability Council, as Citizen Advocates, members of our Advisory Committee and the Trustees themselves.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

1. Advocacy Case Work

Our casework service has continued to be an important source of support for some of the most marginalised people as the health and social care sector, along with the wider community, continued to struggle with and be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis and other challenges. Over the course of the year we received over 710 new referrals and have provided a one-to-one independent advocacy case work service to 755 people across 1,169 cases. 309 of those people (41%) are new to SATa. The nature of cases are also increasingly more complex due to the diverse needs and challenges of individuals who require our support.

Solihull First Advocacy - This year is the fourth year of delivering our service providing all local-authority funded statutory and non-statutory advocacy in Solihull. In total, the service has worked with 672 people across 1,053 cases. 258 (38%) of those people were new to SATa.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) – We continue to provide an advocacy service to individuals who have been assessed as lacking capacity and are entitled to the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate. This includes those subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and those entitled to the support of a Relevant Person's Representative. These are entitlements that were created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to ensure that individuals who lack capacity in respect of certain decisions are not deprived of the ability to input into best interest decisions about their lives.

Care Act - We provide support under the Care Act 2014 to those who are going through the process of assessment, support planning or review as well as safeguarding processes. This service is provided to any person who has a substantial difficulty engaging with the process and does not have another suitable person to support them.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) – We provide advocacy support to individuals who have been detained under a section of the Mental Health Act 1983. The majority of those cases are supporting people who have been detained in hospital under section 2 or section 3 for assessment and treatment. IMHAs ensure that detained individuals understand what their situation is, what their rights are, help to ensure their voice is heard in care and treatment decisions and to plan for their return into the community.

NHS Complaints - We provide advocacy support to people who wish to make a complaint about treatment they have received from the NHS. This can include making complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman if required.

Non-Statutory Advocacy - We work with people whose situations do not meet the criteria for any of the statutory advocacy roles above but who have important issues that they need advocacy support with. We assist people with issues such as housing, employment, healthcare, finances, social care, access to services, bullying and hate crime. Commonly, people come to us because they have no one else who they can turn to for support. We also see this advocacy provision as an important service that has successfully supported people who may otherwise present to health and social care services.

Parents Advocacy - Our service for parents with a learning disability provides advocacy support during child protection proceedings or pre-proceedings. These are cases that usually revolve around whether a parent is able to care for the child(ren) or whether they should be cared for by a relative or someone else. In many cases this results in them being removed from the care of their parents. Support from an advocate ensures that parents are fully engaged in the decision-making process and also that all options to support parents to continue caring for their own child(ren) have been considered and explored. We have worked on 63 parents advocacy cases this year.

Young People - We have continued to provide support to young people with learning disabilities and autism, particularly those who are in transition into adulthood. Key issues within this group include education such as Education Health and Care Plans, employment, relationships and mental health (with the latter remaining an increasing challenge among young people). This work is funded by BSol ICB. We have worked on 27 cases in the year.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. Community Advocacy

Peer Visitors

Residents at 9 different Care Homes are given an independent voice through our Peer Visitor programme. This is where a peer with disabilities is supported by a volunteer to visit people in their Care Homes to observe how people are being supported and then the visitor is given the opportunity to highlight any findings to management, both positive and negative. We also encourage these residents to meet us in the community at our Coffee and Catch Up sessions to help them build relationships in the community.

Examples of the impacts of the service during the year include:

- We've raised that Peer Visitors noticed that agency staff were being used a lot in a couple of homes and residents seemed unsettled. Management explained that the recruitment climate is difficult but they have committed to try and keep the same agency staff in the same home to bring consistency and reassurance to residents.
- We've also continued seeing residents outside of their homes and find that being in a relaxed community setting helps the Peer visitors to maintain and further build their relationship with the residents. This experience is enjoyed by the residents and many attend the Dorridge Coffee and Catch-Up session which extends their independence, and improves their social network and overall well-being.

Circles of Support

We have been pleased that BSol ICB have continued to fund our Circles of Support for another two years and securing additional funding from HS2 to develop this work. This important initiative helps to meet a gap in our community. It enables vulnerable people to establish new friendships which builds on their support network to meet their own particular needs and goals through co-production.

We worked with 34 individuals to create their Circles of Support over the year. We have done this in different ways depending on the individual which reflects a person centred approach. After introductory and assessment meetings the individual is assigned to an appropriate pathway for them. The pathway will depend on the level of support the person requires and ranges from an independent pathway through to an intensive pathway. However, some of the people we support through our community initiatives are also presenting with more complex support needs and these people can move to our one-to-one advocacy support where necessary. Maintaining the independence and well-being of people we support is a fundamental cornerstone of all of our advocacy work.

All pathways have the option to attend Coffee and Catch Up sessions or to contact us if something changes with their Circle which they need support with. We continue to operate regular sessions across Solihull. Sessions attract up to 10 people and enable a person-centred approach. We continue to see the benefits of this work as people feel positive about life, a sense of belonging, having friends, and increased well-being but also notably feeling safe. The aim is also focussed on prevention by reducing dependency on formal health and social care services. Both of these forms of advocacy help to promote individual self-advocacy and improve their confidence.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

3. Collective Advocacy

Solihull Learning Disability Council (LDC)

The Council has continued to meet monthly. This year the work of the LDC has included:

- Undergoing training with Mencap on how to plan and execute a positive campaign about any issue they choose to.
- Put their Mencap training to good use in creating and using a questionnaire with people with Learning Disabilities to collect their experiences of healthcare services.
- Worked with Solihull Council by influencing the way it gathers feedback from residents in Solihull in general and what the potential barriers to effective engagement could be. The Council were encouraged to engage by using more face to face opportunities as not everyone is comfortable using the internet.

The LDC were also very pleased that Solihull Council set up a new Learning Disability Partnership Board which the LDC chair also chairs. The LDC were able to influence the agenda of the Partnership Board such as increasing the profile of concerns around mental health by having NHS staff attending to talk about what support is available and how that could be improved. It is important that people with lived experience are able to influence and be involved in important issues regarding accessing the right healthcare support when needed.

West Midlands Regional Self-Advocacy Network

We have continued to support a link worker to be part of the West Midlands Self-Advocacy Network. This year they have been looking into how people with learning disabilities use banking services and feeding any information found into local banks to influence them and making their services more accessible. They have also been campaigning and working on a project regarding the importance of having unrestricted access to free travel at any time of the day when using a disabled bus pass. The Network discovered differences across the country which provided unequal access to this initiative depending on where people live and this was fed back to local bus providers in particular.

Influencing Work

LeDeR - This NHS programme identifies learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disabilities or autism. Following our inclusion in the local LeDeR steering group we continue to be part of the regular "Oversight Panel" which looks at completed LeDeR reviews with a view to seeing what actions can be taken to improve systems and processes. LeDeR is a service improvement programme for people with learning disability or autism. As an extension to this work, we are supporting people with lived experience to share their views and experiences of using healthcare services and to identify whether the NHS is meeting its priorities contained in the ICB's LeDeR strategic plan. This work will determine the actions that are needed to improve the experiences of accessing health services as well as highlighting areas of good practice. The priorities can be found here: [LeDeR Priorities](#).

JAND Strategic Board - We were invited to sit as part of the Joint Additional Needs and Disabilities Board. As part of this we supported the drafting of the new Joint Additional Needs Strategy for Solihull, as well as the associated action plans. The Strategy can be viewed here: [JAND Strategy](#).

Solihull Council Safeguarding Board – We are also a member of Solihull Council's Safeguarding Board which enables us to use and share our knowledge and experience of the local community alongside other key stakeholders across Solihull.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

Plans for future periods

In consultation with our staff and the people who use our services, we agreed a strategic plan for 2024-25. That plan has 7 main priorities which are:

1. Continue to deliver a high-quality, 1-2-1 case work advocacy service to protect people's rights and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard
2. Develop new "community advocacy" projects to promote and support inclusion for people with a learning disability or autism to support sustainable funding of this work
3. Develop and grow "collective advocacy" work to influence positive change
4. Improve impact measurement methodologies and reporting (maximising use of data and information)
5. Maintain accreditation of the quality and performance mark
6. Improve marketing and raise the profile of our Charity

As we move into 2024/25 and beyond, our focus is now on pushing forward with the development of our Community and Collective Advocacy activity (priorities 2 and 3). Some of this work is underway including the delivery of our Circles of Support which has become an established part of our community work.

We will also continue with the delivery of the new project funded by BSol ICB to ensure that the voices and experiences of people with learning disabilities and autism are central to assessing the progress towards the LeDeR strategic plan and in determining the actions that need to be taken to improve their experiences and to build on areas of good practice.

Our Advisory Committee will be reviewing its membership to ensure it is diverse and representative of the Solihull community.

We will also be focussing some of our attentions on improving our ability to capture, measure and articulate the impact of our work and using that to inform future services, as well as to support building our profile and influencing local, regional and national policy and practice.

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an income of £649,336 (2023: £579,753) and expenditure of £581,315 (2023: £530,698) resulting in net income for the year of £68,021 (2023: £49,055). The fund balance at 31st March 2024 is £192,002 (2023: £123,981), of which £13,007 (2023: £971) is restricted and £178,995 (2023: £123,010) is unrestricted.

The increase in other charitable income shown in note 4 (2024: £136,102 versus 2023: £96,587) is primarily due to new projects which commenced during this period.

The net income for the year (£68,021) is due to an increase in income which exceeded the rise in expenditure. The Trustees have set aside £38,000 of this balance for IT and website development as well as a project accounting program and staff development, see note 15.

The Trustees are particularly grateful to the members of the Board's Finance Committee, the CEO and Finance Manager for their work in supporting the Trustees to ensure careful and prudent management of the Charity's finances.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2024

Financial review (continued)

The principal financial risks faced by the Charity are regularly monitored by the Board of Trustees and by its Finance Committee, as well as on a continual basis by the CEO and Management Team. The main risks to which the Trustees feel attention should be drawn are:

- Dependency on a small number of large funding streams: Approximately 70% of income for 2023-24 was derived from contracts with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (although this is split across multiple contracts) and this presents some risk in terms of sustainability in the long term. Our main contract (Solihull First Advocacy) has been extended to at least September 2025. Other contracts with SMBC have shorter terms but we have developed a strong and open relationship with commissioners and have consistently delivered a high-quality service. In addition, the Trustees have set income generation targets and fundraising plans to encourage diversification of income streams to help mitigate this risk.
- Failure to achieve income generation targets: As with most similar charities, there is a recurrent risk that the Charity will fail to meet its fundraising / income generation targets in any given year. The Trustees have set challenging but achievable targets and progress towards them is monitored regularly by the Board's Finance Committee. In addition, unrestricted funds held in reserves can be deployed to make up for under-performance in fundraising if the Trustees consider that to be prudent and appropriate.

Reserves

The Reserves Policy sets out the Trustees' rationale for setting its target reserves figure and takes due regard of the Charity Commission guidance CC19. In setting the reserves target, the Trustees consider contracted future income streams, levels of committed expenditure, cash flow requirements, and identified risks on the risk register.

The target reserves figure is formally reviewed annually and ordinarily as part of the budget setting process. A comparison of the actual and target reserves figure is monitored throughout the year.

In summary, the reasons for which funds are retained as reserves include:

- To ensure the continuity of an activity in the event of a significant variation or total loss of funding for that activity. This is a high priority for SATa.
- To fund unforeseen and unavoidable running costs or capital expenditures that may arise.
- To fund running costs for the short-term in the instance of cash-flow timing problems.

Free reserves at 31 March 2024 are £96,500 which is in excess of the target of £60,000. This target has been considered sufficient to mitigate against the risks identified. However, in the light of new and emerging risks, in particular relating to the challenging economic climate, this target figure will be re-evaluated in the coming year.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006. This report was approved by the Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall
Finance Committee



John Roundell
Finance Committee

03/10/2024

Date

Independent examiner's report
To the Trustees of Solihull Action through Advocacy

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
(Fellow of the ICAEW)

8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
CV32 6NE

3 October 2024

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	4,944	-	4,944	3,235
Charitable activities	4	542,303	99,417	641,720	575,709
Investments		2,672	-	2,672	809
		<u>549,919</u>	<u>99,417</u>	<u>649,336</u>	<u>579,753</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		2,835	1,799	4,634	-
Charitable activities	5	490,404	86,072	576,476	530,462
Other		174	31	205	236
		<u>493,413</u>	<u>87,902</u>	<u>581,315</u>	<u>530,698</u>
Net income		56,506	11,515	68,021	49,055
Transfers between funds	15	(521)	521	-	-
Net movement in funds		55,985	12,036	68,021	49,055
Balance at start of year	15	123,010	971	123,981	74,926
Balance at end of year	15	<u>178,995</u>	<u>13,007</u>	<u>192,002</u>	<u>123,981</u>

There were no recognised gains and losses for the charitable company for the current or prior years other than those included in the statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure arises from continuing activities.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Company limited by guarantee: 7945421
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

		31 March 2024	31 March 2023
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	2,784	3,028
Current assets			
Debtors	11	823,280	785,432
Cash at bank and in hand		260,622	122,459
		1,083,902	907,891
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(619,401)	(541,577)
Net current assets		464,501	366,314
Total assets less current liabilities		467,285	369,342
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(275,283)	(245,361)
Total net assets		192,002	123,981
Funds			
Restricted	15	13,007	971
Unrestricted	15	178,995	123,010
		192,002	123,981

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall
Finance Committee



John Roundell
Finance Committee

03/10/2024

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	
Net cash from operating activities			
Net income	68,021	49,055	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	1,346	1,514	
Interest income shown in investing activities	(2,672)	(809)	
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(37,848)	299,122	
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	107,746	(310,795)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	136,593	38,087	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest and dividends	2,672	809	
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,102)	-	
Net cash provided by investing activities	1,570	809	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	138,163	38,896	
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	122,459	83,563	
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	260,622	122,459	
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	260,622	122,459	
Analysis of changes in net debt	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	122,459	138,163	260,622

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

{a} General information and basis of preparation

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a private Charitable Company incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee, is limited to £10 per member of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the Charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are: to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded; to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society; to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity, rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

{b} Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

{c} Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

The Charity receives government grants in respect of its advocacy projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the Charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

All income arises in the United Kingdom.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{d} Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the costs of fundraising
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises the direct costs of the provision of advocacy services and associated overhead expenses

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

{e} Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity, but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative payroll costs, premises costs, office costs and governance costs. Support costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities, and raising funds. Any support costs which cannot be directly attributed to individual funds are apportioned according to the gross payroll cost incurred by each fund. The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

{f} Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computers and office equipment	33.3% reducing balance
--------------------------------	------------------------

Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off to the SoFA in the year of purchase.

{g} 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.

{h} Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

{i} Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the Charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{j} Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

{k} Tax

The Charity is an exempt Charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a Charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the Charity, to be able to continue as a going concern.

3 Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Other donations and gift aid	4,944	3,235

All donations are unrestricted (2023: £1,200 was restricted).

4 Income from charitable activities

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Contracts with Solihull MBC	452,850	428,056
Grants	52,768	51,066
Other charitable income	136,102	96,587
	<u>641,720</u>	<u>575,709</u>

£52,768 (2023: £51,066) of grant income is restricted. £46,649 (2023: £nil) of other charitable income is restricted.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2024 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2023 Total £
Direct staff costs	287,253	56,400	343,653	315,762
Direct premises costs	-	662	662	-
Direct office costs	414	69	483	494
Direct professional fees	-	-	-	295
Other direct costs	130,043	13,950	143,993	140,735
Total direct costs	417,710	71,081	488,791	457,286
Support costs (note 6)	72,694	14,991	87,685	73,176
	<u>490,404</u>	<u>86,072</u>	<u>576,476</u>	<u>530,462</u>

6 Allocation of support costs

Support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities, expenditure on raising funds and other income, being apportioned between individual funds on the basis of the direct payroll cost incurred by each fund. Total support costs comprise the following:

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Staff costs	25,084
Premises costs	35,626
Office costs	17,663
Depreciation	1,346
Professional fees	3,525
Governance	2,060
Other costs	2,381
Expenditure on charitable activities	87,685
Expenditure on raising funds	3,420
Other expenditure	185
	<u>91,290</u>

7 Net movement in funds for the year

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,346	1,514
Fees payable to the independent examiner:	<u>2,060</u>	<u>1,460</u>

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner (2023: £nil).

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

8 Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
The staff costs were:		
Wages and salaries	307,053	293,440
Social security costs	16,214	16,763
Pension contributions	15,593	14,718
	<u>338,860</u>	<u>324,921</u>
Other staff costs	29,877	14,928
	<u>368,737</u>	<u>339,849</u>

The other staff costs comprise mainly staff cover, travel, recruitment and training costs. No employee received annual emoluments in excess of £40,000 (2023: none). The average monthly number of staff employed during the year was:

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	No.	No.
Charitable Activities	15	17
Other	3	3
	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>

9 Trustees' expenses and remuneration

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2023: £nil). Expenses paid to the Trustees in the year totalled £nil (2023: £nil) and there were no donations made by Trustees (2023: £nil). There were no other related party transactions (2023: none).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers and office equipment £
Cost	
At 31 March 2023	15,728
Additions	1,102
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,830</u>
Depreciation	
At 31 March 2023	12,700
Charge for year	1,346
At 31 March 2024	<u>14,046</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,784</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,028</u>

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

11 Debtors	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	60,725	16,582
Other debtors	2,198	5,182
Prepayments and accrued income	760,357	763,668
	<u>823,280</u>	<u>785,432</u>

Prepayments and accrued income include £755,732 (2023: £763,668) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts are recognised as due to the Charity under the terms of the contracts but the associated income is deferred to the relevant future periods, see notes 12 and 13. Included within prepayments and accrued income is £275,283 (2023: £245,361) due after more than one year. £145,231 (2023: £nil) of accrued income is restricted.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	9,842	6,193
Accruals and deferred income	604,730	530,625
Taxation and social security	4,829	4,759
	<u>619,401</u>	<u>541,577</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due within one year includes £579,691 (2023: £528,685) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2025. (2023: recognised in the year ended 31 March 2024). £191,908 (2023: £10,328) of deferred income due within one year is restricted.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>275,283</u>	<u>245,361</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due after more than one year are in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2026 (2023: recognised in the year ending 31 March 2025). All accruals and deferred income are due within five years. No interest is chargeable. £66,095 (2023: £nil) of deferred income due after more than one year is restricted.

14 Deferred income	£
At 1 April 2023	774,046
Additions during the year	609,613
Amounts released to income	(528,685)
At 31 March 2024	<u>854,974</u>

Deferred income comprises amounts, received or receivable, which are in respect of work to be undertaken in future periods, see notes 12 and 13.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balance b/f £	Income £	Expend- iture £	Fund transfers £	Fund balance c/f £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	93,010	42,001	(4,739)	(30,988)	99,284
Designated funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Solihull First	-	403,966	(374,259)	(24,707)	5,000
Parents Advocacy	-	37,939	(47,048)	9,109	-
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	-	10,420	(4,956)	-	5,464
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Peer Visitors	-	10,945	(10,198)	-	747
Circles of Support	-	43,648	(48,999)	5,351	-
Designated funds - Collective Advocacy					
Solihull Learning Disability Council	-	1,000	(3,214)	2,214	-
Designated funds - Other					
IT development & security	30,000	-	-	20,000	50,000
Website development	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Project accounting	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Staff development	-	-	-	8,500	8,500
	<u>30,000</u>	<u>507,918</u>	<u>(488,674)</u>	<u>30,467</u>	<u>79,711</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>123,010</u>	<u>549,919</u>	<u>(493,413)</u>	<u>(521)</u>	<u>178,995</u>
Restricted funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Baron Davenport	-	700	(511)	-	189
Children in Need	-	14,860	(15,001)	141	-
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Awards for All	-	8,328	(5,618)	-	2,710
HS2	-	19,880	(19,931)	51	-
Restricted funds - Collective Advocacy					
LeDeR	-	45,987	(35,964)	-	10,023
Restricted funds - Other					
CB & HH Taylor	-	2,000	(1,915)	-	85
Eveson Trust	-	-	-	-	-
29 May 1961 Charitable Trust	-	4,000	(4,022)	22	-
Roger & Douglas Turner	-	3,000	(3,064)	64	-
Private donation	971	-	(1,214)	243	-
Miscellaneous	-	662	(662)	-	-
	<u>971</u>	<u>99,417</u>	<u>(87,902)</u>	<u>521</u>	<u>13,007</u>
Total funds	<u>123,981</u>	<u>649,336</u>	<u>(581,315)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,002</u>

All transfers between the general fund and designated funds are to bring the year end fund balances to £nil. Transfers have been made from the general fund to the restricted funds to ensure they are not in deficit at the year end.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Summary of fund movements (continued)

Designated funds are held for the following purposes:

Solihull First	Provision of statutory and non-statutory advocacy for adults residing and/or receiving services in Solihull. This includes advocacy provided under the Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Mental Health Act as well as NHS Complaints. It also includes issue-based, non-statutory advocacy for adults living in Solihull.
Parents Advocacy	One to one support for parents with a learning disability who are going through child protection proceedings.
B'ham & Solihull ICB Transition	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.
Peer Visitors	Peer-led quality monitoring visits to Local Authority residential care homes.
Circles of Support	A program to help reduce social isolation and build long-term supportive networks for people with learning disabilities.
Solihull Learning Disability Council	Representative group of people with learning disabilities working together to raise awareness and seek changes to policy and practice.
IT development & security	For replacing IT equipment and for IT security costs.
Website development	For ongoing development of the website.
Project accounting	To expand the accounting system to incorporate quarterly project reporting and monthly cash flows.
Staff development	For investment in staff training courses and career development.
Baron Davenport	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
Children in Need	To educate and empower young people with learning disabilities and/or autism to prepare themselves for entering their late teens/adulthood.
Awards for All	Building Connections project providing sessions for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to meet and get support, socialise and build relationships.
HS2	Project funding to reduce the isolation of people in north Solihull that were affected by the HS2 construction.
LeDeR	Learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disability and autism is a project for the NHS. The project covers the geographical areas of Solihull and Birmingham and involves talking to people with lived experience to understand their views and experience of accessing health services.
29 May 1961 Charitable Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Roger & Douglas Turner	To help meet the core costs of the organisation.
Private donation	Donation for fundraising consultancy.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

16 Analysis of net assets by fund	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	2,784	-	2,784
Debtors	678,049	145,231	823,280
Cash	134,843	125,779	260,622
Current liabilities	(427,493)	(191,908)	(619,401)
Long term liabilities	(209,188)	(66,095)	(275,283)
	<u>178,995</u>	<u>13,007</u>	<u>192,002</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the Charitable Company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Premises	
	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Not later than one year	18,500	18,500
Later than one year and not later than five years	9,250	9,250
	<u>27,750</u>	<u>27,750</u>

	Office equipment	
	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Not later than one year	996	534
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,486	-
	<u>4,482</u>	<u>534</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £18,500 (2023: £18,500) for premises and £1,281 (2023: £2,136) for office equipment.

18 Controlling party and ultimate controlling party

The controlling party and ultimate controlling party of the Charitable Company is the Board of Trustees / Directors of Solihull Action through Advocacy.

Accounts

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2023

Charity number: 1146073

Company limited by guarantee: 7945421

Solihull Action through Advocacy Report and Financial Statements Contents

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Solihull Action through Advocacy

Legal and administrative information

Trustees and Directors

Jonathan Bright		Resigned 30 April 2023
Shamsher Dharsani		Resigned 8 June 2022
Jessica James		
Dr Susan Lanz		Appointed 6 February 2023
Philip Marshall	Finance Committee	Chair until 14 March 2023
Katie Meah		Resigned 29 January 2023
Joshua Moreton		Appointed 6 February 2023
Kornelia Narazinska		Appointed 6 February 2023, resigned 3 July 2023
Catherine Nolan		
John Roundell	Finance Committee	
Jane Williams		

Chief Executive Officer

Christine Forde	Appointed 1 August 2022
James Voller	Resigned 24 June 2022

Principal Office and Registered Address

11 - 13 Land Lane
Marston Green
Solihull
B37 7DE

Independent examiner

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 6NE

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

It remains important to acknowledge that many of the people we support in our community still feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, we have seen our advocacy casework increase, both in volume and in the nature and complexity of support required. This is further exacerbated by the challenge of accessing health and social care services, when needed, by those most vulnerable in our community. However, our advocates have continued to provide quality support in these challenging circumstances.

Our Community Advocacy work has proved to be a continued success. Our 'Coffee and Catch-Up' sessions enable people who are isolated or lack confidence to meet new people so they reconnect with others and widen their social and support networks. These sessions are held in a number of venues across Solihull and we hope to extend these in future. This work is closely aligned with our Circles of Support initiative which has gone from strength to strength. This also helps vulnerable people establish new friendships which builds on their support network to meet their own particular needs. Both of these forms of advocacy help to promote individual self-advocacy and where possible to reduce the need to self-refer to health and social care services. Maintaining the independence and well-being of individuals we support is a fundamental cornerstone of our advocacy work.

Meanwhile, our Collective Advocacy work has actively looked into improving support to people to gain access to employment locally in Solihull and into raising concerns around the lack of availability of GP and other health services when needed. These reflect issues that are important to people with learning disabilities or autism in our community. We also continue to influence partners in NHS in connection with the LeDeR programme, which identifies learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disabilities or autism. The programme aims to make improvements to systems and processes in order to facilitate better engagement with and understanding of people with learning disabilities and autism. We have been feeding into the reviews of individuals' cases to encourage good practice.

The Board of Trustees spent time during the past year or so reviewing its strategy and in particular considering options to balance workload and funding across our statutory and non-statutory advocacy activities. A new funding strategy has been put in place and will be monitoring this over the next year and going forward. We also welcomed two new Trustees with academic and communications specialisms, which adds to the existing areas of expertise on the Board.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our new Chief Executive, Christine Forde, who arrived mid-way through the year, her management team and all of our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication, ensuring that we continue to provide a very efficient, high quality service to those in the local community who need our support.

Finally, not just on behalf of everyone at SATa but also of the people we serve, I would like to thank each and every one of the people and organisations who have funded and continue to fund our work. We are very grateful for your support and the trust you place in us.

Philip Marshall, Chair of Trustees 2022/23

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Trustees' report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 13 to 15 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2012 and registered as a charity on 23 February 2012 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The company is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility of managing the business of the charitable company and for the purposes of charity law the trustees of the charity are also directors of the company. The Trustees / Directors who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1.

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association there must be at least 3 Trustees holding office. The term of office of a Trustee continues until they retire or are removed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Articles. All Trustees gave their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the accounts. Trustee vacancies are advertised locally and regionally. Trustees are appointed for their skills and expertise. All new Trustees undergo an induction process and receive a Trustee pack with relevant information about the organisation.

Day to day responsibility for management of the organisation is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive.

All major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded;
- to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society;
- to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

'Socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: age, disability, impairment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown and asylum seekers.

Solihull Action through Advocacy achieves its objectives through the provision of free independent advocacy. Having regard to these achievements, and the public benefit that they provide, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has met the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

In assessing the success of the Charity in the period, the Trustees have had regard principally to the number of people to whom the Charity has provided a service and the proportion of those individuals who achieved an outcome mostly or completely in line with their wishes. In addition the Trustees hold as a key criteria the need to deliver the Charity's services within its budget and to make a contribution to its unrestricted reserves.

The Charity utilises volunteers in a variety of roles from service delivery to Governance. Across the period, 24 people have volunteered including within our Peer Visitor service, Learning Disability Council, as Citizen Advocates, members of our Advisory Committee and the Trustees themselves.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

1. Advocacy Case Work

Our casework service has continued to be an important source of support for some of the most marginalised people as the health and social care sector, along with the wider community, continued to struggle with and be impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of the year we received over 597 new referrals and have provided a one-to-one independent advocacy case work service to 716 people across 1,063 cases. 585 of those people (82%) are new to SAAtA. The nature of cases are increasingly more complex due to the diverse needs and challenges of individuals who require our support. Of those people who provided feedback when asked, 97% said that they were either happy or very happy with the service and 100% said that they were either likely or very likely to recommend the service to someone else.

Solihull First Advocacy - This year is the third year of delivering our service providing all local-authority funded statutory and non-statutory advocacy in Solihull. In total, the service has worked with 623 people across 936 cases. 279 (45%) of those people were new to SAAtA.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) – We continue to provide an advocacy service to individuals who have been assessed as lacking capacity and are entitled to the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate. This includes those subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and those entitled to the support of a Relevant Person's Representative. These are entitlements that were created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to ensure that individuals who lack capacity in respect of certain decisions are not deprived of the ability to input into best interest decisions about their lives.

Care Act - We provide support under the Care Act 2014 to those who are going through the process of assessment, support planning or review as well as safeguarding processes. This service is provided to any person who has a substantial difficulty engaging with the process and does not have another suitable person to support them.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) – We provide advocacy support to individuals who have been detained under a section of the Mental Health Act 1983. The majority of those cases are supporting people who have been detained in hospital under section 2 or section 3 for assessment and treatment. IMHAs ensure that detained individuals understand what their situation is and what their rights are and help to ensure their voice is heard in care and treatment decisions.

NHS Complaints - We provide advocacy support to people who wish to make a complaint about treatment they have received from the NHS. This can include making complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman if required.

Non-Statutory Advocacy - We work with people whose situations do not meet the criteria for any of the statutory advocacy roles above but who have important issues that they need advocacy support with. We assist people with issues such as housing, employment, healthcare, finances, social care, access to services, bullying and hate crime. Commonly, people come to us because they have no one else who they can turn to for support.

Parents Advocacy - Our service for parents with a learning disability provides advocacy support during child protection proceedings or pre-proceedings. These are cases that usually revolve around whether a parent is able to care for the child(ren) or whether they should be cared for by a relative or someone else. In many cases this results in them being removed from the care of their parents. Support from an advocate ensures that parents are fully engaged in the decision-making process and also that all options to support parents to continue caring for their own child(ren) have been considered and explored. We have worked on 62 parents advocacy cases this year.

Young People - We have continued to provide support to young people with learning disabilities and autism, particularly those who are in transition into adulthood. Key issues within this group include education (particularly reasonable adjustments, school exclusions and Education Health and Care Plans), employment, relationships and mental health (with the latter becoming an increasing challenge among young people). This work is funded by Birmingham and Solihull CCG. We have worked on 26 cases in the year. This is a reduction in numbers from the previous year and reflects the reduced level of funding to deliver this work.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. Community Advocacy

Solihull First

Our telephone befriending service was phased out during the course of the year. This service was for people with learning disabilities and autism partly as an isolation-reduction mechanism but also to:

- Identify and escalate any crisis situations (eg lack of access to food or medicines).
- Support people to keep up with the very rapidly changing rules and guidance as to what they can and cannot do.
- Provide emotional support and reassurance to people who might understandably be feeling anxious/scared.

However, we recognised that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was still being experienced by people through reduced confidence or fear of being out in the community or public spaces. To address this, SATa proactively signposted individuals to our "Coffee and Catch-Up" sessions which continue to be successful.

These sessions have been crucial in increasing peoples' confidence, self-esteem and ability to reconnect with others and widen their support network. We continue to operate regular sessions in central Solihull and have since expanded these sessions in Dorridge and Castle Bromwich. Sessions attract up to 10 people and enables a person-centred approach. Individuals were also provided with individual advocacy support, or signposted to other professional services as appropriate to accommodate their needs. We plan to continue the development of new sessions throughout the next year.

Peer Visitors

Following the end of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we have re-started face-to-face peer visits to residential homes catering for a smaller number of residents.

Examples of the impacts of the service during the year include where peer visitors:

- noticed that residents were generally happy following the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and were re-adjusting well to the effects previously being isolated.
- identified it is not always possible for residents to have access to the necessary transport needed to take them to outside venues. This was raised with the service manager so the matter could be addressed.
- tried seeing residents outside of their homes to provide a different approach to encouraging residents to visit other venues. This was enjoyed by the residents and some of them attended the Dorridge Coffee and Catch-Up session.

Circles of Support

We were delighted to secure additional funding to continue our 'Circles of Support' approach in Solihull. The Trustees are very grateful to Birmingham and Solihull CCG for agreeing to continue to fund this work.

This 'Circles of Support' service is to provide support to socially isolated people with learning disabilities and/or autism through establishing increased social connections and friendships as a means of creating long-lasting, community-based support and removing social isolation. The aim is also focussed on prevention by reducing dependency on formal services. We worked with 24 individuals during the year.

During the year we have been working on the resources that individuals would need to support them to independently form their own circles. This was alongside providing one-to-one intensive support required for some individuals. This enabled SATa to re-focus its services and resources to deliver most positive outcomes and impact for the individuals based on a person centred approach.

The benefits seen so far include feeling positive about life, a sense of belonging, having friends, and increased wellbeing.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

3. Collective Advocacy

Solihull Learning Disability Council

The Council has continued to meet monthly. This year the work of the council has included:

- Consideration of employment opportunities, specifically regarding support for people with learning disabilities to gain access to employment. The Council engaged with Solihull Council on this issue and provided contributions to a consultation on how this service would be run so that it could increase employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities.
- Raising concerns of the challenges in obtaining appointments with GPs and healthcare professionals due to a lack of availability. The Council shared their concerns at a meeting with Solihull MPs and a local councillor. In the coming year, it is intended to undertake further work in the area.
- Continuing to work with Mencap on their "Treat me Well" campaign - participating in some filming.
- Participating in filming to demonstrate what was important in their lives. This was shown at the annual LeDeR conference to health and social care professionals.
- Contributing to a report by Mencap on loneliness and isolation which was heightened during Covid and the closure of many services during this period. The report was delivered personally to Parliament and members of Solihull's Learning Disability Council engaged with the Culture Secretary to convey their concerns.

Late in the year, we created a new role to support the Council to be more inclusive and proactive in seeking the views of the widest possible group of people with learning disabilities. We now have a person with lived experience who talks to other people with learning disabilities in the community. They also engage with other charities, advice agencies and education, and those living in supported living and residential care who would otherwise not be able to participate in discussions that happen within Council meetings.

West Midlands Regional Self-Advocacy Network

Throughout the year we have continued to support a Link Worker as part of the West Midlands Self-Advocacy Network. The worker has remained very engaged with the network; attending the weekly meetings and completing the development work.

The achievements of the programme as a whole can be seen on its website: WMSAN. This has included important topics such as Hate and Mate Crime – reporting it and avoiding it, reliability and safety of public transport and where to gain access to support with mental wellbeing.

Influencing Work

LeDeR - This programme identifies learning from the lives and deaths from people with learning disabilities or autism. Following our inclusion in the local LeDeR steering group we continue to be part of the regular "Oversight Panel" which looks at completed LeDeR reviews with a view to seeing what actions can be taken to improve systems and processes. LeDeR is a service improvement programme for people with learning disability or autism.

JAND Strategic Board - We were invited to sit as part of the Joint Additional Needs and Disabilities Board. As part of this we supported the drafting of the new Joint Additional Needs Strategy for Solihull, as well as the associated action plans. The Strategy can be viewed here: JAND Strategy.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

Plans for future periods

In consultation with our staff and the people who use our services, we agreed a strategic plan for 2021-24. That plan has 7 main priorities which are:

1. Continue to deliver a high-quality, 1-2-1 case work advocacy service to protect people's rights and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard
2. Develop new "community advocacy" projects to promote and support inclusion for people with LD / Autism
3. Develop and grow "collective advocacy" work to influence positive change
4. Improve impact measurement methodologies and reporting
5. Strengthen the ownership and control of the people who use our services
6. Review and refresh our governance arrangements and processes
7. Improve marketing and raise profile

We are pleased to say that progress continues to be made against these priorities, particularly in relation to consolidating the high quality of our case work service and reviewing our governance arrangements, which has now been completed.

As we move into 2023/24 and beyond, our focus is now on pushing forward with the development of our Community and Collective Advocacy activity (priorities 2 and 3). Some of this work is underway including the delivery of our Circles of Support which has been going from strength to strength. It was expected that we would have commenced the delivery of a new project funded by Birmingham and Solihull CCG to ensure that the voices and experiences of people with learning disabilities and autism are front and centre of assessing the progress towards the CCG's LeDeR strategic plan and in determining the actions that need to be taken to improve those experiences. The commencement of this new activity has been delayed and expected to commence in the latter part of next year.

Alongside these in-progress pieces of work, we are working with the members of our Advisory Committee to develop new project ideas particularly in the areas of community-based support.

We will also be focussing some of our attentions on improving our ability to capture, measure and articulate the impact of our work and using that to inform future services, as well as to support building our profile and influencing local, regional and national policy and practice.

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an income of £579,753 (2022:£555,490) and expenditure of £530,698 (2022: £544,517) resulting in net income for the year of £49,055 (2022: £10,973). The fund balance at 31st March 2023 is £123,010 (2022: £74,926), of which £971 (2022: £nil) is restricted and £123,010 (2022: £74,926) is unrestricted.

The increase in other charitable income shown in note 4 (2023: £96,587 versus 2022: £94,099) is primarily due to new projects and services which commenced during this period.

The net income for the year (£49,055) is due to an increase in income and cost savings. £20,000 of this will go towards the IT Development Designated Fund for IT development and security purposes and the remaining unrestricted funds will be allocated to the General Fund.

The Trustees are particularly grateful to the members of the Board's Finance Committee, the CEO and Finance Manager for their work in supporting the Trustees to ensure careful and prudent management of the Charity's finances.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

Financial review (continued)

The principal financial risks faced by the Charity are regularly monitored by the Board of Trustees and by its Finance Committee, as well as on a continual basis by the CEO and Management Team. The main risks to which the Trustees feel attention should be drawn are:

- Dependency on a small number of large funding streams: Approximately 74% of income for 2022-23 was derived from contracts with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (although this is split across multiple contracts) and this presents some risk in terms of sustainability in the long term. Our main contract (Solihull First Advocacy) has been extended to at least September 2024. Other contracts with SMBC have shorter terms but we have developed a strong and open relationship with commissioners and have consistently delivered a high-quality service. In addition, the Trustees have set income generation targets and fundraising plans to encourage diversification of income streams to help mitigate this risk.
- Failure to achieve income generation targets: As with most similar charities, there is a recurrent risk that the charity will fail to meet its fundraising / income generation targets in any given year. The Trustees have set challenging but achievable targets and progress towards them is monitored regularly by the Board's Finance Committee. In addition, unrestricted funds held in reserves can be deployed to make up for under-performance in fundraising if the Trustees consider that to be prudent and appropriate.

Reserves

The Reserves Policy makes clear the Trustees' rationale for maintaining reserves and the approach that they take in determining the level of reserves to be maintained. This policy has been written having had due regard to Charity Commission guidance CC19. The target level of reserves is formally reviewed annually as part of the process of budget setting (and will be agreed in March each year) and the reserves position is continually reviewed throughout the year.

Having undertaken a thorough review of the reliability of the Charity's future income streams, its levels of committed expenditure, the cash flow forecast and the risks identified within the organisational risk register (which is reviewed at all Board meetings and monitored continually by the CEO), the Trustees have set a target to maintain unrestricted reserves of £60,000 which they consider to be sufficient to mitigate the risks that have been identified.

In summary, the reasons for which funds are retained as reserves are:

- To ensure the continuity of activity which is a high priority to SATa in the event of a significant variation or total loss of funding for that activity.
- To fund unforeseen and unavoidable running costs or capital expenditures that may arise.
- To fund running costs for the short-term in the instance of cash-flow timing problems.

Free reserves at 31st March 2023 are currently in excess of this target at £89,982. This is due to both increased income and cost savings during the year. It is anticipated that some of the balance will be used during 2023-24 and the Trustees will keep the reserves position under review.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006. This report was approved by the Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Philip Marshall
Finance Committee

John Roundell
Finance Committee

Date

Independent examiner's report

To the Trustees of Solihull Action through Advocacy

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
(Fellow of the ICAEW)

8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
CV32 6NE

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	2,035	1,200	3,235	1,378
Charitable activities	4	524,643	51,066	575,709	554,099
Investments		809	-	809	13
		<u>527,487</u>	<u>52,266</u>	<u>579,753</u>	<u>555,490</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	478,904	51,558	530,462	544,404
Other		111	125	236	113
		<u>479,015</u>	<u>51,683</u>	<u>530,698</u>	<u>544,517</u>
Net income		48,472	583	49,055	10,973
Transfers between funds	15	(388)	388	-	-
Net movement in funds		48,084	971	49,055	10,973
Balance at start of year	15	74,926	-	74,926	63,953
Balance at end of year	15	<u>123,010</u>	<u>971</u>	<u>123,981</u>	<u>74,926</u>

There were no recognised gains and losses for the charitable company for the current or prior years other than those included in the statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure arises from continuing activities.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Company limited by guarantee: 7945421
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

		31 March 2023	31 March 2022
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	3,028	4,542
Current assets			
Debtors	11	785,432	1,084,554
Cash at bank and in hand		122,459	83,563
		907,891	1,168,117
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(541,577)	(505,077)
Net current assets		366,314	663,040
Total assets less current liabilities		369,342	667,582
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(245,361)	(592,656)
Total net assets		123,981	74,926
Funds			
Restricted	15	971	-
Unrestricted	15	123,010	74,926
		123,981	74,926

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Philip Marshall
Finance Committee

John Roundell
Finance Committee

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	
Net cash used in operating activities			
Net income	49,055	10,973	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	1,514	2,271	
Interest income shown in investing activities	(809)	(13)	
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	299,122	(558,985)	
(Increase) / decrease in creditors	(310,795)	555,401	
Net cash provided by operating activities	38,087	9,647	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest and dividends	809	13	
Purchase of fixed assets	-	-	
Net cash provided by investing activities	809	13	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	38,896	9,660	
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	83,563	73,903	
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	122,459	83,563	
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	122,459	83,563	
Analysis of changes in net debt	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	83,563	38,896	122,459

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

{a} General information and basis of preparation

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a private charitable company incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee, is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are: to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded; to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society; to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

{b} Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

{c} Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

The charity receives government grants in respect of its advocacy projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

All income arises in the United Kingdom.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{d} Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the costs of fundraising and trading activities
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises the direct costs of the provision of advocacy services and associated overhead expenses

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

{e} Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity, but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative payroll costs, premises costs, office costs and governance costs. All support costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities as raising funds is undertaken on a wholly voluntary basis. Any support costs which cannot be directly attributed to individual funds are apportioned according to the gross payroll cost incurred by each fund. The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

{f} Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computers and office equipment	33.3% reducing balance
--------------------------------	------------------------

Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off to the SoFA in the year of purchase.

{g} 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.

{h} Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

{i} Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{j} Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

{k} Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity, to be able to continue as a going concern.

3 Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Other donations and gift aid	3,235	1,378

£1,200 (2022: £nil) of donations are restricted.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Contracts with Solihull MBC	428,056	428,800
Grants	51,066	31,200
Other charitable income	96,587	94,099
	<u>575,709</u>	<u>554,099</u>

£51,066 (2022: £29,700) of grant income is restricted.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2023 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2022 Total £
Direct staff costs	273,751	42,011	315,762	295,234
Direct premises costs	-	-	-	12,155
Direct office costs	494	-	494	2,019
Direct professional fees	66	229	295	-
Other direct costs	140,735	-	140,735	143,441
Total direct costs	415,046	42,240	457,286	452,849
Support costs (note 6)	63,858	9,318	73,176	91,555
	<u>478,904</u>	<u>51,558</u>	<u>530,462</u>	<u>544,404</u>

6 Allocation of support costs

All support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities and then apportioned between individual funds on the basis of the direct payroll cost incurred by each fund. Total support costs comprise the following:

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Staff costs	24,087
Premises costs	26,984
Office costs	16,328
Depreciation	1,514
Professional fees	644
Governance	1,430
Other costs	2,189
	<u>73,176</u>

7 Net movement in funds for the year

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,514	2,271
Fees payable to the independent examiner:	<u>1,460</u>	<u>1,325</u>

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner (2022: £nil).

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

8 Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
	£	£
The staff costs were:		
Wages and salaries	293,440	296,540
Social security costs	16,763	17,140
Pension contributions	14,718	14,665
	<u>324,921</u>	<u>328,345</u>
Other staff costs	14,928	10,478
	<u>339,849</u>	<u>338,823</u>

The other staff costs comprise mainly travel, recruitment and training costs. No employee received annual emoluments in excess of £40,000 (2022: none). The average weekly number of staff employed during the year was:

	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
	No.	No.
Charitable Activities	17	17
Other	3	3
	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>

9 Trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2022: £nil). Expenses paid to the trustees in the year totalled £nil (2022: £nil) and there were no donations made by trustees (2022: £nil). There were no other related party transactions (2022: none).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers and office equipment £
Cost	
At 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023	<u>15,728</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2022	11,186
Charge for year	1,514
At 31 March 2023	<u>12,700</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,028</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>4,542</u>

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

11 Debtors	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	16,582	11,018
Other debtors	5,182	5,486
Prepayments and accrued income	763,668	1,068,050
	<u>785,432</u>	<u>1,084,554</u>

Prepayments and accrued income include £763,668 (2022: £1,068,050) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts are recognised as due to the charity under the terms of the contracts but the associated income is deferred to the relevant future periods, see notes 12 and 13. Included within prepayments and accrued income is £245,361 (2022: £592,656) due after more than one year.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,193	2,886
Accruals and deferred income	530,625	497,071
Taxation and social security	4,759	5,120
	<u>541,577</u>	<u>505,077</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due within one year includes £528,685 (2022: £493,214) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2024 (2022: recognised in the year ended 31 March 2023). £10,328 (2022: £7,500) of deferred income is restricted.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>245,361</u>	<u>592,656</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due after more than one year are in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2025 (2022: recognised in the years ending 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025). All accruals and deferred income are due within five years. No interest is chargeable.

14 Deferred income	£
At 1 April 2022	1,085,870
Additions during the year	181,390
Amounts released to income	(493,214)
At 31 March 2023	<u>774,046</u>

Deferred income comprises amounts, received or receivable, which are in respect of work to be undertaken in future periods, see notes 12 and 13.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

15 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balance b/f £	Income £	Expend- iture £	Fund transfers £	Fund balance c/f £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	64,926	35,584	(5,396)	(2,104)	93,010
Designated funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Solihull First	-	381,100	(352,057)	(29,043)	-
Parents Advocacy	-	36,656	(36,858)	202	-
B'ham & Solihull CCG Transition	-	15,789	(16,196)	407	-
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Peer Visitors	-	10,300	(10,583)	283	-
Circles of Support	-	41,844	(44,000)	2,156	-
Designated funds - Collective Advocacy					
WM Self-Advocacy Network	-	6,214	(6,452)	238	-
Solihull Learning Disability Council	-	-	(7,473)	7,473	-
Designated funds - Other					
IT Development	10,000	-	-	20,000	30,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>491,903</u>	<u>(473,619)</u>	<u>1,716</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>74,926</u>	<u>527,487</u>	<u>(479,015)</u>	<u>(388)</u>	<u>123,010</u>
Restricted funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Baron Davenport	-	700	(856)	156	-
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Awards for All	-	1,666	(1,814)	148	-
Restricted funds - Collective Advocacy					
Cole Trust	-	1,200	(1,222)	22	-
Sheldon Trust - "Voice for Change"	-	7,500	(7,562)	62	-
Restricted funds - Other					
Eveson Trust	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-
29 May 1961 Charitable Trust	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Roger & Douglas Turner	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Garfield Weston	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Private donation	-	1,200	(229)	-	971
	<u>-</u>	<u>52,266</u>	<u>(51,683)</u>	<u>388</u>	<u>971</u>
Total funds	<u>74,926</u>	<u>579,753</u>	<u>(530,698)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,981</u>

All transfers between the general fund and designated funds are to bring the year end fund balances to £nil. Transfers have been made from the general fund to the restricted funds to ensure they are not in deficit at the year end.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

15 Summary of fund movements (continued)

Designated funds are held for the following purposes:

Solihull First	Provision of statutory and non-statutory advocacy for adults residing and/or receiving services in Solihull. This includes advocacy provided under the Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Mental Health Act as well as NHS Complaints. It also includes issue-based, non-statutory advocacy for adults living in Solihull.
Parents Advocacy	One to one support for parents with a learning disability who are going through child protection proceedings.
B'ham & Solihull CCG Transition	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.
Peer Visitors	Peer-led quality monitoring visits to Local Authority residential care homes.
Circles of Support	A program to help reduce social isolation and build long-term supportive networks for people with learning disabilities.
WM Self-Advocacy Network	Provision and support of link workers acting as learning disability champions within a wider West Midlands network.
Solihull Learning Disability Council	Representative group of people with learning disabilities working together to raise awareness and seek changes to policy and practice.
IT Development	For replacing IT equipment and for IT security costs.
Baron Davenport	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
Awards for All	Building Connections project providing sessions for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to meet and get support, socialise and build relationships.
Cole Trust	To support collective advocacy work.
Sheldon Trust - "Voice for Change"	Voice for Change project, enabling the Solihull Learning Disability Council to engage the wider community of people with learning disabilities in Solihull in order to influence change.
Eveson Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
29 May 1961 Charitable Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Roger & Douglas Turner	To help meet the core costs of the organisation.
Garfield Weston	Funding for core running costs to support the development of Community and Collective advocacy
Private donation	Donation for fundraising consultancy.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

16 Analysis of net assets by fund	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	3,028	-	3,028
Debtors	785,432	-	785,432
Cash	111,160	11,299	122,459
Current liabilities	(531,249)	(10,328)	(541,577)
Long term liabilities	(245,361)	-	(245,361)
	<u>123,010</u>	<u>971</u>	<u>123,981</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Premises	
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Not later than one year	18,500	18,500
Later than one year and not later than five years	9,250	27,750
	<u>27,750</u>	<u>46,250</u>

	Office equipment	
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Not later than one year	534	2,136
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	534
	<u>534</u>	<u>2,670</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £18,500 (2022: £30,644) for premises and £2,136 (2022: £2,136) for office equipment.

18 Controlling party and ultimate controlling party

The controlling party and ultimate controlling party of the charitable company is the board of trustees / directors of Solihull Action through Advocacy.

Accounts

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2022

Charity number: 1146073

Company limited by guarantee: 7945421

Solihull Action through Advocacy Report and Financial Statements Contents

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Solihull Action through Advocacy

Legal and administrative information

Trustees and Directors

Shamsher Dharsani	Chair (until 8 March 2022)	Resigned 8 June 2022
Philip Marshall	Finance Committee	Appointed Chair 1 April 2022
John Roundell	Finance Committee	
Jonathan Bright		
Chris Brodest		Resigned 8 March 2022
Jessica James		
Katie Meah		
Catherine Nolan		
Jane Williams		

Chief Executive Officer

James Voller	Resigned 24 June 2022
Christine Forde	Appointed 1 August 2022

Principal Office and Registered Address

11 - 13 Land Lane
Marston Green
Solihull
B37 7DE

Independent examiner

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 6NE

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2022

Having become the Chair of Trustees of SATa in April, I must start by thanking my predecessor, Shamsheer Dharsani, on behalf of all my fellow Trustees for his service as Chair through the very challenging circumstances presented to us over the last few years. We will miss his presence on the Board; and we wish him well for the future.

Although I do not want to focus on it, it is inevitable that I should begin by referencing the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the people we serve and the way that we operated during this year. We continued to adapt the way that we work and to be as creative and persevering as possible to ensure that the people who needed our support could get it. This has been a challenge but one that our dedicated team at SATa has risen to very well.

We were particularly pleased to have had the continued high quality of our work recognised in the re-awarding of the advocacy Quality Performance Mark (QPM). The assessor's report highlighted the "highly person-centred team of supportive, passionate, dedicated, experienced and knowledgeable advocates that live the values of independent advocacy". It also specifically drew attention to SATa's "commitment to social justice, enabling people's voice to be heard and rights upheld" as well as our "humanity, sensitivity and empathy". This was a great outcome and duly recognises the hard work and commitment of our staff and volunteers.

One of our priorities for this year was to develop further our Community and Collective Advocacy work. I am very pleased to report on some notable successes in these areas.

On the Community Advocacy front, we focused on developing our Circles of Support project. This is an important piece of work for us, and especially so in light of the recent period of increased isolation which impacted significantly on people with learning disabilities. Although we are still in the early stages of this work, the signs are very encouraging and we are looking forward to seeing how this project develops further over the coming year.

Meanwhile, our Collective Advocacy activity has also been developing, supported by the return to face-to-face meetings of the Learning Disability Council, which has been able to engage with local public sector bodies on issues such as COVID vaccines and cancer diagnoses. In particular we have been building a greater influencing role with our partners in the NHS, and we are looking to introduce a new service in 2022 which will help ensure that the voices and experiences of people with learning disabilities and autistic people are heard at the highest levels of local health policy-making. This would represent a step-change in our ability to gather and reflect the views of local people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

The Board of Trustees spent time during the past year or so reviewing and improving SATa's governance arrangements, and this included the development of a new structure of Board Committees. These new arrangements are working very well, and I would like to thank all my fellow Trustees, including those who have resigned during the year, for their time, effort and dedication to SATa.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our Chief Executive, James Voller, and his management team, and all of our staff and volunteers, for their hard work and dedication, ensuring that we continue to provide a very efficient, high quality service to those in the local community who need our support.

After leading SATa for five years, James is moving on to a new challenge in 2022, and I know that I speak for everyone involved in the charity in recognising the tremendous contribution and impact he has made during his time with us, and he leaves with our grateful thanks and our very best wishes.

Finally, not just on behalf of everyone at SATa but also of the people we serve, I would like to thank each and every one of the people and organisations who have funded and continue to fund our work. We are very grateful for your support and the trust you place in us.



Philip Marshall, Chair of Trustees

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The Trustees' report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 13 to 15 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2012 and registered as a charity on 23 February 2012 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The company is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility of managing the business of the charitable company and for the purposes of charity law the trustees of the charity are also directors of the company. The Trustees / Directors who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1.

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association there must be at least 3 Trustees holding office. The term of office of a Trustee continues until they retire or are removed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Articles. All Trustees gave their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the accounts. Trustee vacancies are advertised locally and regionally. Trustees are appointed for their skills and expertise. All new Trustees undergo an induction process and receive a Trustee pack with relevant information about the organisation.

Day to day responsibility for management of the organisation is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive.

All major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded;
- to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society;
- to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

'Socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: age, disability, impairment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown and asylum seekers.

Solihull Action through Advocacy achieves its objectives through the provision of free independent advocacy. Having regard to these achievements, and the public benefit that they provide, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has met the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

In assessing the success of the Charity in the period, the Trustees have had regard principally to the number of people to whom the Charity has provided a service and the proportion of those individuals who achieved an outcome mostly or completely in line with their wishes. In addition the Trustees hold as a key criteria the need to deliver the Charity's services within its budget and to make a contribution to its unrestricted reserves.

The Charity utilises volunteers in a variety of roles from service delivery to Governance. Across the period, 27 people have volunteered including within our Peer Visitor service, Learning Disability Council, as Citizen Advocates, members of our Advisory Committee and the Trustees themselves.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and performance

1. Advocacy Case Work

Our case work service has continued to be an important source of support for some of the most marginalised people as the health and social care sector, along with the wider community, continued to struggle with and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of the year, we received over 500 new referrals and have provided a one-to-one independent advocacy case work service to 677 people across 952 cases. 262 of those people (39%) are new to SATa. Of those people who provided feedback when asked, 90% said that they were either happy or very happy with the service and 93% said that they were either likely or very likely to recommend the service to someone else.

Solihull First Advocacy - This year is the second year of delivering our new service providing all local-authority funded statutory and non-statutory advocacy in Solihull. In total, the service has worked with 586 people across 844 cases. 39% of those people were new to SATa.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) – We continue to provide an advocacy service to individuals who have been assessed as lacking capacity and are entitled to the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate. This includes those subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and those entitled to the support of a Relevant Person's Representative. These are entitlements that were created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to ensure that individuals who lack capacity in respect of certain decisions are not deprived of the ability to input into best interest decisions about their lives.

Care Act - We provide support under the Care Act 2014 to those who are going through the process of assessment, support planning or review as well as safeguarding processes. This service is provided to any person who has a substantial difficulty engaging with the process and does not have another suitable person to support them.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) – We provide advocacy support to individuals who have been detained under a section of the Mental Health Act 1983. The majority of those cases are supporting people who have been detained in hospital under s.2 or s.3 for assessment and treatment. IMHAs ensure that detained individuals understand what their situation is and what their rights are and help to ensure their voice is heard in care and treatment decisions.

NHS Complaints - This is also a new service area for SATa. We now provide advocacy support to people who wish to make a complaint about treatment they have received from the NHS. This can include making complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman if required.

Non-Statutory Advocacy - We work with people whose situations do not meet the criteria for any of the statutory advocacy roles. This is because people have important issues that they need advocacy support with. We assist people with issues such as housing, employment, healthcare, finances, social care, access to services, bullying and hate crime. Commonly, people come to us because they have no one else who they can turn to for support.

Parents Advocacy - Our service for parents with a learning disability provides advocacy support during child protection proceedings or pre-proceedings. These are cases that usually revolve around whether a parent is able to care for the child(ren) or whether the child(ren) should be cared for by a relative or someone else. In many cases this results in children being removed from the care of their parents. Support from an advocate ensures that parents are fully engaged in the decision-making process and also that all options to support parents to continue caring for their own children have been considered and explored. We have worked on 51 parents advocacy cases this year.

Young People - We have continued to provide support to young people with learning disabilities and autism, particularly those who are in transition into adulthood. Key issues within this group include education (particularly reasonable adjustments, school exclusions and Education Health and Care Plans), employment, relationships and mental health (with the latter becoming an increasing challenge among young people). This work is funded by Children in Need, Birmingham and Solihull CCG and the St James' Place Foundation. We have worked on 43 cases in the year.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. Community Advocacy

Solihull First

The pandemic restrictions through most of the year meant that our activities continued to be somewhat limited, but we continued to provide support where we could.

We continued to operate a telephone befriending service for people with learning disabilities and autism partly as an isolation-reduction mechanism but also to:

- Identify and escalate any crisis situations (eg lack of access to food or medicines).
- Support people to keep up with the very rapidly changing rules and guidance as to what they can and cannot do.
- Provide emotional support and reassurance to people who might understandably be feeling anxious/scared.

We provided support to 22 people whom we would not otherwise have been supporting. We have remained in regular contact with them throughout the pandemic and have provided a link to other supportive services.

We have also started running a number of “Coffee and Catch-Up” sessions, starting with a weekly session in central Solihull. By the end of the year, that session had a regular weekly attendance of 8-10 people and that has continued to grow after the end of the year. We plan to continue the development of new sessions throughout the next year.

Peer Visitors

Our ability to conduct peer visits in small group homes continued to be very heavily impacted by COVID restrictions as face-to-face visits to the homes were not possible for most of the year. We continued to work closely with the managers of the homes and with our own volunteers make the best use of virtual visits before face to face visits could recommence late in the year.

By the end of the year, all but 2 of the small homes had been visited in person and the remaining 2 had been visited within 2 weeks of the new year beginning.

Examples of impacts of the service during the year:

- A Peer Visitor noticed that a resident's mobility had seriously deteriorated and they didn't have access to a suitable wheelchair. They addressed this with the service manager who chased up with healthcare. This was investigated and the chair soon arrived and the resident was able to get out and enjoy being outside.
- Peer visitors questioned why a particular service user had not been out on 'leisure drives' like other residents. The peer visitors raised with staff who said that the resident couldn't comfortably get in and out of the car that the home had and didn't have a car through the motability scheme. We raised this with the person's appointee who is pushing for a motability car.
- A general issue of community access was raised when peer visitors found that across multiple homes, residents were not being supported to access the community even though restrictions had lifted. Staff at the homes believed that they had been told that they couldn't take residents inside any venues. We spoke to the small homes service manager and made sure that everything was clarified with staff and residents could begin going out again when staffing allowed.

Circles of Support

During the year, we were delighted to realise a long-held ambition by securing funds to pilot a 'Circles of Support' approach in Solihull to help reduce social isolation and build long-term supportive networks for people with learning disabilities. The pilot began in earnest in September 2021 and by the end of March 2022 the project had begun to work intensively with 12 individuals to develop their circles.

As this is a project where changes are intended to happen over a longer-term, it is difficult to assess the impacts after only 6-9 months. The pilot will conclude towards the end of 2022 and we will be working on assessing the successes and areas for improvement through the summer and autumn.

The Trustees are very grateful to Birmingham and Solihull CCG for agreeing to fund this pilot and hope to continue that work into future years.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and performance (continued)

3. Collective Advocacy

Solihull Learning Disability Council

SLDC meetings were able to resume in person during the year and the group has continued to meet monthly. This year the group has:

- Worked with Mencap on their “Treat me Well” campaign - participating in some filming
- Engaged with local public health teams in respect of COVID vaccinations for people with LD
- Started some engagement with the CCG in terms of supporting a new Early Cancer Diagnosis pathway for people with LD.

Late in the year, we created a new role to support the Council to be more inclusive and proactive in seeking the views of the widest possible group of people with LD. We now have a person with LD who has 5 hours per week to go “out and about” talking to other people with LD in the community, in supported living, residential care, hospital etc, who would otherwise not be able to participate in discussions that happen within LDC meetings.

West Midlands Regional Self-Advocacy Network

Throughout the year we have continued to support 2 Link Workers as part of the West Midlands Self-Advocacy Network. Both link workers have remained very engaged with the network; attending the weekly meetings and completing the development work. The achievements of the programme as a whole can be seen on the WMSAN website: www.wmsan.co.uk.

Influencing Work

COVID Vaccines – We identified a number of cases of people lacking capacity to consent to COVID vaccinations where GPs and other health and social care professionals were failing to properly apply the Mental Capacity Act. Some were contacting advocates to ask them to give consent to vaccinate on their advocacy partner’s behalf. In other cases people were unable to access vaccination at all because of their inability to consent. Professionals in many cases appeared to have completely forgotten how to apply ordinary MCA principles and to make best interest decisions. We supported the CCG to draft some communications to GPs and other professionals to remind them of the MCA principles and to ensure that people were not being prevented from receiving the vaccine or being vaccinated against their best interests.

LeDeR - Following our inclusion in the local LeDeR steering group last year, throughout 2021/22 we have built upon our engagement with the LeDeR programme. We are now part of the monthly “Oversight Panel” which looks at completed LeDeR reviews with a view to seeing what actions can be taken to improve systems and processes.

JAND Strategic Board - We were invited to sit as part of the Joint Additional Needs and Disabilities Board. As part of this we supported in the drafting of the new Joint Additional Needs Strategy for Solihull as well as the associated action plan. The strategy can be viewed here:

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer/additional-needs-strategy#:~:text=In%20Solihull%20we%20believe%20that,more%20support%20in%20their%20life.>

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022

Plans for future periods

In consultation with our staff and the people who use our support, we agreed a new strategic plan for 2021-24 in November 2020. That plan has 7 main priorities which are:

1. Continue to deliver a high-quality, 1-2-1 case work advocacy service to protect people's rights and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard
2. Develop new "community advocacy" projects to promote and support inclusion for people with LD / Autism
3. Develop and grow "collective advocacy" work to influence positive change
4. Improve impact measurement methodologies and reporting
5. Strengthen the ownership and control of the people who use our services
6. Review and refresh our governance arrangements and processes
7. Improve marketing and raise profile

Although some of our plans have continued to be frustrated by the impact of COVID, we are pleased to say that significant progress has already been made against some of these priorities, particularly in relation to consolidating the high quality of our case work service and reviewing our governance arrangements. These areas have taken up a great deal of our attention throughout the year under review although notable successes have also been made against priorities 2 and 3.

As we move into 2022/23 and beyond, our focus is now on pushing forward with the development of our Community and Collective Advocacy activity (priorities 2 and 3). Some of this work is already well-underway including the delivery of our Circles of Support Pilot which has been going from strength to strength. Some of that new activity will be starting very soon; in particular we expect shortly to begin delivery of a new project funded by Birmingham and Solihull CCG to ensure that the voices and experiences of people with learning disabilities and autism are front and centre of assessing the progress towards the CCG's LeDeR strategic plan and in determining the actions that need to be taken to improve those experiences.

Alongside these in-progress pieces of work, we are working with the members of our Advisory Committee to develop new project ideas particularly in the areas of community-based support.

We will also be focussing some of our attentions on improving our ability to capture, measure and articulate the impact of our work and using that to inform future services as well as to support in building our profile and influencing local, regional and national policy and practice.

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an income of £555,490 (2021: £550,031) and expenditure of £544,517 (2021: £533,249) resulting in net income for the year of £10,973 (2021: £16,782). The fund balance at 31st March 2022 is £74,926 (2021: £63,953), all of which is unrestricted.

The increase in other charitable income shown in note 4 (2022: £94,099 versus 2021: £27,840) is primarily due to new projects and services which commenced during this period.

In light of the continued impact of COVID-19 throughout this year both on the operations of the Charity and the increased challenges in raising funds for non-COVID related activities, the Trustees are pleased that SATa has once again achieved a modest surplus. As with last year this has been achieved through a combination of very careful cost control and some successes in securing new income sources. The Trustees are particularly grateful to the members of the Finance Committee, the CEO and Finance Manager for their work in supporting the Trustees to ensure careful and prudent management of the Charity's finances.

The achievement of a surplus has meant that the Trustees have been able to add to the Charity's reserves in line with its new Reserves Policy (see below) as well as to provide for future IT infrastructure spending through the creation of an "IT Development Designated Fund".

Solihull Action through Advocacy Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022

Financial review (continued)

The principal financial risks faced by the Charity are regularly monitored by the Board of Trustees and by its Finance Committee as well as on a continual basis by the CEO and Management Team. The main risks to which the Trustees feel attention should be drawn are:

- Dependency on a small number of large funding streams: Approximately 77% of income for 2021-22 was derived from contracts with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (although this is split across multiple contracts) and this presents some risks in terms of sustainability if those contracts were to be lost. Our main contract (Solihull First Advocacy) has been extended to at least September 2024 and it remains likely that this will continue until March 2026. Other contracts with SMBC have shorter terms but we have developed a strong and open relationship with commissioners and have consistently delivered a high-quality service and as such the Trustees consider the risk of losing those contracts to be low. Notwithstanding, the Trustees have set income generation targets and fundraising plans to encourage diversification of income streams to mitigate against dependencies.
- Failure to achieve income generation targets: As with most similar charities, there is a recurrent risk that the charity will fail to meet its fundraising / income generation targets in any given year. The Trustees have set challenging but achievable targets and progress towards them is monitored regularly by the Finance Committee. In addition, unrestricted funds held in reserves can be deployed to make up for under-performance in fundraising if the Trustees consider that to be prudent and appropriate.

Reserves

The Trustees agreed a new Reserves Policy in December 2021. The purpose of this policy is to make clear the Trustees' rationale for maintaining reserves and the approach that they take in determining the level of reserves to be maintained. This policy has been written having had due regard to Charity Commission guidance CC19. The target level of reserves is formally reviewed annually as part of the process of budget setting (and will be agreed in March each year) and the reserves position is continually reviewed throughout the year.

Having undertaken a thorough review of the reliability of the Charity's future income streams, its levels of committed expenditure, the cash flow forecast and the risks identified within the organisational risk register (which is reviewed at all Board meetings and monitored continually by the CEO), the Trustees have set a target to maintain unrestricted reserves of £60,000 which they consider to be sufficient to mitigate the risks that have been identified.

In summary, the reasons for which funds are retained as reserves are:

- To ensure the continuity of activity which is a high priority to SATa in the event of a significant variation or total loss of funding for that activity.
- To fund unforeseen and unavoidable running costs or capital expenditures that may arise.
- To fund running costs for the short-term in the instance of cash-flow timing problems.

Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2022 are slightly in excess of this target at £60,384 and the Trustees will keep the position under review.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006. This report was approved by the Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall
Chair of Trustees



John Roundell
Finance Committee

12 October 2022

Date

Independent examiner's report

To the Trustees of Solihull Action through Advocacy

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 10 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



12 October 2022

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
(Fellow of the ICAEW)

Date

8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
CV32 6NE

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,378	-	1,378	3,464
Charitable activities	4	524,399	29,700	554,099	546,542
Investments		13	-	13	25
		<u>525,790</u>	<u>29,700</u>	<u>555,490</u>	<u>550,031</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	514,212	30,192	544,404	533,083
Other		105	8	113	166
		<u>514,317</u>	<u>30,200</u>	<u>544,517</u>	<u>533,249</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		11,473	(500)	10,973	16,782
Transfers between funds	15	(500)	500	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,973	-	10,973	16,782
Balance at start of year	15	63,953	-	63,953	47,171
Balance at end of year	15	<u>74,926</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,926</u>	<u>63,953</u>

There were no recognised gains and losses for the charitable company for the current or prior years other than those included in the statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure arises from continuing activities.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Company limited by guarantee: 7945421
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

		31 March 2022	31 March 2021
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	<u>4,542</u>	<u>6,813</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	11	1,084,554	525,569
Cash at bank and in hand		83,563	73,903
		<u>1,168,117</u>	<u>599,472</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(505,077)</u>	<u>(506,415)</u>
Net current assets		<u>663,040</u>	<u>93,057</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>667,582</u>	<u>99,870</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	<u>(592,656)</u>	<u>(35,917)</u>
Total net assets		<u>74,926</u>	<u>63,953</u>
Funds			
Restricted	15	-	-
Unrestricted	15	74,926	63,953
		<u>74,926</u>	<u>63,953</u>

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Philip Marshall
Chair of Trustees



John Roundell
Finance Committee

12 October 2022

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	
Net cash used in operating activities			
Net income	10,973	16,782	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	2,271	3,406	
Interest income shown in investing activities	(13)	(25)	
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(558,985)	433,144	
Decrease / (increase) in creditors	555,401	(420,505)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	9,647	32,802	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest and dividends	13	25	
Purchase of fixed assets	-	-	
Net cash provided by investing activities	13	25	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	9,660	32,827	
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	73,903	41,076	
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	83,563	73,903	
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	83,563	73,903	
Analysis of changes in net debt	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	73,903	9,660	83,563

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

{a} General information and basis of preparation

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a private charitable company incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee, is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are: to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded; to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society; to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

{b} Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

{c} Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

The charity receives government grants in respect of its advocacy projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

All income arises in the United Kingdom.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{d} Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the costs of fundraising and trading activities
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises the direct costs of the provision of advocacy services and associated overhead expenses

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

{e} Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity, but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative payroll costs, premises costs, office costs and governance costs. All support costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities as raising funds is undertaken on a wholly voluntary basis. Any support costs which cannot be directly attributed to individual funds are apportioned according to the gross payroll cost incurred by each fund. The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

{f} Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computers and office equipment	33.3% reducing balance
--------------------------------	------------------------

Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off to the SoFA in the year of purchase.

{g} 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.

{h} Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

{i} Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{j} Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

{k} Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

{l} Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity, to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 COVID-19

The trustees do not consider that the COVID-19 pandemic will have any significant adverse financial effect on the charity, but an accurate estimate of the impact cannot be made.

3 Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Other donations and gift aid	<u>1,378</u>	<u>3,464</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Contracts with Solihull MBC	428,800	427,542
Grants	31,200	91,160
Other charitable income	94,099	27,840
	<u>554,099</u>	<u>546,542</u>

£29,700 (2021: £81,674) of grant income is restricted. Other charitable income includes £nil (2021: £1,500) which is also restricted.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2022 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2021 Total £
Direct staff costs	271,626	23,608	295,234	296,309
Direct premises costs	12,155	-	12,155	12,173
Direct office costs	2,019	-	2,019	4,014
Other direct costs	143,441	-	143,441	139,579
Total direct costs	429,241	23,608	452,849	452,075
Support costs (note 6)	84,971	6,584	91,555	81,008
	<u>514,212</u>	<u>30,192</u>	<u>544,404</u>	<u>533,083</u>

6 Allocation of support costs

All support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities and then apportioned between individual funds on the basis of the direct payroll cost incurred by each fund. Total support costs comprise the following:

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Staff costs	43,589
Premises costs	26,347
Office costs	16,360
Depreciation	2,271
Governance	1,275
Other costs	1,713
	<u>91,555</u>

7 Net movement in funds for the year

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,271	3,406
Fees payable to the independent examiner:	<u>1,325</u>	<u>1,275</u>

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner (2021: £nil).

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

8 Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2022	Year ended 31 March 2021
	£	£
The staff costs were:		
Wages and salaries	296,540	288,019
Social security costs	17,140	17,047
Pension contributions	14,665	14,378
	<u>328,345</u>	<u>319,444</u>
Other staff costs	10,478	7,909
	<u>338,823</u>	<u>327,353</u>

The other staff costs comprise mainly travel, recruitment and training costs. No employee received annual emoluments in excess of £40,000 (2021: none). The average weekly number of staff employed during the year was:

	Year ended 31 March 2022	Year ended 31 March 2021
	No.	No.
Charitable Activities	17	17
Other	3	3
	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>

9 Trustees' expenses and remuneration

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2021: £nil). Expenses paid to the Trustees in the year totalled £nil (2021: £nil) and there were no donations made by Trustees (2021: £nil). There were no other related party transactions (2021: none).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers and office equipment £
Cost	
At 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022	<u>15,728</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2021	8,915
Charge for year	2,271
At 31 March 2022	<u>11,186</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2022	<u>4,542</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>6,813</u>

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

11 Debtors	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	11,018	33,949
Other debtors	5,486	5,255
Prepayments and accrued income	1,068,050	486,365
	<u>1,084,554</u>	<u>525,569</u>

Prepayments and accrued income include £1,066,302 (2021: £485,332) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts are recognised as due to the charity under the terms of the contracts but the associated income is deferred to the relevant future periods, see notes 12 and 13. Included within prepayments and accrued income is £592,656 (2021: £35,917) due after more than one year.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,886	2,563
Accruals and deferred income	497,071	499,373
Taxation and social security	5,120	4,479
	<u>505,077</u>	<u>506,415</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due within one year includes £493,214 (2021: £494,644) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2023 (2021: recognised in the year ended 31 March 2022).

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>592,656</u>	<u>35,917</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due after more than one year are in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the years ending 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025 (2021: recognised in the years ending 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024). All accruals and deferred income are due within five years. No interest is chargeable.

14 Deferred income	£
At 1 April 2021	530,561
Additions during the year	1,049,953
Amounts released to income	(494,644)
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,085,870</u>

Deferred income comprises amounts, received or receivable, which are in respect of work to be undertaken in future periods, see notes 12 and 13.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

15 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balance b/f £	Income £	Expend- iture £	Fund transfers £	Fund balance c/f £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	63,953	33,492	(10,949)	(21,570)	64,926
Designated funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Solihull First	-	382,144	(380,790)	(1,354)	-
Parents Advocacy	-	36,656	(36,700)	44	-
B'ham & Solihull CCG Transition	-	15,229	(15,248)	19	-
Designated funds - Community Advocacy					
Peer Visitors	-	10,000	(10,078)	78	-
Circles of Support	-	38,918	(41,438)	2,520	-
Designated funds - Collective Advocacy					
WM Self-Advocacy Network	-	6,451	(7,297)	846	-
Solihull Learning Disability Council	-	1,400	(10,317)	8,917	-
Designated funds - Other					
Edgar Lawley	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
IT Development	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
	-	492,298	(503,368)	21,070	10,000
Total unrestricted funds	63,953	525,790	(514,317)	(500)	74,926
Restricted funds - Case Work Advocacy					
Baron Davenport	-	700	(885)	185	-
CB & HH Taylor	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Tesco Groundwork	-	1,000	(1,276)	276	-
Restricted funds - Collective Advocacy					
Cole Trust	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Lillie Johnson	-	500	(500)	-	-
Sheldon Trust - "Voice for Change"	-	2,500	(2,501)	1	-
Mencap - "Treat me Well"	-	1,800	(1,800)	-	-
Restricted funds - Other					
Lloyds Bank	-	5,500	(5,508)	8	-
Eveson Trust	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-
29 May 1961 Charitable Trust	-	4,000	(4,012)	12	-
Roger & Douglas Turner	-	3,000	(3,018)	18	-
WED Charitable Trust	-	500	(500)	-	-
Squire Patton Boggs	-	200	(200)	-	-
	-	29,700	(30,200)	500	-
Total funds	63,953	555,490	(544,517)	-	74,926

All transfers between the general fund and designated funds are to bring the year end fund balances to £nil. Transfers have been made from the general fund to the restricted funds to ensure they are not in deficit at the year end.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

15 Summary of fund movements (continued)

Designated funds are held for the following purposes:

Solihull First	Provision of statutory and non-statutory advocacy for adults residing and/or receiving services in Solihull. This includes advocacy provided under the Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Mental Health Act as well as NHS Complaints. It also includes issue-based, non-statutory advocacy for adults living in Solihull.
Parents Advocacy	One to one support for parents with a learning disability who are going through child protection proceedings.
B'ham & Solihull CCG Transition	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.
Peer Visitors	Peer-led quality monitoring visits to Local Authority residential care homes.
Circles of Support	A program to help reduce social isolation and build long-term supportive networks for people with learning disabilities.
WM Self-Advocacy Network	Provision and support of link workers acting as learning disability champions within a wider West Midlands network.
Solihull Learning Disability Council	Representative group of people with learning disabilities working together to raise awareness and seek changes to policy and practice.
Edgar Lawley	An unrestricted gift designated to running costs.
IT Development	For provision of IT infrastructure.

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Baron Davenport	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
CB & HH Taylor	To support work with young people.
Tesco Groundwork	To support work with young people.
Cole Trust	To support collective advocacy work.
Lillie Johnson	To support collective advocacy work.
Sheldon Trust - "Voice for Change"	Voice for Change project, enabling the Solihull Learning Disability Council to engage the wider community of people with learning disabilities in Solihull in order to influence change.
Mencap - "Treat me Well"	Treat Me Well project to transform the experiences of people with learning disabilities being treated in NHS hospitals.
Lloyds Bank	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Eveson Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
29 May 1961 Charitable Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Roger & Douglas Turner	To help meet the core costs of the organisation.
WED Charitable Trust	For ongoing work with people with disabilities.
Squire Patton Boggs	For ongoing work with people with disabilities.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

16 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4,542	-	4,542
Debtors	1,084,554	-	1,084,554
Cash	76,063	7,500	83,563
Current liabilities	(497,577)	(7,500)	(505,077)
Long term liabilities	(592,656)	-	(592,656)
	<u>74,926</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,926</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Premises	
	31 March	31 March
	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than one year	18,500	21,394
Later than one year and not later than five years	27,750	48,576
	<u>46,250</u>	<u>69,970</u>

	Office equipment	
	31 March	31 March
	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than one year	2,136	2,136
Later than one year and not later than five years	534	2,670
	<u>2,670</u>	<u>4,806</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £30,644 (2021: £30,644) for premises and £2,136 (2021: £2,136) for office equipment.

18 Controlling party and ultimate controlling party

The controlling party and ultimate controlling party of the charitable company is the Board of Trustees / Directors of Solihull Action through Advocacy.

Accounts

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2021

Charity number: 1146073

Company limited by guarantee: 7945421

**Solihull Action through Advocacy
Report and Financial Statements
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Solihull Action through Advocacy

Legal and administrative information

Trustees and Directors

Shamsher Dharsani	Chair	
Jane Emeny	Treasurer	Resigned 4 September 2020
Philip Marshall	Finance Committee	
John Roundell	Finance Committee	Appointed 29 January 2021
Jonathan Bright		
Chris Brodest		
Jessica James		
Katie Meah		
Catherine Nolan		Appointed 29 January 2021
Jane Williams		

Chief Executive Officer

James Voller

Principal Office and Registered Address

11 - 13 Land Lane
Marston Green
Solihull
B37 7DE

Independent examiner

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 6NE

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

I write this statement reflecting on what has been one of the most challenging years that many of us can remember. The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant and wide-ranging impacts on the people we support, and on our team of staff and volunteers, as indeed it has had, and continues to have, for everyone. But rather than recount those challenges, with which we are all familiar, I want instead to focus on the achievements that we have made.

I can think of no better place to start than with the voices of some of the people we have worked with through the year who have shared with us, in their own words, what SAtA's support has meant to them:

"Thanks for your support always...I couldn't have got through some of the things I have without you."

"You have helped me through the hardest thing to ever happen in my life, when I have many times wanted to just end it all rather than continue with the pain I felt at that time. Each time you have calmly picked me up, put me back on my feet, dusted me off and made me feel that I could get through it, one more day at a time. Every time I have woken the next day thankful that you had been there for me"

"So many times I have been frightened or upset and confused at things that have been happening and every time you have been there to help me understand it"

"If it was not for SAtA I would not be here doing the things I love doing"

This is just a small selection of the feedback that has been reported to me and my fellow Trustees but as ever I am deeply grateful to those people for taking the time to share their thoughts with us as I believe they set our activity and achievements in context and help to bring them to life.

These achievements would not have materialized without the hard work and dedication of our amazing staff and volunteers and the leadership of the Senior Management Team and I offer my sincere gratitude for their hard work and dedication to our clients.

Achievements

Pandemic response

It would be impossible to reflect on the year without saying something of the way we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff team had to adapt almost overnight to delivering a service that ordinarily relies almost exclusively on face-to-face contact, without being able to meet people in a great many circumstances.

We remained committed to seeing people face-to-face where necessary but we also had to make the best use of every available resource and technology to deliver the best advocacy that we could where face-to-face work was not possible.

I am particularly proud of the way that our staff team acted quickly to secure funds to purchase tablets which could be provided to individuals, care homes and hospitals to support with video calls and I would also like to thank Solihull Council for their support with that endeavour.

We set up a new telephone support service for people with learning disabilities and autistic people which, although not strictly speaking "advocacy", did help to ensure that an otherwise isolated and marginalised group of people had someone to talk to and a route to other supportive services where they were needed.

I and my fellow Trustees are extremely proud of the way that SAtA has responded to everything that the pandemic has thrown at it and the determination that our organisation has shown to ensuring that we are there for the people who need us.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Chair's statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements (continued)

Influencing

We have made great efforts throughout the year to highlight systemic issues and challenges and to be part of helping to change them for the better. Perhaps as a result of the pandemic, this year has seen a step-change in our engagement in this type of influencing work; engaging in issues such as inappropriate use of DNACPR orders and the introduction of Care Act Easements among others. We plan to harness this energy into the future and this forms a key theme of our new strategic plan.

In particular, we are pleased to have been asked to join the local LeDeR Governance group; working directly alongside the CCG, NHS acute and community services, local authorities and other statutory and VCS partners to seek real and lasting change to the quality of services experienced by people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

Circles of Support

One of our main priorities in our new strategic plan is to begin delivery of a Circles of Support project and I am very pleased to say that SATa has secured some funding from Birmingham and Solihull CCG to run an 18 month pilot project. Work has already started on that pilot at time of writing and I look forward to reporting

Thank You

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to sincerely thank our CEO, management team and all our wonderful staff and volunteers who have all handled the challenges of the last year, both personal and professional, with great stoicism, commitment and flexibility.

My thanks also to my fellow Trustees for all of their work and support for our organisation.

Finally, but by no means least, on behalf of the Board, our staff, volunteers and all of the people we support, I would like to thank all our funders and supporters, both large and small, without whom our work would not be possible.



Shamsheer Dharsani, Chair of Trustees

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The Trustees' report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 14 to 16 and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2012 and registered as a charity on 23 February 2012 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The company is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, each member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

The Board of Trustees have the responsibility of managing the business of the charitable company and for the purposes of charity law the trustees of the charity are also directors of the company. The Trustees / Directors who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1.

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association there must be at least 3 trustees holding office. The term of office of a Trustee continues until they retire or are removed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Articles. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the accounts. Trustee vacancies are advertised locally and regionally. Trustees are appointed for their skills and expertise. All new trustees undergo an induction process, including spending time with staff and service users and receive a trustee pack with relevant information about the organisation.

Day to day responsibility for management of the organisation is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive.

All major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are:

- to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded;
- to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society;
- to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

'Socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of the following factors: age, disability, impairment, poor educational or skills attainment, relationship and family breakdown and asylum seekers.

Solihull Action through Advocacy achieves its objectives through the provision of free independent advocacy. Having regard to these achievements, and the public benefit that they provide, the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has met the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

In assessing the success of the Charity in the period, the Trustees have had regard principally to the number of people to whom the Charity has provided a service and the proportion of those individuals who achieved an outcome mostly or completely in line with their wishes. In addition the Trustees hold as a key criteria the need to deliver the Charity's services within its budget and to make a contribution to its unrestricted reserves.

The Charity utilises volunteers in a variety of roles from service delivery to Governance. Across the period, 27 people have volunteered including within our Peer Visitor service, Learning Disability Council, as Citizen Advocates, members of our Advisory Committee and the Trustees themselves.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and performance

1. Advocacy Case Work

Our case work service has been more important than ever this year as people have been faced with a continually changing landscape of rights and restrictions both within health and social care and more broadly. Over the course of the year we have provided a one-to-one independent advocacy case work service to 680 people across 1005 cases. 265 of those people (39%) are new to SATa. Our work has directly protected 139 people from experiencing abuse or neglect and has ensured that a specific legal right has been upheld for 247 people. Of those people who provided feedback when asked, 78% said that they were either happy or very happy with the service and 91% said that they were either likely or very likely to recommend the service to someone else.

Solihull First Advocacy - This year is the second year of delivering our new service providing all local-authority funded statutory and non-statutory advocacy in Solihull. We deliver this in partnership with Independent Advocacy. In total, the service has worked with 597 people across 905 cases. 40% of those people were new to SATa.

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) – We continue to provide an advocacy service to individuals who have been assessed as lacking capacity and are entitled to the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate. This includes those subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and those entitled to the support of a Relevant Person's Representative. These are entitlements that were created by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to ensure that individuals who lack capacity in respect of certain decisions are not deprived of the ability to input into best interest decisions about their lives.

Care Act - We provide support under the Care Act 2014 to those who are going through the process of assessment, support planning or review as well as safeguarding processes. This service is provided to any person who has a substantial difficulty engaging with the process and does not have another suitable person to support them.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) – We provide advocacy support to individuals who have been detained under a section of the Mental Health Act 1983. The majority of those cases are supporting people who have been detained in hospital under s.2 or s.3 for assessment and treatment. IMHAs ensure that detained individuals understand what their situation is and what their rights are and help to ensure their voice is heard in care and treatment decisions.

NHS Complaints - This is also a new service area for SATa. We now provide advocacy support to people who wish to make a complaint about treatment they have received from the NHS. This can include making complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman if required.

Non-Statutory Advocacy - We work with people whose situations do not meet criteria for any of the statutory advocacy roles above but who have important issues that they need advocacy support with. We assist people with issues such as housing, employment, healthcare, finances, social care, access to services, bullying and hate crime. Commonly, people come to us because they have no one else who they can turn to for support.

Parents Advocacy - Our service for parents with a learning disability provides advocacy support during child protection proceedings or pre-proceedings. These are cases that usually revolve around whether a parent is able to care for the child(ren) or whether the children should be cared for by a relative or someone else. In many cases this results in children being removed from the care of their parents. Support from an advocate ensures that parents are fully engaged in the decision-making process and also that all options to support parents to continue caring for their own children have been considered and explored. We have worked on 49 parents advocacy cases this year.

Young People - We have continued to provide support to young people with learning disabilities and autism, particularly those who are in transition into adulthood. Key issues within this group include education (particularly reasonable adjustments, school exclusions and Education Health and Care Plans), employment, relationships and mental health (with the latter becoming an increasing challenge among young people). This work is funded by Children in Need, Birmingham and Solihull CCG and the St James' Place Foundation. We have worked on 41 cases in the year.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. Community Advocacy

Solihull First

We have worked to produce a “What is Advocacy” training session which is intended to create community capacity for “low-level” citizen advocacy by equipping people with a basic understanding of the principles of independent advocacy that they might be able to use in their day-to-day lives with family, friends, neighbours or people that they meet in the other places (work, religious meetings, volunteering roles, peer groups etc).

The pandemic restrictions meant that we were limited to only running an initial “test” session with 6 participants but this was well-received and we feel that we have a good basis for building on through the coming year.

Also under the Solihull First umbrella, early in the year, in response to the pandemic, we decided to start a telephone befriending service for people with learning disabilities and autism partly as an isolation-reduction mechanism but also to:

- Identify and escalate any crisis situations (eg lack of access to food or medicines).
- Support people to keep up with the very rapidly changing rules and guidance as to what they can and cannot do.
- Provide emotional support and reassurance to people who might understandably be feeling anxious/scared.

We provided support to 18 people who we would not otherwise have been supporting. We have remained in regular contact with them throughout the pandemic and have provided a link to other supportive services.

Peer Visitors

Our Peer Visitor service continues to support people with learning disabilities living in small group homes to talk about their experiences and to seek improvements and changes to the way they are supported to live their lives.

Our ability to conduct peer visits was very heavily impacted by the onset of COVID restrictions as face-to-face visits to the homes were not possible. However, we worked closely with the managers of the homes and with our own volunteers to replace the face-to-face visits with virtual ones.

Naturally there were some challenges with supporting the residents of the small homes and the peer volunteers to use the technology but these were overcome and we were able to provide virtual visits to all but 1 of the 9 small homes.

Whilst we would not want to replace face-to-face visits in the long-term, virtual visits have allowed us to continue to provide some external scrutiny of the care and support that people are receiving and given the people in the small homes an important social outlet during a time of extreme isolation.

3. Collective Advocacy

Solihull Learning Disability Council

The SLDC has continued to be active throughout the year with our support, albeit with a significantly different approach. There have been some notable activities and achievements this year including:

- Creating a video campaign for priority access to COVID testing for all people with learning disabilities (<https://vimeo.com/430362767>).
- Meeting with the Chair of University Hospitals Birmingham and UHB’s Lead Nurse for Vulnerabilities to talk about how the Trust can better meet the care and treatment needs of people with learning disabilities.
- Continuing to work in partnership with other self-advocacy groups as part of the Mencap “Treat Me Well” campaign.

The members are looking forward to the resumption of face-to-face meetings next year as easing restrictions allow.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

3. Collective Advocacy (continued)

West Midlands Regional Self-Advocacy Network

Throughout the year we have been providing support to 2 “Link Workers” as part of the West Midlands Self-Advocacy Network, a Lottery-funded project being run by “Dudley Voices for Choice”. Despite technical challenges in adapting to virtual working, both link workers have been very engaged with the network; attending the weekly meetings and completing the development work. As we make moves back towards in-person meetings again, we hope that the coming year will see more outward-looking work.

AdvoActs

Our drama group continues to run and we secured some funding from the Lottery Awards for All programme which allowed us to recruit a new part-time facilitator in October. The group decided to make a video about the lives they like to live, disability or no disability. Inevitably the video has also ended up touching on the impacts of COVID.

Influencing Work

Over the course of a rapidly changing year, we engaged in a number of important influencing activities as local statutory authorities tried to respond to changes in law, regulation, guidance and needs. In particular we:

- Established a weekly conference call with both the Assistant Director and Head of Service for SMBC Adult Social Care. This meeting also included managers from individual social work teams (safeguarding, DoLS, All-Age Disability).
- Wrote to the Director of Adult Social Care at SMBC in respect of the Council decision to operate under the “Care Act Easements” in the early stages of the pandemic. We had a meeting with the DAS which reassured us that the Easements were being used appropriately and proportionately and we were kept informed directly of any changes from that point.
- Took a number of actions in response to reported inappropriate use of Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation orders:
 - Wrote to the CEO and Clinical Chair of Birmingham and Solihull CCG to draw their attention to concerns raised in other localities (and to the joint statement published by CQC, BMA, RCGP and CPA) and to request their support in ensuring that GPs across Solihull were approaching end-of-life planning processes properly.
 - Drafted an information document for care providers and another for people and/or their relatives, to explain the proper process for DNACPR decisions, the importance of individualised decision-making and the involvement of the person, and to offer our support. We worked with SMBC to ensure this information was distributed to all Care Providers in Solihull.
 - Participated in a CQC thematic review of the use of DNACPR during the pandemic.
- Drafted a local response to a PHE report in November 2020 which had highlighted the disproportionate impact of COVID on people with learning disabilities. As a direct consequence we have subsequently met with senior officers within the Council and the CCG as well as Saqib Bhatti (MP for Meriden). Some of the results/work from those meetings includes:
 - SATa being invited to sit on the local LeDeR Steering Group and also to be involved in a sub group which will focus on ensuring that new strategic priorities actually manifest into real improvements and how this can be measured.
 - Re-connections with the Health Facilitation team, and potential joint working with SATa and the Learning Disability Council.
 - A commitment from Saqib Bhatti MP to support us in raising awareness on key issues, especially using his influence on social media.
 - Some useful initial conversations with the CCG regarding improvements on Annual Health Checks the learning disability register-both of these being important throughout the pandemic period and beyond.
 - Agreement for social workers to be asked/ reminded to ask their clients whether they have been for an annual health check/ are on register/ have a hospital passport at their assessment or reviews- as standard.
- Worked with the health facilitation team to ensure that people with learning disabilities going into hospital had up-to-date hospital passports.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2021

Plans for future periods

In consultation with our staff and the people who use our support, we agreed a new strategic plan for 2021-24 in November 2020. That plan has 7 main priorities which are:

1. Continue to deliver a high-quality, 1-2-1 case work advocacy service to protect people's rights and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard
2. Develop new "community advocacy" projects to promote and support inclusion for people with LD / Autism
3. Develop and grow "collective advocacy" work to influence positive change
4. Improve impact measurement methodologies and reporting
5. Strengthen the ownership and control of the people who use our services
6. Review and refresh our governance arrangements and processes
7. Improve marketing and raise profile

The CEO has developed a detailed action plan for the delivery of this new strategy and the Trustees are closely monitoring its progress. We are pleased to say that significant progress is already being made against some priorities and in particular:

- We have worked closely with Birmingham and Solihull CCG to secure funding to deliver a pilot "Circles of Support" project over 18 months. This project will help us to reclaim some of our 'community advocacy' roots and, we hope, to help people to achieve significant and lasting change. Work has already begun on this project and we look forward to reporting on its successes in future reports. We are grateful to the CCG for their support.
- Partly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked hard to foster productive influencing relationships, in particular with the Local Authority in Solihull as well as with the local CCG.

In the case of the former, those relationships were already there but our experience of the pandemic, has assisted in developing them. In particular we have needed to act as a "critical friend" on a number of issues and to constructively challenge actions and decisions that impacted on our clients and the wider population of Solihull. That role appears to have been well-received by the LA and as a result we are now better able to raise systemic issues and be part of finding solutions to them.

Our relationships within the CCG at a strategic level were largely non-existent but we now have direct and regular dialogue and have also been asked to sit as part of the local "LeDeR" Steering Group. We hope to be able to report on more achievements in this regard in future.

- We have undertaken a review of our governance arrangements and this has resulted in the introduction of a new committee structure and the development of a formal scheme of delegation. Importantly, within this new structure, our previous "Service User Advisory Board" has been replaced with an "Advisory Committee" at which people who use our services will sit alongside Trustees to scrutinise and shape the performance and future plans of the Charity. That change is very new but our aim is that over the next year (and beyond) is that the Committee will become a powerful tool for ensuring that ownership of the organisation sits where it should; with the people it exists to support.

Solihull Action through Advocacy

Report of the Trustees and Directors for the year ended 31 March 2021

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an income of £550,031 (2020: £563,059) and expenditure of £533,249 (2020: £561,313) resulting in net income for the year of £16,782 (2020: £1,746). The fund balance at 31 March 2021 is £63,953 (2020: £47,171), all of which is unrestricted.

Given the unexpected and very significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the uncertainties that it created, and the additional strain on the Charity's management team, the Trustees are very pleased to have achieved a modest surplus in the year. This has been achieved by a combination of reduced costs in some cases (such as travel and some office costs) but mostly through the availability of grant funding that might otherwise not have been available. That surplus has been retained as unrestricted reserve because the Trustees expect a more challenging fundraising environment in the coming years as competition for charitable funds intensifies to cope with the likely increase in need post-pandemic.

The principal financial risks faced by the Charity are regularly monitored by the Board of Trustees and by its Finance Committee as well as on a continual basis by the CEO and Management Team. The main risks to which the Trustees feel attention should be drawn are:

- Dependency on a small number of large funding streams: Approximately 80% of income for 2020-21 was derived from contracts with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (although this is split across multiple contracts) and this presents some risks in terms of sustainability if those contracts were to be lost. Our main contract (Solihull First Advocacy) runs until March 2022 and is highly likely to be extended to at least March 2024. We have developed a strong and open relationship with commissioners and have consistently delivered a high-quality service and as such the Trustees consider the risk of losing that contract to be low. Notwithstanding, the Trustees have set income generation targets and fundraising plans to encourage diversification of income streams to mitigate against dependencies.
- Failure to achieve income generation targets: As with most similar charities, there is a recurrent risk that the charity will fail to meet its fundraising / income generation targets. The Trustees have set challenging but achievable targets and progress towards them is monitored regularly by the Finance Committee.

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves of £50,000 which it considers sufficient to cover potential short-term challenges in funding strategies and winding up costs if necessary. Total free reserves at 31 March 2021 were £57,140 which is in excess of this target.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006. This report was approved by the Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Shamsheer Dharsani
Chair of Trustees



Philip Marshall
Finance Committee

5th October 2021

Date

Independent examiner's report

To the Trustees of Solihull Action through Advocacy

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA
(Fellow of the ICAEW)

8 Troutbeck Avenue
Leamington Spa
CV32 6NE

6 October 2021

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	3,329	135	3,464	5,043
Charitable activities	4	463,368	83,174	546,542	557,921
Investments		25	-	25	95
		<u>466,722</u>	<u>83,309</u>	<u>550,031</u>	<u>563,059</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	438,815	94,268	533,083	560,940
Other		128	38	166	373
		<u>438,943</u>	<u>94,306</u>	<u>533,249</u>	<u>561,313</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		27,779	(10,997)	16,782	1,746
Transfers between funds	15	(10,997)	10,997	-	-
Net movement in funds		16,782	-	16,782	1,746
Balance at start of year	15	47,171	-	47,171	45,425
Balance at end of year	15	<u>63,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,953</u>	<u>47,171</u>

There were no recognised gains and losses for the charitable company for the current or prior years other than those included in the statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure arises from continuing activities.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Company limited by guarantee: 7945421
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	<u>6,813</u>	<u>10,219</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	11	525,569	958,713
Cash at bank and in hand		73,903	41,076
		<u>599,472</u>	<u>999,789</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(506,415)</u>	<u>(590,693)</u>
Net current assets		<u>93,057</u>	<u>409,096</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>99,870</u>	<u>419,315</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	<u>(35,917)</u>	<u>(372,144)</u>
Total net assets		<u>63,953</u>	<u>47,171</u>
Funds			
Restricted	15	-	-
Unrestricted	15	63,953	47,171
		<u>63,953</u>	<u>47,171</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees / Directors and signed on their behalf by:



Shamsheer Dharsani
Chair of Trustees



Philip Marshall
Finance Committee

5th October 2021

Date

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £	
Net cash used in operating activities			
Net income	16,782	1,746	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	3,406	4,088	
Interest income shown in investing activities	(25)	(95)	
Decrease in debtors	433,144	304,356	
Decrease in creditors	(420,505)	(319,123)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	32,802	(9,028)	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest and dividends	25	95	
Purchase of fixed assets	-	(12,240)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	25	(12,145)	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	32,827	(21,173)	
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	41,076	62,249	
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	73,903	41,076	
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	73,903	41,076	
Analysis of changes in net debt	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	41,076	32,827	73,903

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

{a} General information and basis of preparation

Solihull Action through Advocacy is a private charitable company incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee, is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are: to promote social inclusion and to prevent people from becoming socially excluded; to assist people to obtain full rights and privileges as citizens and integrate into society; to achieve these objectives particularly, but not exclusively, through the provision of independent advocacy support.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

{b} Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

{c} Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be

The charity receives government grants in respect of its advocacy projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

All income arises in the United Kingdom.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{d} Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the costs of fundraising and trading activities
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises the direct costs of the provision of advocacy services and associated overhead expenses

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

{e} Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity, but do not directly represent charitable activities and include administrative payroll costs, premises costs, office costs and governance costs. All support costs have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities as raising funds is undertaken on a wholly voluntary basis. Any support costs which cannot be directly attributed to individual funds are apportioned according to the gross payroll cost incurred by each fund. The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

{f} Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computers and office equipment	33.3% reducing balance
--------------------------------	------------------------

Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off to the SoFA in the year of purchase.

{g} 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.

{h} Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

{i} Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies (continued)

{j} Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

{k} Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charity for UK corporation tax purposes.

{l} Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity, to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 COVID-19

The trustees do not consider that the COVID-19 pandemic will have any significant adverse financial effect on the charity, but an accurate estimate of the impact cannot be made.

3 Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Other donations and gift aid	<u>3,464</u>	<u>5,043</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Contracts with Solihull MBC	427,542	427,596
Grants	91,160	105,613
Other charitable income	27,840	24,712
	<u>546,542</u>	<u>557,921</u>

£81,674 (2020: £70,181) of grant income is restricted. Other charitable income includes £1,500 (2020: £15,000) which is also restricted.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 March 2021 Total £	Year ended 31 March 2020 Total £
Direct staff costs	223,363	72,946	296,309	275,727
Direct premises costs	12,173	-	12,173	12,144
Direct office costs	1,154	2,860	4,014	8,407
Direct professional fees	-	-	-	2,000
Other direct costs	139,452	127	139,579	148,561
Total direct costs	376,142	75,933	452,075	446,839
Support costs (note 6)	62,673	18,335	81,008	114,101
	<u>438,815</u>	<u>94,268</u>	<u>533,083</u>	<u>560,940</u>

6 Allocation of support costs

All support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities and then apportioned between individual funds on the basis of the direct payroll cost incurred by each fund. Total support costs comprise the following:

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Staff costs	31,044
Premises costs	24,995
Office costs	19,598
Depreciation	3,406
Governance	1,279
Other costs	686
	<u>81,008</u>

7 Net movement in funds for the year

The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	3,406	4,088
Fees payable to the independent examiner:	<u>1,275</u>	<u>1,250</u>

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner (2020: £nil).

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

8 Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2021	Year ended 31 March 2020
	£	£
The staff costs were:		
Wages and salaries	288,019	294,899
Social security costs	17,047	18,288
Pension contributions	14,378	14,701
	<u>319,444</u>	<u>327,888</u>
Other staff costs	7,909	14,227
	<u>327,353</u>	<u>342,115</u>

The other staff costs comprise mainly travel, recruitment and training costs. No employee received annual emoluments in excess of £40,000 (2020: none). The average weekly number of staff employed during the year was:

	Year ended 31 March 2021	Year ended 31 March 2020
	No.	No.
Charitable Activities	17	17
Other	3	3
	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>

9 Trustees' expenses and remuneration

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2020: £nil). Expenses paid to the Trustees in the year totalled £nil (2020: £nil) and there were no donations made by Trustees (2020: £nil). There were no other related party transactions (2020: none).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers and office equipment £
Cost	
At 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021	<u>15,728</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2020	5,509
Charge for year	3,406
At 31 March 2021	<u>8,915</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2021	<u>6,813</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>10,219</u>

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

11 Debtors	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	33,949	2,662
Other debtors	5,255	6,095
Prepayments and accrued income	486,365	949,956
	<u>525,569</u>	<u>958,713</u>

Prepayments and accrued income include £485,332 (2020: £804,890) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts are recognised as due to the charity under the terms of the contracts but the associated income is deferred to the relevant future periods, see notes 12 and 13. Included within prepayments and accrued income is £35,917 (2020: £372,144) due after more than one year.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,563	149,462
Accruals and deferred income	499,373	436,171
Taxation and social security	4,479	5,060
	<u>506,415</u>	<u>590,693</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due within one year includes £494,644 (2020: £432,746) in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the year ending 31 March 2022 (2020: recognised in the year ended 31 March 2021).

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>35,917</u>	<u>372,144</u>

Accruals and deferred income falling due after more than one year are in respect of long-term contracts. These amounts will be recognised as income in the years ending 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 (2020: recognised in the year ending 31 March 2022). All accruals and deferred income are due within five years. No interest is chargeable.

14 Deferred income	£
At 1 April 2020	804,890
Additions during the year	158,417
Amounts released to income	<u>(432,746)</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>530,561</u>

Deferred income comprises amounts, received or receivable, which are in respect of work to be undertaken in future periods, see notes 12 and 13.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

15 Summary of fund movements

	Fund balance b/f	Income £	Expend- iture £	Fund transfers £	Fund balance c/f £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	47,171	14,440	(6,939)	9,281	63,953
Designated funds					
Solihull First	-	382,144	(360,453)	(21,691)	-
Parents Advocacy	-	35,398	(35,129)	(269)	-
WM Self-Advocacy Network	-	9,486	(11,461)	1,975	-
Peer Visitors	-	10,000	(9,690)	(310)	-
B'ham & Solihull CCG (Transition)	-	15,254	(15,271)	17	-
	-	452,282	(432,004)	(20,278)	-
Total unrestricted funds	47,171	466,722	(438,943)	(10,997)	63,953
Restricted funds					
Children in Need (Transition)	-	15,611	(18,131)	2,520	-
St James's Place	-	2,500	(3,135)	635	-
Advoacts	-	9,983	(11,138)	1,155	-
Tesco Covid	-	500	(500)	-	-
Learning Disability Council	-	135	(5,792)	5,657	-
SMBC Tablets	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
National Lottery Fund	-	16,080	(16,251)	171	-
Baron Davenport	-	500	(627)	127	-
Lloyds Bank	-	27,500	(27,695)	195	-
Eveson Trust	-	5,000	(5,202)	202	-
CAF Bank	-	4,000	(4,335)	335	-
	-	83,309	(94,306)	10,997	-
Total funds	47,171	550,031	(533,249)	-	63,953

All transfers between the general fund and designated funds are to bring the year end fund balances to £nil. Transfers have been made from the general fund to the restricted funds to ensure they are not in deficit at the year end.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

15 Summary of fund movements (continued)

Designated funds are held for the following purposes:

Solihull First	Provision of statutory and non-statutory advocacy for adults residing and/or receiving services in Solihull. This includes advocacy provided under the Care Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Mental Health Act as well as NHS Complaints. It also includes issue-based, non-statutory advocacy for adults living in Solihull.
Parents Advocacy	One to one support for parents with a learning disability who are going through child protection proceedings.
WM Self-Advocacy Network	Provision and support of link workers acting as learning disability champions within a wider West Midlands network.
Peer Visitors	Peer-led quality monitoring visits to Local Authority residential care homes.
B'ham & Solihull CCG (Transition)	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Children in Need (Transition)	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adults' services.
St James' Place	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
AdvoActs	Drama group for people with a learning disability.
Tesco COVID	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
Learning Disability Council	Representative group of people with learning disabilities working together to raise awareness and seek changes to policy and practice.
SMBC Tablets	Tablet computers to support virtual contact during period of restrictions as a result of COVID-19.
National Lottery Fund	To support specific running costs of the organisations including specific staff costs to support a telephone isolation-reduction project and rent.
Baron Davenport	Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's to adult services.
Lloyds Bank	To support the running costs of the organisation.
Eveson Trust	To support the running costs of the organisation.
CAF Bank	Support for telephone isolation-reduction project and collective advocacy work.

Solihull Action through Advocacy
Notes forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

16 Analysis of net assets by fund	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	6,813	-	6,813
Debtors	524,419	1,150	525,569
Cash	65,403	8,500	73,903
Current liabilities	(496,765)	(9,650)	(506,415)
Long term liabilities	(35,917)	-	(35,917)
	<u>63,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,953</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Premises	
	31 March	31 March
	2021	2020
	£	£
Not later than one year	21,394	30,644
Later than one year and not later than five years	48,576	57,826
Later than five years	-	12,144
	<u>69,970</u>	<u>100,614</u>

	Office equipment	
	31 March	31 March
	2021	2020
	£	£
Not later than one year	2,136	2,136
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,670	4,806
	<u>4,806</u>	<u>6,942</u>

Lease payments recognised as an expense in the year were £30,644 (2020: £30,644) for premises and £2,136 (2020: £2,136) for office equipment.

18 Controlling party and ultimate controlling party

The controlling party and ultimate controlling party of the charitable company is the Board of Trustees / Directors of Solihull Action through Advocacy.