

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
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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 SAAtA 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
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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	<u>3,235</u>	<u>1,378</u>

£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
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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
	<hr/> 324,921	<hr/> 328,345
Other staff costs	14,928	10,478
	<hr/> 339,849	<hr/> 338,823

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
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 20

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	<hr/> 15,728
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2022	11,186
Charge for year	1,514
At 31 March 2023	<hr/> 12,700
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	<hr/> 3,028
At 31 March 2022	<hr/> 4,542

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	Restricted	
	Funds	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.