

Company No. 07900719

Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)

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(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
Contents for the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	<u>PAGE</u>
General information	1
Trustees Annual Report	2-5
Independent Examiners Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9-14

24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
General information
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

TRUSTEES:	Robb Philip Harman Stephen Morris Catherine Smith Peter Connor Deborah Connor
DIRECTORS:	Robb Philip Harman Sally Elizabeth Harman Jonathan Andrew Biddle
CHAIRPERSON:	Robb Philip Harman
ADDRESS:	217 Southend Road Stanford Le Hope Essex SS17 7AB
ACCOUNTANTS:	Moore Kingston Smith LLP Orbital House 20 Eastern Road Romford Essex RM1 3PJ
BANK:	Barclays Bank
COMPANY NO.	07900719

24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
Trustees Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

24-7 Prayer Stanford is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its articles of association. The company was incorporated on 6 January 2012.

Objects of the charity

24-7 Prayer Stanford (Proximity Church) is a Christian community that operates primarily in Thurrock and the surrounding areas of Essex. The objects of the charity are the provision of supportive projects such as youth work, educational services, pastoral care, acts of worship and projects to benefit the community and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Review and achievements of 2023

Proximity Church continues to pursue and practise three core values of:

- Family:** to live and share life as an open and inclusive community;
- Sent:** to be prepared to serve and go where the Spirit may lead;
- Encounter:** to encounter and experience God.

These values are the lenses through which we view all Proximity activities, meetings and endeavours. We want these to be the markers of Proximity Church.

At the end of 2022 the Trustees and Leadership team of Proximity Church set themselves the following goals for the new year:

- Prayerfully consider a permanent venue;
- Look at ways to develop and grow Proximity Leaders;
- The multiplication of House Churches to be our strategy and mechanism for growth;
- Maintain and increase the number of Proximity Trustees;
- Develop Schools' Work and MADE to increase Proximity Church's capacity to bless and champion individuals and communities both locally and nationally;
- Encourage community members to attend Wildfires festival and/or the annual 24-7 Prayer European conference;
- Continue to seek new and adaptive ways to bless and serve our town and beyond.

Leadership

Jonathan Biddle and Christie Harman led the Church from January to July 2023, whilst Charlotte Harman (Team Leader) took Maternity Leave. The Leadership Team continued to meet Bi-Weekly with the Wider Leadership Team and with the Trustees Board quarterly.

Jonathan Biddle stepped down from his role as Leader in July 2023, after over 10-years of voluntary service. Charlotte Harman's contract with Proximity Church was renegotiated to 2-days a week on her return to work in September 2023. As part of this return to work, the leadership team re-structured under the direction of the Leaders. Charlotte and Christie Harman became Overall Leaders of Proximity Church and the Wider Leadership Team became the Leadership Team of Proximity Church, agreeing to meet monthly within this new structure.

House Churches

House Churches continued to be a valued way in which Proximity Church grew as community and fostered family together. In September 2023, the House Churches moved days and members were invited to change their House Church if this suited. House Churches now meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays, leaving more days a week for members to meet in the week or be involved in wider community events.

Encounter Sundays

Encounter Sundays continued to be important monthly gatherings for the whole Church. The meetings consisted of sung worship (led by a band), a bible teaching, times of prayer/story telling and a family meal together. Church members were encouraged to attend and invite guests. In the September Encounter Sunday 2023 Christie and Charlotte Harman hosted a 'family meeting', whereby members were asked to answer a questionnaire and leaders fielded questions, setting the vision and strategy for the coming year. From December 2023 the venue for these gatherings changed to Hassenbrook Academy. This has enabled the church to have exclusive access to a venue and, therefore, the practical/time burdens of setting up/packing down of Encounter Sundays have been greatly eased.

Learning

For both our Community Learning and Family Learning there was a study of the Holy Spirit in 2023. Proximity Church invited speakers from the wider 24-7 Prayer Network to share their hearts and thoughts, and these times have been formative and inspiring for Proximity Church.

Prayer

We continued to seek after a monthly prayer rhythm in 2023. Once a month, Proximity Church led Prayer Walks in Stanford and Corringham. These were open to the wider local church network in town and have proven to be a brilliant way to connect with other churches and individuals in the area. Additionally, we hosted monthly Prayer Nights as a church, open to the church and guests. We held three Prayer Weeks throughout the year, two were held at Hope Community Church and one at Dry Street Memorial Church. From October 2023, Proximity Church hired a small room at Dry Street Memorial Church and transformed it into a Prayer Room. This has been a partnership of mutual blessing and support for both Proximity Church and Dry Street Memorial Church.

Communication

Our contracted communication consultant, Lobster Digital, continued to be an invaluable asset to our church community providing regular updates to our websites. The publishing of talks, blogs and social media posts enable the church to have a local and national interface. The website has become a key platform for members and guests to keep up with church life and provides the leadership team with a platform to communicate succinctly and effectively.

Team Leader Role

After returning from Maternity Leave in September 2023, Charlotte Harman focused on securing the new rental properties for Proximity Church. The successful rentals of Dry Street Memorial Vestry and Hassenbrook Academy have already enabled the church to achieve some of it's aims and leaves space to develop these further. Another focus of this time has been the investment in the Leadership Team of Proximity Church, with the increase of meetings and communications with the team. The Church has been able to raise it's profile in the community during this time, through the hosting of extra Christmas themed events. These were a Christmas Crafternoon for children and a Christmas Carol Service. They were both well received and will become a feature of the Proximity Calendar in the years to come.

Proximity Schools' Team Leader Report

In July 2022 I ended my termly Trustees' report with the following words: "We feel newly empowered to bring a fresh message to the school. 'He said, 'Go and tell this people: ...' What is the message we need to deliver? Now, that's our new challenge!"

Well, the message was John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son [...]" Yes, we had the wonderful opportunity this year to share the Good News with both Secondary Schools at Christmas and at Easter where we delivered memorable and insightful Assemblies. It had been many years since the Christian message had been presented in these schools. We felt a real anointing as we spoke, and it was a privilege to do so too.

24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
Trustees Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

These assemblies came along as part of the spiritual input we were going to provide the school with following the signed SLA the summer before.

Little did we know that this would be the last opportunity for us to do so as following the new reshaping of the Ortu Trust, Proximity Schools closed on 31st August and the team was made redundant.

Overview of the work and numbers

A staff team of 6 together with 15 volunteers delivered the interventions here below. They are followed by the number of students who attended them:

- o 3x MADE: 18 pupils
- o 4x MADE+: 24 pupils
- o 1x MADE Jr: 6 pupils
- o 11x KINTSUGI WELLBEING GROUPS: 110 pupils across GHS and HBA
- o One to One Mentoring: 82 students across the Trust
- o Tuition: 30 pupils across GHS, HBA and 6th Form
- o Reading at Corringham Primary School: 24 pupils
- o 12x School Assemblies in GHS and HBA
- o TLG In Corringham Primary School: 4 pupils
- o **Total: 298 pupils**

Changes

At the end of term 1, the Corringham Primary School headteacher asked to replace the Reading intervention (which was going very well) with one-to-one mentoring. This was due to the fact that she now had Teaching Assistants who could take our place for tutoring but no one to provide mental health support.

In February half term we stopped offering TLG in Corringham Primary School, mainly due to change in circumstances in the team (work related).

Good news

In December 22 the Mayor of Thurrock - chose Proximity Schools to be one of the recipients of a Christmas donation of £500 besides having inducted our MADE course two months earlier to the Mayoral role of Honour for exceptional contribution to the local Community. This was an incredible honour.

In May '23 Proximity Schools were awarded two grants. Essex Community Foundation granted us £4,550 and FJS a grant of £2,000. Following our closure, ECF confirmed that we could keep the whole grant and use it for our core costs while FSJ asked for a full refund adding they were happy to help again in the future should we start up again.

Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups, Proximity Club and Assemblies were our new ventures this year (followed by MADE Jr which had only been delivered once in Primary School the year before Covid). All these interventions brought great joy and an opportunity for our team to grow and come out of our comfort zone.

Finances

Proximity Schools were able to support staff generously in September as the cost-of-living crisis began to be felt. All costs, including those for the closure of Proximity Schools' work, were fully covered from the designated schools' funds.

Final reflections

2022/23 was a very good year for Proximity Schools. We had the opportunity to go back to our main calling which was to support students' mental health and offer spiritual support.

Finally, we are very grateful to Proximity Church, the Board of Trustees and our Hope givers for being a great blessing to both us and to the local community, not to mention allowing themselves to become part of that great picture that God so lovingly put together over so many years.

Public benefit

Having considered the latest Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that 24-7 Prayer Stanford is able to evidence support for a wide range of beneficiaries.

Financial Review and reserves policy

The charity returned a surplus for the year of £1,265 (2022: £9,576). At 31 December 2023 the charity held reserves of £72,489 (2022: £71,224). The charity does not hold a significant level of reserves as all incoming funds are applied for charitable purposes. Any reserves held are held for charitable activities.

Structure, governance and management

The company is a registered company limited by guarantee domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The registered office is 217 Southend Road, Stanford le Hope, Essex, SS17 7AB.

The trustees who held office during the year are disclosed on page 1.

New trustees are appointed to the board who the board believe would put the best interests of the charity first. The board will ensure fairness and transparency in the selection process.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees and the directors are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and applications of resources, including income and expenditure, of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 17 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Robb Philip Harman
Director

24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of 24-7 Prayer Stanford
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity'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

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:

- 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.

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.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Paul Springfield
For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants

Date: *17 September 2024*

Orbital House
20 Eastern Road
Romford
Essex RM1 3PJ

24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
Statement of Financial Activities (including an Income and Expenditure Account)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and grants		51,333	53,550	104,883	126,780
Charitable activities:					
Other income		-	-	-	-
Investment income received		176	-	176	2
		51,509	53,550	105,059	126,782
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	3	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	44,117	59,677	103,794	117,206
		44,117	59,677	103,794	117,206
Net income/(expenditure)		7,392	(6,127)	1,265	9,576
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		7,392	(6,127)	1,265	9,576
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		57,299	13,925	71,224	61,648
Total funds carried forward	11	64,691	7,798	72,489	71,224

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities, other than Proximity Schools.

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the year.

24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
Balance Sheet
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Current Assets					
Debtors	8	500		285	
Cash at bank		73,789		73,112	
Cash in hand		51		180	
			74,340		73,577
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9		(1,851)		(2,353)
Net assets	10		72,489		71,224
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds	11		64,691		57,299
Restricted funds	11		7,798		13,925
Total funds			72,489		71,224

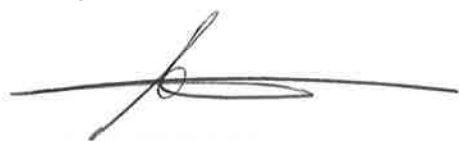
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act; and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at 31 December 2023 and of its profit for the year then ended in accordance with section 226, and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved for issue by the Board on 17 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Robb Philip Harman
Director
Company No. 07900719

1. Accounting Policies

Company information

24-7 Prayer Stanford is a company limited by guarantee domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 217 Southend Road, Stanford le Hope, Essex, SS17 7AB.

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of listed investments which are included at their market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 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 effective 1 January 2015 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees confirm that the Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(b) Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

(c) Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to receive the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these financial statements.
- Investment income is included when receivable.

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource and set out in Note 3.

(e) Going concern

At the time of approving the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and for a period of at least 12 months following the approval of these financial statements. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

(f) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

(g) Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. Total expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Costs directly allocated to activities						
Mission	-	3,773	3,773	-	5,996	5,996
Blessing pot	3,897	-	3,897	2,050	-	2,050
Grants	4,598	-	4,598	3,070	-	3,070
Events	-	5,189	5,189	-	2,799	2,799
School work	-	2,126	2,126	-	4,047	4,047
Gifts	-	5,476	5,476	-	2,935	2,935
Support costs allocated to activities						
Premises costs	1,358	1,412	2,770	837	343	1,180
House Church meals	-	423	423	-	508	508
General expenses	2,194	-	2,194	2,829	-	2,829
Staff costs	24,816	41,278	66,094	57,953	26,085	84,038
Accountancy Fees	1,993	-	1,993	1,633	-	1,633
Professional fees	289	-	289	1,606	-	1,606
Travelling	678	-	678	115	-	115
Advertising & Social Media	3,760	-	3,760	4,400	-	4,400
Prayer room	384	-	384	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Purchases	150	-	150	-	-	-
	44,117	59,677	103,794	74,493	42,713	117,206

All of the 2022 and 2023 expenditure related to charitable activities.

4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:		
Independent Examiner's remuneration for the independent examination	1,980	1,620

5. Trustee remuneration & Related Party Transactions

During the year trustees were reimbursed as follows:

Robb Philip Harman	£nil for expenses (2022: £nil)
Stephen Morris	£nil for expenses (2022: £nil)
Catherine Smith	£nil for expenses (2022: £nil)
Peter Connor	£nil for expenses (2022: £nil)
Deborah Connor	£nil for expenses (2022: £nil)

During the year a relative of Robb and Sally Harman was employed by the charity. She was remunerated on par with her peers. Also another relative of Robb and Sally Harman provided advertising and social media services at arms length to the charity during the year totalling £3,760 (2022: £4,400).

No trustee or member of the management committee were paid any remuneration during the period.

No trustee or other person related to the Charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the period.

24-7 Prayer Stanford
(Charity Commission No. 1146983)
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

6. Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	68,199	80,529
Pension costs	951	1,469
	<u>69,150</u>	<u>81,998</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2022: 5).

7. Taxation

As a charity, 24-7 Prayer Stanford is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

8. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	500	285
	<u>500</u>	<u>285</u>

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	1,740	2,353
Taxes and social security	111	-
	<u>1,851</u>	<u>2,353</u>

10. Analysis of Net Assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds		Total	Funds	Total
	2023	2023		2023	2022	2022
	£	£		£	£	£
Current Assets	66,542	7,798		74,340	59,652	73,577
Current Liabilities	(1,851)	-		(1,851)	(2,353)	(2,353)
	<u>64,691</u>	<u>7,798</u>		<u>72,489</u>	<u>57,299</u>	<u>71,224</u>

11. Movement in funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources 2023 £	Outgoing resources 2023 £	Transfers 2023 £	At 31 December 2023 £
Restricted funds:					
Counselling, advice and information	13,925	53,550	(59,677)	-	7,798
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	57,299	51,509	(44,117)	-	64,691
Total funds	71,224	105,059	(103,794)	-	72,489

Movement in funds in respect of the comparative period:

	At 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources 2022 £	Outgoing resources 2022 £	Transfers 2022 £	At 31 December 2022 £
Restricted funds:					
Counselling, advice and information	19,737	36,901	(42,713)	-	13,925
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	41,911	89,881	(74,493)	-	57,299
Total funds	61,648	126,782	(117,206)	-	71,224

12. Membership

The company is limited by guarantee and has three members; each member guarantees an amount not exceeding £10 in the event of the winding up of the company.

13. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>			
Donations and grants	89,879	36,901	126,780
Charitable activities	-	-	-
Investment income received	2	-	2
	<u>89,881</u>	<u>36,901</u>	<u>126,782</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Raising funds	-	-	-
Charitable activities	74,493	42,713	117,206
	<u>74,493</u>	<u>42,713</u>	<u>117,206</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	15,388	(5,812)	9,576
Transfers	-	-	-
Net movements in funds	<u>15,388</u>	<u>(5,812)</u>	<u>9,576</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	41,911	19,737	61,648
Total funds carried forward	<u>57,299</u>	<u>13,925</u>	<u>71,224</u>