

**Charity registration number 1150405 & SCO48207**

**Company registration number 08134971 (England and Wales)**

**SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Trustees	C B K Danby	
	J D Eve	
	P M Sharman	
	A P Wallace	
	I D Poree	(Appointed 16 May 2023)
	Mr S G Williams	
	R M Westcott	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
	S J Blake	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
	J J Cooper	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
	L N Bacon	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
	L C Eades	(Appointed 1 September 2024)

Key Management Personnel	K Osborn, Chief Executive Officer
	H Crandley
	M Buchanan
	M Dickson
	C Allcock
	S Main
	M Jones
	C Bell

Charity number	1150405 & SCO48207
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Company number	08134971
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Registered office	4 Diamond Court Kingston Park Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne & Wear NE3 2EN
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Auditor	Azets Audit Services Bulman House Regent Centre Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3LS
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Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 49-51 Northumberland Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7AF
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# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

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# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

This is the Charity's 11th Annual Statement and through the year have been celebrating our 10th Anniversary of supporting Children and Families. We officially started working with Local Authority Children's Services in September 2012. I am pleased to report that, *'for such a time as this'* the original vision of Safe Families was created.

*The Charity continues supporting parents and children across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, working with 51 Local Authorities / contracting partners, schools and health trusts, contracted to handle between circa 2150 referrals per year. In such times our mantra is that "No one should feel alone". and so we seek to ensure every child and family feel seen, heard and valued.*

The past year has seen the Charity maintain its revenues at £4.8m, which is a combination of Local Authority & other contract referral income and the generosity of regular and one-off donations from individuals and Churches, Corporate and Community giving and Grants from Trusts and Foundations. The Finance Committee closely monitor and review the Reserves Policy, Pension Policy, Insurance Cover and operational expenses against budget.

Our Chief Executive, the Senior Leadership Team, dedicated staff, and the incredible volunteers, without whom, we could not exist, have enabled us to *'make a difference'* in so many children and families' lives. All of this is orchestrated by our passionate and dedicated Chief Executive, Kat Osborn, who has demonstrated again this year her strategic and operational skill set to take the Charity forward. This is not just a job to Kat, but a strong sense of vocation and calling.

The Chief Executive and the Chair who have worked together in various roles for 7 years have a very strong relationship with open and honest dialogue meet regularly for operational reporting, personal consultation and strategic development.

As a Board of Trustees, we aspire to operate demonstrating Good Governance. The Main Trustee Board meet 4 times a year, twice face to face and twice 'virtually'. We have been working hard to ensure we have a blended Board reflecting equality and diversity of skills, gender, age, experience and the Nations and Regions that we work across. All Trustees are involved in one of three Working Groups: Finance, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, and People and Performance. Each working group is chaired by a Trustee and comprises the Chief Executive, senior staff and at least one or two Trustees.

In line with our 'Observer Induction' process for prospective Trustees we have had two new people join our meetings during the year. Usually, the 'Observer' status allows for attendance at three Trustee Meetings before a mutual decision to join the board. We were delighted that Ian Poree accepted our invitation to be a Trustee. Ian is based in the South East of England and has held several senior executive roles in both the private and public sector for over two decades leading several major transformation programmes. We were very pleased that Andrew Wallace from Northern Ireland joined us as a Trustee during the year. Andrew works as a Management Consultant also working in the private and public sector with a focus on sustainability. Dr Rachel Tooth, who is a GP in Edinburgh, retired as Trustee during the year. We are profoundly grateful to for her tireless commitment and dedication. Rachel served as a Trustee, firstly on the Board of Safe Families for Children Scotland and then joined the UK Board and Chaired the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Working Group. Rachel will be greatly missed. We were sad to see Joanne O'Connor retire as a Trustee. Joanne was involved in Safe Families right at the very start and she was part of the original delegation that joined Sir Peter Vardy visit Safe Families USA in Chicago in 2012. Her passion and tireless support for Safe Families will be remembered as part of our heritage.

I am grateful to Julian Eve for his service as Vice Chair and his wise counsel and tireless support.

The Trustees want to register their appreciation to all the staff for their dedication to the vision and values of the charity and to our army of volunteers, without which the charity simply could not function.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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### Post Year end activity

For many years our Chief Executive has met with Chief Executives and Senior Leaders of other Charities working in similar areas as us. These get-togethers engender support, mutual encouragement, exchange of ideas and wisdom. One of the organisations involved is Home for Good who are based in London and started around the same time as Safe Families. Tania Bright, Home for Good's Chief Executive and Kat started to explore the idea of being able to achieve more if we merged the two Charities. In May 2024 Simon Blake, Chair of Home for Good and I happened to both be at a Conference in Windsor together. We took the opportunity to get to know each other and the idea that working closer together might serve both Charities and our service users better. This led to a meeting of the Co Chair's and both Chief Executives for further exploratory talks. We agreed to move forward with the process of engaging Trustees and Senior Staff in the dialogue. Both Boards approved the process and we have engaged a number of agencies to help us with that process. Initially an external feasibility report was undertaken by Eastside people. As the process continued Bates Wells Solicitors and both sets of Auditors have journeyed this with us. Both sets of Trustees completed independent Due Diligence, and we worked with Q5 to undertake a Culture Audit involving staff wide consultation to provide a baseline for us as we start to co create a new culture for the merged organisation. Both Kat and Tania invested time consulting stakeholders across a wide spectrum for considered advice and input, including from Major Trusts and Donors, Church Leaders and volunteers. On 30th August, Chairs and Chief Executives signed the merger agreement. The formal merger took place on 1st September 2024 with strong conviction we are stronger together!



Keith Danby 16 Dec 2024 10:16:29 GMT (UTC +0)

**C B K Danby**  
**Chairman**

Dated.....16 December 2024

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Safe Families for Children (Safe Families), started in the UK in 2012 with a pilot in the North East of England, and today we are working with 51 partner local authorities, schools or health trusts in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

#### **Why do we exist?**

No one should feel alone. We exist to create relationship and connection because everyone deserves to belong.

#### **What do we do?**

Safe Families offer hope, belonging and support to children, families, and care leavers; we do this primarily, but not exclusively, with and through local churches

#### **What are our values?**

**Love – *Loving abundantly*** – Supporting with hope, generosity and dignity

**Belonging – *Building community*** – Establishing positive relationships that bring security and connection

**Faith – *Trusting Boldly*** - Believing for lives transformed and in a God who can do more than we can ask or imagine

**Empowerment – *Enabling potential*** – Confident everyone has the ability to thrive

**Humility – *Serving together*** - We know we can't do it alone, so we invest in strong, honest and honouring partnerships

For Safe Families 2023-24 has been full of stories of hope against a backdrop of challenge. We our finding that situations facing families are increasing complex and the impact of the cost of living crisis continues to increase the pressure on families while the services they rely on are increasingly stretched.

It is into this backdrop that we celebrate 5,462 volunteers who give of their time, 1,430 churches who partner with us and 1,448 families who have been connected into community; feeling seen, heard and understood; perhaps for the first time.

At Safe Families it is a privilege each day to see the incredible impact of real human kindness transforming the lives of children and families; and having our own lives changed as we do it. As things get harder for the poorest in our society, we believe that the connections that form between volunteers and their families are going to be part of the safety net that prevents these families from breaking down. But even more than that, they will be the foundation that allows these parents and children begin to believe in themselves, know they are loved and step into their potential as parents, young people, or children.

At Safe Families we have always been committed to partnership. One of our core values being Humility; "we know we cannot do it alone and so we invest in strong, honest and honouring partnerships". During 2023/24 we made the decision to take one of these partnerships a step further and to merge with Home for Good.

Safe Families has a bold vision to ensure no one feels alone; to reduce the isolation and overwhelm experienced by families so that they have the support they need to provide a stable home for children and young people. Home for Good has a bold vision to find a home for every child and young person who needs one in the UK through fostering, adoption and supported lodgings for teenagers. We both believe the Church has a crucial role to play.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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It has been clear to our boards and us how deeply aligned The Home for Good vision and Safe Families vision is and therefore we are really excited that this shared vision of two teams will now be outworked as a joint vision of one team. Committed to support families who are isolated and overwhelmed so that those families do not feel alone and have the support that they need & together, to find and sustain safe, stable homes for children who sadly aren't able to live with their birth families and need to enter the care system.

We believe that by bringing our collective passions and strengths to this vision together, we can be more than the current sum of our parts.

We want to be able to speak to the Church with one voice: to serve the Church with one offer that can activate and equip those who are called to come alongside children and families, be that for an hour, a month or a lifetime.

We want to be able to speak to Local Authorities with one voice: offering a holistic package that enables them to partner with us well in both prevention of care and provision of care when sadly, it is required.

We want to speak to Government with one voice: to see our care system reinvigorated with care and love at its heart, where the Church is recognised as a large part of the solution, where we speak to power, secure statutory funding, advise on best practice and policy, and call decision makers to account on how we collectively care for the overwhelmed and isolated in our nation.

We remain grateful for the continued interest and support of Sir Tim and Lady Susie Sainsbury of the Jerusalem Trust; Sir Brian and Lady Elizabeth Souter of the Souter Charitable Trust; the Macdonald Family of the Cardrona Trust; to The Benefact Trust, The Northwood Charitable Trust, St James Place, The CHK Foundation, Childhood Trust and The Segelman Trust for their ongoing support towards the work of the charity.

There are also a large number of other funders and individuals who contribute significant amounts to Safe Families; The Blakebank Trust, The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation. The Eveson Trust, The DMF Ellis Charitable Trust, The TBF & KL Thompson Trust, The Ardbarron Trust, The Seedfield Trust, The Sir James Knott Trust, The Stobart Newlands Trust, The Cumbria Community Foundation, to name but a few. Without the generosity and support of these donations, alongside the kind gifts from individuals, churches and businesses, we simply could not survive. The trustees, directors and staff are profoundly grateful.

Although the board of trustees are ultimately responsible for the charity, they delegate the day to day running of the charity to me as Chief Executive and our Senior Leadership Team (SLT). As we look forward, I want to finish with expressing my heartfelt thanks for everyone who is and has been a part of this journey – whether as a volunteer, whether you give financially, whether you pray, staff and trustees.... we literally would not be here without you.

We all are playing our part in doing the little things that change someone else's story. Enabling families to stay together safe, happy, and connected and working to ensure that no one feels alone.

*K Osborn*

Kat Osborn 12 Dec 2024 16:01:08 GMT (UTC +0)

**Kat Osborn, Chief Executive**

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under Company Law. The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charitable company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

### Objectives and activities

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Safe Families offer hope, belonging and support to children, families and care leavers; we do this primarily, but not exclusively, with and through local churches.

#### EQUITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Safe Families recognises that our Equality and Diversity Policy is an integral part of our approach to creating belonging for all. This policy underpins all Safe Families' activity in achieving our mission to offer hope, belonging and support to children, families, and care leavers; primarily but not exclusively, through local churches.

Safe Families is a Christian charity. Safe Families policies and protocols are also clear that the project is a family support service offered to those in need and that the purpose of the organisation is to create relationship and connection for all because everyone deserves to belong.

The motivation of all those working and volunteering within Safe Families is to make a tangible difference to the lives of those helped, irrespective of whether the family identifies with the Christian faith, another faith, or no faith. Safe Families is not a vehicle to support proselytisation.

Families and children will be supported regardless of age, disability, gender, reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Safe Families is committed to promoting fairness, equality, and diversity in all its activities. This includes the recruitment, training and development of a diverse group of volunteers able to support a diverse range of families in crisis.

This policy is based on the key principles of equity, equality, inclusion, engagement, and partnership. This policy considers and is compliant with the Equality Act 2010. It covers discrimination based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation as set out in the Equality Act (2010).



# **SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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Safe Families welcomes the opportunity to work with people from all kinds of social, educational, economic and cultural backgrounds. We will never knowingly discriminate against any person on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Safe Families Values when considering Diversity and Inclusion are defined below:

Safe Families is committed to creating belonging; (by which we mean the feeling of being seen, heard, and understood) for all recognising that we are all created equal.

- We are aware that there are many factors in the UK that result in inequality and that as a result that opportunity, belonging, and justice is not equally available to all. Our learning, listening and action is rooted in a desire to redress this balance.

- Prejudice seeks to "fix and normalise 'difference' and create boundaries between groups" (Avtar Brah 1992: 143). At Safe Families we desire to create connection and relationship through which boundaries are broken down.

- We want people to look at Safe Families and see the diversity of our global community and an image of our unity as humankind.

- We seek to ensure in all our practices we contribute to the undoing of society's systemic prejudices.

Safe Families has an anti-Racism working group made up of staff members. This group has been proactive in developing an action plan for our journey as an organisation to be anti-racist. The plan focuses on 3 key areas: (1) staff recruitment and building a more diverse workplace (2) staff learning and education & (3) understanding our data (families supported and volunteers recruited).

### **STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES**

In achieving our mission, we have identified 2 key strategic themes which are:

(1) To release the potential in families & individuals through offering hope & belonging

(2) To release the potential in the church to offer hope and belonging to all those who need it

We have identified a 2-3 year goal that details the part that Safe Families will play in achieving each strategic theme:

(1) Isolated and struggling families, children, and care leavers, are connected with volunteers to build relationships that last, bringing hope & providing the practical and emotional support needed

(2) The UK church understands its call to love the vulnerable. It has a clear theological understanding, surrounding hospitality and community, and this increased understanding results in action

For each goal we have identified the challenges that limit us in achieving this and identified an action plan to tackle these.

Alongside this we have two foundation goals that will ensure sustainability for all we do. These are to:

(a) Ensure Financial Sustainability: Safe Families delivers quality outcomes to an approved budget that takes into account the Reserves Policy while maintaining a healthy working culture

(b) Prioritise Culture: Safe Families has clear values reflected by our culture.

### **MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSE FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake and all the charity's activities in the year have been in line with the objects and are undertaken to further the charity's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

Our core model for providing support to families remains the same and is based around the following three core volunteer roles

- *Host Families* who offer short term overnight respite care to children for a couple of nights to a couple of weeks. On advice from the Department of Education, we operate under the legal framework of Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

- *Family Friends* who come alongside placing parents/carers offering peer to peer support and mentoring. This relationship can be short-term or long-term depending on the family needs.

- *Resource Friends* who offer goods and services either to the placing parents/carers, such as meals, clothes, toys, beds, buggies etc. These are all free of charge

All volunteers go through a seven-step safeguarding training and accreditation process before they are approved. Thereafter, volunteers meet regularly with paid staff for feedback and ongoing training.

Volunteers are central to every aspect of Safe Families work. Safe Families exists to create relationship and connection because everyone deserves to belong. This belonging is offered solely through the dedication, care, and practical actions of our volunteers. Researchers has found that the impact of loneliness can be worse for health than smoking 15 cigarettes a day. With over 5,000 volunteers across the country offering their time as host families, family friends and resource friends, Safe Families can transform how families feel, and build more connected & hopeful communities.

### Achievements and performance

#### WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Across the regions we achieved the following metrics, compared to the previous financial year(s):

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Local authorities	30	34	39	46	51	51
Accredited volunteers	4,161	4,539	4,897	5,126	5,408	5,397
Families supported (cumulative)	3,256	4,212	5,618	7,018	8,466	9,779
Families supported (in year)	1,001	991	1,483	1,508	1,562	1,448
Children benefitted (cumulative)	7,829	9,965	12,151	16,349	19,644	22,646
Children benefitted (in year)	2,365	2,362	3,231	3,458	3,536	3,291
Number of bed nights (cumulative)	5,612	7,231	7,973	9,264	9,747	10,301
Churches and community groups	848	953	1,099	1,209	1,322	1,391

### THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

Over the last 12 months we have evaluation scores for 1,449 families either at closure or review which demonstrate the impact of Safe Families support across 6 important domains that reflect the health and well-being of the families we support. Given our vision is that no-one should feel alone it is especially encouraging that 96% of people supported report an increase in their social networks.

	Social Networks	Wellbeing	Confidence	Physical Needs	Family Relationships	Positive Parenting
Maintained / Increased	96%	92%	96%	90%	89%	93%
Decreased	4%	8%	5%	10%	11%	7%
Average Change	+1.5	+1.3	+1.3	+0.8	+0.7	+0.9

We have also demonstrated the following impact:

- Delivered a decrease of the flow of children into care of between 9 – 18%
- 90% of children have improved or remained at the same level in Children's Services without escalation of need

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES / INCOME GENERATION

Safe Families undertakes all fundraising activities in line with industry best practice, legal guidelines and in line with our values. We aim to be open with the public about our processes and to explain (where appropriate) if asked for more information. We aim to be honest, acting with integrity, about the cause we are fundraising for or the way a donation will be used. We aim to demonstrate respect whenever we have contact, digital or physical, with any member of the public.

The charity continues to implement its fundraising strategy which seeks to diversify our income base. During the financial year the charity was funded through a blend of its contract work with Local Authorities, external charitable grants, and fundraised income. We had a successful year in terms of income from grants with just over £692k being received from this income stream. Alongside this we also made progress in developing all our fundraised income streams, including corporate donations, one-off and monthly individual giving, and community fundraising. Across these streams we achieved a 23.4% increase in income in 23/24 compared to the previous year.

### Financial review

The Charity made a deficit in the year of £94,196 (2023: £75,321 deficit) with income of £4,849,781 (2023: £4,781,950), expenditure of £4,979,784 (2023: £4,848,930) and unrealised gains on investments of £35,807 (2023: £8,341 loss). Income comes from a blend of local authority income for supporting children and families; £3,470,939 (2023: £3,496,341); and donation income from grant-making charities and foundations, churches, and individuals of £1,378,840 (2023: £1,285,608).

### Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis and the principal uncertainties for the charitable company are set out in the Accounting Policies.

The charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern is governed by its ability to control its principal risks and uncertainties which are set out in the section "Principal Risks and Uncertainties" below.

### RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have considered the Reserves Policy that is appropriate to the charity, given the plans for future activities, and understand the importance of a policy that enables it to meet its developing commitments and obligations. The Reserves Policy takes a risk-informed approach to holding reserves to demonstrate appropriate financial management, stewardship, and sustainability. In doing so, the Charity has considered working capital, financial risk management, and future development. Using this rationale, the total free reserves are set at a range of £635k to £755k.

The total funds held by the Charity on 31 March 2024 were £840,113 (2023: £934,309). Of these funds, £11,162 were held in restricted funds (2023: £8,759). The Charity also designated funds for future seed funding and other identified activities that are forecast to require additional funds. The amount of these designated funds totals £55,487 (2023: £127,211). Additionally, the Charity has investments in two investment funds. The valuation of these two funds is £429,366 (2023: £393,557) leaving £344,098 (2023: £404,782) of free reserves at the year end. The target reserves required to comply with the charitable company's reserves policy are between £635k and £755k. The total of free reserves and the funds held in investments that are liquid and can be accessed at short notice is £773,464 (2023: £798,339) and the trustees are comfortable that this falls in-line with the company's reserves policy.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

#### Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charitable company and are satisfied those systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Through the internal reporting and careful strategies, these risks are managed.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The risks of the Charity are managed by the Senior Leadership Team and reviewed by the Trustee Board through the appropriate subgroup.

The principal risks to the charity come in two forms; financial and safeguarding, the former due to the uncertainty that occurs with most funding derived from external sources. There is a risk that current funding agreements cease and are not renewed in the long term. The charity manages these risks by working closely with its partners to ensure all parties are content with current arrangements and practices.

The principal risk is identified as being the financing of the growth of the charity. The work of the charity is reported in the Chairman's and Chief Executive's report elsewhere in these financial statements. The growth in activity includes delivery in new locations as well as continuing to service and develop the existing locations.

These developments require funding, and the geographical spread of locations requires careful management to cover the charity's financial needs, much of which is related to the skilled staff and the volunteers who, together, deliver the charitable activities. Most of the funding of the charity comes from the Local Authorities, but financial support from trusts, churches, and individuals is an important part of making all this possible.

As with many charities, there is an in-built uncertainty about financial provision and the raising of finance is a part of its day-to-day work. The growth of activity has been financed by an increase in income from Local Authority contracts, and the generous support of an increasing number of donors. The small decrease in fundraised income is mainly due to a change in the fundraising strategy, becoming less reliant on fixed term transformational grants and moving towards regular giving that traditionally is in place for a longer period.

We have a robust process in place to monitor our financial position and a finance committee oversees our fiduciary responsibilities to ensure that we have sufficient reserves to operate should there be change in income.

Our business continuity planning is strong and is regularly reviewed.

The second principal risk to the charity is safeguarding. Safe Families has a clear, comprehensive safeguarding framework in place in which policy, procedure and guidance are all in line with legislation and the Local Safeguarding Children Boards procedures, all of which are designed to ensure that children and young people using the service are appropriately safeguarded. All staff and volunteers are fully aware of their duty of care to children and young people and vulnerable adults and that safeguarding them is of paramount importance.

We have comprehensive policies and procedures that govern activity and behaviour of all staff and volunteers. All activity is governed by our Quality Standards Framework which provides step by step guidance for the delivery of family support and work with volunteers. The framework sets out best practice that underpins the Safe Families approach in seeking to improve outcomes for children and families and ensure they are being kept safe within the system. The agreed quality standards enable regular audit of practice and case management ensuring consistency of approach and compliance with policies and procedures.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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### Plans for future periods

As we look forward, we consider our focus under 5 broad headings:

**Delivering Support and Creating Connection;** we will continue to ensure isolated and struggling families, children and care leavers, are connected with volunteers to build relationships that last; bringing hope & providing the practical and emotional support needed. We have an increased focus on the importance of belonging; defined for us as "being seen, heard and understood". We see this as being the unique offer that Safe Families volunteers can give to families. We also have a deeper focus on the impact of trauma on family life and the wellbeing of children and adults and continue to embed trauma informed support across all we do.

**Developing our Volunteers;** we will continue to work within local communities to release the potential of the volunteer community there. We are committed to continuous investment in our volunteers; this year we have added training in Understanding ASD, Understanding Teens and Harm outside the Home to our training suite.

**Deepening our Church partnerships;** we will invest in our relationships with the churches and community groups that our volunteers are rooted in. We believe these communities are perfectly placed to offer love and belonging to families and want to see the potential in them released.

**Ensuring our Financial Sustainability;** We will deliver quality outcomes on approved budgets while creating opportunities for growth and innovation. We will continue to deliver on our fundraising strategy, seeing growth across all our developing income streams.

**Prioritising Culture;** Safe Families has clear values reflected by our culture. Our current focus is ensuring that everyone understands how they play their part in achieving a culture that reflects our values and enabling a place where staff and the organisation flourish.

Alongside this focus on our core objectives the trustees have also made the decision for Safe Families to merge with Home for Good. This merge took place on 1st September 2024, with Home for Good transferring into Safe Families. This is a decision motivated by the deep alignment of our vision and mission and a belief that we can achieve more together than we can separately.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### Structure, governance and management

#### CONSTITUTION

The charitable company is constituted under a Memorandum of Association dated 9 July 2012 and is a registered charity, number 1150405.

The principal objects of the charitable company are:

- The provision of relief and respite to families in crisis arising from poverty, conflict, hardship, homelessness, ill health, or addictions.
- Befriending and emotional support to children, parents and carers who are isolated, overwhelmed and not coping.
- The provision of practical help to resource stretched parents and carers.

#### GOVERNANCE

The Board of Trustees continue to work on the Charity's governance model and have welcomed new trustees to the Board to increase the breadth of expertise among the board members and gears its recruitment of new members to the skills audit conducted last year to identify the profile of prospective new trustees. There are currently three working subgroups; Safeguarding and Quality Assurance; Finance; People and Performance; that meet quarterly as a minimum, and report back into quarterly Trustee Board meetings. It was agreed that a fourth working group focused on Governance and Nominations would be created as soon as Trustee numbers increased to allow for this to effectively function. Each subgroup has a chair and includes at least 2 members of the trustee board alongside the Chief Executive. Each group has its own terms of reference which determines frequency of meetings, the purpose of the committee, and method of reporting back to the main board.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

C B K Danby	
Dr R J Tooth	(Resigned 4 December 2023)
J M O'Connor	(Resigned 16 May 2023)
J D Eve	
P M Sharman	
A P Wallace	
I D Poree	(Appointed 16 May 2023)
Mr S G Williams	
R M Westcott	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
S J Blake	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
J J Cooper	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
L N Bacon	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
L C Eades	(Appointed 1 September 2024)

#### METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The management of the charitable company is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

The business of the charitable company is managed by the trustees who may exercise all the powers of the charitable company.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and her Senior Leadership team. The Senior Leadership Team meets for a weekly catch-up and virtually once a month, to discuss strategic operational developments. Quarterly, these meetings are face-to-face and usually span two or three days.

During the financial year, the charity was contracted to work with 51 local authorities, schools, and health trusts, operating out of four regions. Each region is led by a Programme Director, alongside a team of experienced social and health care professionals and community volunteer managers. Each region is divided into hubs. There are 9 hubs. The chief executive is supported by a small national team.

National Team: Kat Osborn - Chief Executive; Claudia Bell - Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance; Martin Dickson - Director of Church Relations; Matt Jones - Head of Communications and Influence; Ian Maith - Financial Controller and Stuart Main - Head of IT and Solutions.

Central Region: Helen Crandley - Programme Director.

Hubs: Central East, Mid Central, Central West

Local Authorities/Contracting areas (8): Birmingham, Derby City, Dudley, Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire, and Sandwell.

Schools and Health Trusts: (4): Fernwood School, Hull University Teaching Hospital, Learning without Limits Academy Trust, and Steel City Schools Partnership.

North Region: Mark Buchanan - Programme Director.

Hubs: Scotland, North-East, North-West

Local Authorities/Contracting areas (21): Cumbria, Darlington, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Stockton, Knowsley, Lancashire, Manchester City, Salford City, Sefton, Aberdeenshire, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Fife, Midlothian, Perth & Kinross, West Lothian.

South Region with Wales and Northern Ireland: Chris Allcock - Programme Director.

Hubs: South, South West, Wales, Northern Ireland

Local Authorities/Contracting areas (13): Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole, Dorset, East Sussex, Plymouth, Somerset, Southampton, Swindon, Wiltshire, Cardiff, Belfast, Northern Trust.

London: Chris Allcock - Programme Director

Local Authorities (5): Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Southwark, Thurrock.

At 31st March 2024 we have an ever-expanding team of 170 staff, FTE of 125.340.

### POLICIES ADOPTED FOR THE INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Prospective trustees are invited to attend three board meetings as an observer prior to their nomination meeting. This gives them the chance to learn more about Safe Families and other board members, whilst also allowing the board to get to know the individual prior to them being officially appointed. During this period, they also have one-to-one meetings with both the Chair and Chief Executive Officer as well as one-to-ones with some of the existing trustees. New trustees are also provided with key charity documents to read such as the Staff Handbook, Constitution, Safeguarding Policy, Finance Policy, and minutes from the last twelve months' Trustee Board meetings. Furthermore, new trustees are provided key financial documents such as the last audited Statutory accounts and latest Management Accounts and reports.



# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **PAY POLICY FOR SENIOR STAFF**

The Senior Leadership Team is remunerated in line with industry levels, with equal pay across each staff hierarchy level across the organisation.

### **INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING PRACTICES**

The fundraising strategy of the charity is primarily the responsibility of the Chief Executive working closely with the Head of Communications and Influence. Working with the Financial Controller, financial projections supporting applications are submitted within applications.

We now have a small fundraising team with 3 part time Fundraising Managers who report to the Head of Communications and Influence. We also engage with Concannon Consultants who concentrate on smaller, more localised grants.

No staff member or consultant received commission on funds secured.

All data held by the charity is protected by strict and confidential protocols.

### **RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS**

All related party transactions are disclosed in note 24 to the accounts.

### **Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Safe Families For Children for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

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

### **Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.



## SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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#### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Keith Danby 16 Dec 2024 10:16:29 GMT (UTC +0)

.....  
C B K Danby

**Trustee**

Date: .....16 December 2024.....

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safe Families For Children (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
  - the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
-

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

#### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the field in which the charity operates, we identified the following areas as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements; Health and Safety; employment laws; and compliance with the UK Companies and Charities Acts.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Simon Brown 16 Dec 2024 10:47:42 GMT (UTC +0)

**Simon Brown BA ACA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

16 December 2024

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

Bulman House  
Regent Centre  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE3 3LS

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

### Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>					
Donations and legacies	3	869,035	444,560	1,313,595	1,250,579
Charitable activities	4	3,470,939	-	3,470,939	3,496,341
Investments	5	5,268	-	5,268	-
Other income	6	59,979	-	59,979	35,030
<b>Total income</b>		<b>4,405,221</b>	<b>444,560</b>	<b>4,849,781</b>	<b>4,781,950</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>					
Raising funds	7	20,260	-	20,260	7,122
Charitable activities	8	4,517,367	442,157	4,959,524	4,841,808
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>4,537,627</b>	<b>442,157</b>	<b>4,979,784</b>	<b>4,848,930</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	35,807	-	35,807	(8,341)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(96,599)</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>(94,196)</b>	<b>(75,321)</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		925,550	8,759	934,309	1,009,630
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>828,951</b>	<b>11,162</b>	<b>840,113</b>	<b>934,309</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes			
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>				
Donations and legacies	3	430,825	819,754	1,250,579
Charitable activities	4	3,496,341	-	3,496,341
Other income	6	35,030	-	35,030
<b>Total income</b>		<b>3,962,196</b>	<b>819,754</b>	<b>4,781,950</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>				
Raising funds	7	7,122	-	7,122
Charitable activities	8	4,015,658	826,150	4,841,808
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>4,022,780</b>	<b>826,150</b>	<b>4,848,930</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	(8,341)	-	(8,341)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(68,925)</b>	<b>(6,396)</b>	<b>(75,321)</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		994,475	15,155	1,009,630
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>925,550</b>	<b>8,759</b>	<b>934,309</b>

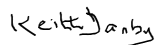
# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14		-		-
Investments	15		429,366		393,557
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	446,377		259,377	
Cash at bank and in hand		617,069		698,223	
		1,063,446		957,600	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17	(652,699)		(416,848)	
Net current assets			410,747		540,752
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			840,113		934,309
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	20		11,162		8,759
<u>Unrestricted funds - general</u>					
Designated funds	21	55,487		127,211	
General unrestricted funds		773,464		798,339	
			828,951		925,550
			840,113		934,309

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16 December 2024



Keith Danby 16 Dec 2024 10:16:29 GMT (UTC +0)

C B K Danby  
Trustee

Company registration number 08134971

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	25		(86,422)		101,118
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Investment income received		5,268		-	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>			5,268		-
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(81,154)		101,118
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			698,223		597,105
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			617,069		698,223



# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Safe Families For Children is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 4 Diamond Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear, NE3 2EN.

The charity does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, being the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9 July 2012, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include listed investments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Incoming resources from charitable activities is predominantly income from Local Authorities and is accounted for on a time-accrual basis.

##### Donations and legacies

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

##### Gift Aid

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

##### Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

##### Other income

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent that the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

##### Raising Funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

##### Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing individually £1,000 or more are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computer equipment	100% in year of purchase
--------------------	--------------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

##### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

##### 1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

##### 1.10 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity'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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

#### Critical judgements

##### Deferred income

Deferred income is estimated to recognise income in the period in which the performance conditions of the income are met. Income is deferred where performance conditions have not been fully met at the year end.

**SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

3	Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		general 2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	general 2023 £	2023 £	2023 £
	Donations and gifts	869,035	444,560	1,313,595	430,825	819,754	1,250,579

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 4 Charitable activities

	Income from charitable activities 2024 £	Income from charitable activities 2023 £
Local Authority revenue funding	3,470,939	3,496,341
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds - general	3,470,939	3,496,341
	3,470,939	3,496,341

### 5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable	5,268	-

### 6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £
Other income	59,979	35,030

Other income comprises student placement fees of £13,180 (2023: £21,820), fees from work with Safe Families USA of £26,875 (2023: £12,500) and other miscellaneous income of £19,924 (2023: £710)

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Fundraising costs	10,024	7,122
Support costs	10,236	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fundraising and publicity	20,260	7,122
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,260	7,122
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 8 Charitable activities

	Charitable services 2024 £	Charitable services 2023 £
Staff costs	3,424,331	3,437,572
Travel and accommodation	178,592	164,612
Recruitment and training of volunteers	14,237	16,976
Office and telecom	230,833	211,927
Insurance	1,387	664
Professional fees	6,899	16,675
Promotions and marketing	1,922	210
Emergency family purchases	47,787	47,338
Bank charges	-	5,608
Other employment costs	5,399	2,750
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,911,387	3,904,332
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	1,026,962	926,676
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	21,175	10,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,959,524	4,841,808
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds - general	4,517,367	4,015,658
Restricted funds	442,157	826,150
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,959,524	4,841,808
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	Support costs	Governance costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	774,270	-	774,270	695,399	-	695,399
Travel and accommodation	33,697	-	33,697	27,116	-	27,116
Office and Telecom	83,326	-	83,326	93,753	-	93,753
Insurance	25,784	-	25,784	22,841	-	22,841
Professional Fees	54,035	-	54,035	55,808	-	55,808
Promotions & Marketing	49,267	-	49,267	20,992	-	20,992
Bank Charges	13	-	13	1,021	-	1,021
Emergency Family Purchases	32	-	32	-	-	-
Other employment costs	75	-	75	-	-	-
Donations and fundraising	16,699	-	16,699	9,746	-	9,746
Audit fees	-	13,900	13,900	-	10,800	10,800
Other governance costs	-	6,600	6,600	-	-	-
Trustees' expenses	-	675	675	-	-	-
	<u>1,037,198</u>	<u>21,175</u>	<u>1,058,373</u>	<u>926,676</u>	<u>10,800</u>	<u>937,476</u>
Analysed between						
Fundraising	10,236	-	10,236	-	-	-
Charitable activities	<u>1,026,962</u>	<u>21,175</u>	<u>1,048,137</u>	<u>926,676</u>	<u>10,800</u>	<u>937,476</u>
	<u>1,037,198</u>	<u>21,175</u>	<u>1,058,373</u>	<u>926,676</u>	<u>10,800</u>	<u>937,476</u>

### 10 Auditor's remuneration

#### Fees payable to the Charity's auditor and associates:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Audit of the Charity's annual accounts	<u>13,900</u>	<u>10,800</u>



# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 11 Trustees

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

**C B K Danby**

£166 (2023: £973) of expenses were reimbursed to C B K Danby during the year.

**J D Eve**

£Nil (2023: £132) of expenses were reimbursed to J D Eve during the year.

**P M Sharman**

£Nil (2023: £32) of expenses were reimbursed to P M Sharman during the year.

**S G Williams**

£Nil (2023: £192) of expenses were reimbursed to S G Williams during the year.

**I Poree**

£256 (2023: £Nil) of expenses were reimbursed to I Poree during the year.

**A McCormick**

£250 (2023: £Nil) of expenses were reimbursed to A McCormick during the year.(Prospective trustee)

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

### 12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Operational	148	146
Finance, Administration and IT	13	15
Management	3	3
Total	164	164

**Employment costs**

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	3,499,284	3,431,046
Social security costs	279,129	286,629
Other pension costs	420,188	415,296
	4,198,601	4,132,971

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
In the Band of £60,000 - £70,000	1	1

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 13 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £
Gain/(loss) on investments	35,807	(8,341)

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2023	10,684
At 31 March 2024	10,684
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2023	10,684
At 31 March 2024	10,684
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2024	-
At 31 March 2023	-

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	240,841	152,716	393,557
Additions	-	7,425	7,425
Valuation changes	28,384	-	28,384
	<u>269,225</u>	<u>160,141</u>	<u>429,366</u>
At 31 March 2024	269,225	160,141	429,366
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<u>269,225</u>	<u>160,141</u>	<u>429,366</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>240,841</u>	<u>152,716</u>	<u>393,557</u>

Listed investments are held at valuation and represent units held in a single Endowment Investment Fund. Unlisted Investments are held at cost and represent monies deposited with CCLA.

	2024 £	2023 £
Listed investments carrying amount	<u>269,225</u>	<u>240,841</u>

### 16 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	240,237	102,392
Other debtors	56,741	33,775
Prepayments and accrued income	149,399	123,210
	<u>446,377</u>	<u>259,377</u>

### 17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security		58,211	62,418
Deferred income	18	473,503	232,124
Trade creditors		35,268	50,664
Other creditors		45,269	31,219
Accruals		40,448	40,423
		<u>652,699</u>	<u>416,848</u>

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 18 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income	473,503	232,124

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	473,503	232,124
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	232,124	288,667
Released from previous periods	(232,124)	(288,667)
Resources deferred in the year	473,503	232,124
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	473,503	232,124

### 19 Retirement benefit schemes

#### Defined contribution schemes

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £420,188 (2023 - £415,296).

Contributions totalling £40,286 (2023: £29,852) were payable to the scheme at the end of the year and are included in creditors.

### 20 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Family Resources and HUB funds	15,155	819,754	(826,150)	8,759	444,560	(442,157)	11,162

Family resources and Hub funds. This fund is made up of a number of donations that have been received to cover resources for families. This can range from white goods, bedding, gardening services etc.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 21 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2023	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Development and Common Purse	150,000	(92,789)	70,000	127,211	(65,163)	(50,000)	12,048
Cost of Living	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
Merger	-	-	-	-	(6,561)	15,000	8,439
	<u>150,000</u>	<u>(92,789)</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>127,211</u>	<u>(71,724)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,487</u>

There are 4 designated funds in use:

The first is the Development Fund which was to be used for start-up costs in new areas. It takes around 3 months, at a cost of circa £15k to set up in a new area before we receive funding from Local Authorities and £150k was placed into the Development Fund to cover start ups with 10 new Local Authorities. The balance of this fund now stands at £nil (2023: £60,000)

The second is the Cost of Living Fund. In Sept 22 the Trustee Board approved a £70k transfer from unrestricted reserves into the Cost of Living Fund to be used to support staff through the cost of living crisis.

The third fund is the Common Purse Fund. This fund was borne from the Cost of Living Fund where the Trustee Board approved a transfer of £20k from the Cost of Living Fund to the Common Purse Fund to be used as a staff hardship scheme, whereby staff could apply, or be nominated for, awards of hardship money in times of crisis.

The fourth fund is the Merger Fund. The Trustee Board approved a £15k transfer from the Cost of Living Fund into a new Merger Fund. This £15k was to be used to fund any costs incurred as part of exploring the feasibility of merger, including the feasibility study to include financial viability, key stakeholder analysis, and mapping of engagement with churches and contracts.

**SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

22	Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £
	Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:							
	Investments	429,366	-	-	393,557	-	-	393,557
	Current assets/(liabilities)	344,098	55,487	11,162	404,782	127,211	8,759	540,752
		<u>773,464</u>	<u>55,487</u>	<u>11,162</u>	<u>798,339</u>	<u>127,211</u>	<u>8,759</u>	<u>934,309</u>

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 23 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	85,460	52,368
Between two and five years	39,614	21,267
In over five years	2,191	-
	<u>127,265</u>	<u>73,635</u>

#### 24 Related party transactions

##### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2024 £	2023 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>476,498</u>	<u>490,569</u>

The charity received donations of £3,750 (£2023: £1,500) from Beechmount Trust, a charity which is controlled by a Trustee of this charity. There was £nil (2023: £nil) owed from Beechmount Trust at the year end.

The charity recharged expenses of £236 (2023: £nil) from Rosegate Consultancy, a company which is related by a common Trustee. There was £236 (2023: £nil) owed to Rosegate Consultancy at the year end.

The charity received donations of £1,000 (2023: £nil) from Kings Church Cockermouth, a charity which is related by a common Trustee. There was £nil (2023: £nil) owed from Kings Church Cockermouth at the year end.

# SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

<b>25</b>	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
	Deficit for the year	(94,196)	(75,321)
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(5,268)	-
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	(35,807)	8,341
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(187,000)	217,302
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(5,530)	7,339
	Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	241,379	(56,543)
	<b>Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations</b>	<b>(86,422)</b>	<b>101,118</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
	The Charity had no debt during the year.		