MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

England & Wales · Charity number 1152825

Details

Other names	MERTON CIL, MCIL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07645926
Registered	2013-07-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Vestry Hall 336 London Road Mitcham CR4 3UD
Phone	02033973119
Email	info@mertoncil.org.uk
Website	www.mertoncil.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS TO DISABLED PERSONS IN MERTON AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS BY PROVIDING SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO ENABLE THEM TO LIVE AS FULL AND EQUAL CITIZENS IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE.

Activities: Home visiting advice and advocacy service Disability Hate Crime Prevention ServiceDebates and eventsCraftivism and Chat GroupResponding to consultations and reviews, and representing the voice of Merton's disabled people.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

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Geography

- Merton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£354,324	£409,295	-	-
2024-03-31	£468,007	£315,535	-	-
2023-03-31	£334,769	£327,293	-	-
2022-03-31	£343,809	£361,904	-	-
2021-03-31	£372,824	£353,236	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CLAIRE BENJAMIN		2013-05-01
Christopher Bull		2021-12-03
Daniel Beglin		2023-11-30
Eekeen Wong		2024-11-14
Estifanos Habtesellasie		2017-10-30
Kirstin Hellard		2023-11-30
Raheema Marina Olajide		2018-10-25
SARAH HENLEY		2013-05-01

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MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

England & Wales - Charity number 1152825

Accounts

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (MERTON CIL)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

Registered Charity Number 1152825
Registered Company Number 7645926

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Constitution

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
Charity number 1152825 - Company number 7645926

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Management Board comprises the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Treasurer supported by up to nine trustees. At each Annual General Meeting one-third of the directors must retire from office and may be re-elected at the recommendation of the board. The trustees serving during the year and since the year-end are as follows:
Co-Chair: Giovanna Vettese & Amanda Edwards
Vice Chair: Estifanos Habtesellasie
Treasurer: Eekeen Wong
Trustees Claire Benjamin, Sarah Henley, Raheema Olajide, Chris Bull, Kirstin Hellard, Daniel Beglin

Senior Management

CEO: Charlet Wilson (from 1st Jan 2025)
Deputy CEO: David Jenkins (Joint CEO until 1st Jan 2025 and DCEO from 1st Jan 2025)
Senior Managers: Stuart Butler (Advice Quality Manager) & Pippa Maslin (Policy and Campaigns Manager)

Registered Office and Principal Office: Vestry Hall, 336 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3UD

Independent Examiner: Lesley Cornwell FCCA, Cornwell & Cornwell, 194 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8UE

Principal Bankers: HSBC Bank, 5 Wimbledon Hill Rd, Wimbledon, London, SW19 7NF

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

The Board presents the report and financial statements of Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) for the year ended 31 March 2025. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

History

The organisation was originally started as a steering group in 2008, it was incorporated as a company in 2011 and registered as a charity in 2013.

Governing Document

Merton CIL is a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated June 2013 and Special Resolution dated October 2016. The liability of the Trustees is limited to £1 in the event of the charity closing down.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is made up of not less than three and no more than twelve people. Trustees are elected from the membership at the AGM or co-opted during the year by agreement of the Board and confirmed at the AGM. Trustees must be aged 16 years or older. At least 75% of trustees must be Deaf or Disabled. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no financial benefits from the organisation. New trustees are given induction on their roles and responsibilities and are offered additional training where necessary.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets quarterly. The CEO is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the organisation. To facilitate effective operations, the CEO has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment, and operations.

Risk Management
The Directors have reviewed the risks to which the charity is exposed and maintain a risk register. Risks are ameliorated by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice.

Objectives and Activities

A summary of the objects as set out in the charity's Governing document:
"To relieve the needs of Disabled persons in Merton and the surrounding areas by providing support and services to enable them to live as full and equal citizens in all aspects of life."

Our Aims:

- To promote the independence and inclusion of Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To identify and challenge discrimination faced by Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To work with Deaf and Disabled people and supporters to achieve change locally.

Key Activities:

- Independence and Inclusion: An AQS accredited Information & Advice service supporting issues relating to welfare benefits, debt and low income, social care, concessionary travel, grant applications, aids and adaptations and housing. A speaking up service that supports Disabled people to navigate barriers to health care and services and living well.

- Challenging Discrimination: Social policy and campaigns work that aims to identify and challenge the barriers and discrimination faced by Disabled people using our casework and lived experience as evidence. As well as exploring and better understanding the intersectional experiences of Disabled people.

- Achieving Change Locally: Collaborative work with local Disabled people to creatively push for societal change. This includes monthly Craftivism & Chat sessions using disability arts to address isolation and loneliness and increase participation and connection. As well as leadership development

work around accessibility, using our lived experience to influence local change, person-centred trainee programs, supported volunteering opportunities, training and development of members and more. We also run annual events to consult, celebrate or share knowledge with our members.

Summary of Achievements

We supported 734 Disabled people in Merton with 1926 sessions of support, contributing £554,525 to the local economy. Our casework services worked on 476 cases and saw around 50% of service users see improved resilience, confidence and wellbeing. We delivered 27 events with 100% of attendees rating them good or great. 95% of Craftivism and Chat attendees told us our sessions helped increase connection. We supported 12 Disabled people to build leadership skills and increase confidence to push for change. Volunteers donated 273 hours to support our work, and our Access Champions achieved 3 local changes to increase accessibility for all. We spent 1260 hours on work pushing for systemic change. We have 430 members (81% being Disabled people) and 96% believe that we address the issues important to Deaf and Disabled people.

Please see our 2024-25 Impact Report for further details of the year's achievements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements**.** The charity brought forward unrestricted funds of £130,327 and restricted funds of £159,055 from the previous accounting period. During the current accounting period, the net deficit is £54,971 of which £13,563 is unrestricted and £(68,534) restricted. This leaves final balances to carry forward of £143,890 unrestricted and £90,521 restricted funds.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Charity continues to rely on grant applications and fundraising to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the charity is doing. During the year, the Charity's Trustees have monitored the financial position of the organisation to ensure that the charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted, are

correctly applied, and accounted for.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Throughout the next financial year, we plan to continue our work to implement and achieve the priorities set out in our new strategy.

Disabled people face growing threats with cuts to disability benefits, increasing living costs impacted by inflation and the extra costs of disability and discrimination. We will work to ensure that our services, work and strategy are constantly evolving and meeting needs that change due to the impact of the external environment. This work will include:

- Continuing our work delivering and developing the services needed.
- Hosting more Craftivism & Chat sessions and spaces to connect.
- Supporting more Disabled people to build skills and confidence to lead.
- Using our lived experience and ideas to push for systemic change.
- Better embedding intersectionality to ensure our work and services are representative and inclusive of all Disabled people.
- Raising more money to keep our organisation and its work going.
- Investing into organisational development to increase our resilience.

RESERVES POLICY

Merton CIL will maintain sufficient reserves to allow it to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity.

Merton CIL will hold unrestricted funds to meet at least 3 month's running costs and aims to hold 4 months running costs by the end of 2025. This will enable Merton CIL to provide reliable services over the long term, and to provide a safety net against dramatic swings in income or costs, and sufficient time to replace lost income, through fundraising.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgments and

estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Eekeen Wong (Treasurer)

Amanda Edwards (Vice Chair)

Date: 30th October 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 11 and 12 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

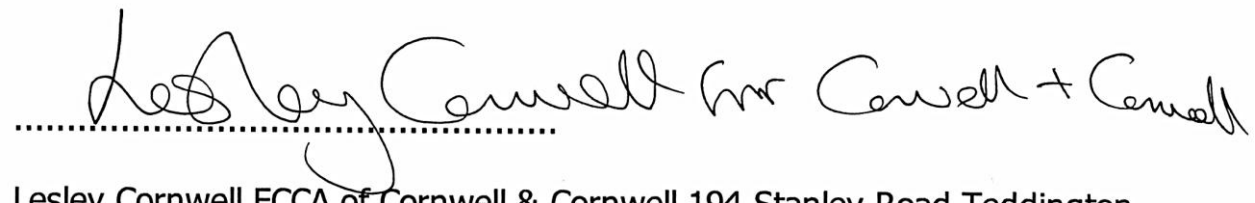
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently, no opinion is view given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records:
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts apart from that set out below:



Lesley Cornwell FCCA of Cornwell & Cornwell 194 Stanley Road Teddington TW11 8UE

Date: 16 October 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025[2a]

	Note	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming Resources	2b				
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	3a	25,000	313,973	338,973	448,682
Voluntary income	3b	226	-	226	5,280
Other Income	3c	11,210	-	11,210	12,645
Interest	3d	3,915	-	3,915	1,400
Total Incoming Resources		**40,351**	**313,973**	**354,324**	**468,007**
Resources Expended	2c				
Charitable Activities	4d	26,788	374,276	401,064	306,717
Governance Costs	4l	-	8,231	8,231	8,014
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**26,788**	**382,507**	**409,295**	**315,535**
Net Incoming /(Outgoing) Resources		**13,563**	**(68,534)**	**(54,971)**	**152,472**
Total Funds Brought Forward	3d	130,327	159,055	289,382	136,910
Total Funds Carried Forward	3e	**143,890**	**90,521**	**234,411**	**289,382**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities. The notes on pages 14-17 form part of these accounts.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		289,632	316,200
Debtors and prepayments		3,903	5,922
		293,535	**322,122**
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4k	59,124	32,740
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**234,411**	**289,382**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**234,411**	**289,382**
RESERVES	5		
Unrestricted Funds		143,890	130,327
Restricted Funds		90,521	159,055
TOTAL RESERVES		**234,411**	**289,382**

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors' acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. The financial statements were approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by:

Eekeen Wong, Treasurer

Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair

Date: 30th October 2025

The notes on pages 13-16 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. These Notes form part of the financial statements.

2. **Accounting Policies**

2a Basis of Accounting: The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and in compliance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

2b Income: from grants, donations and contributions represents the amounts receivable in respect of the year.

2c Expenditure: is recognised in the year in which it is incurred.

2d Fixed Assets should be capitalised and written off over their useful lives on a straight line basis if their purchase value is over £1,000.

2e Voluntary Help: No amounts have been included in these financial statements to reflect the value of services provided free of charge to the charity by volunteers.

2f Pension Costs and other post-retirement benefits: The Company contributes to NEST on behalf of eligible employees.

3. Income

3a Incoming Resources from Charitable Activity means grants and fees received on the understanding that they will be used to undertake activities to further the charity's objects.

3b Voluntary Income means donations or grants given with no expectation of a specific service in return.

3c Other income is funds received for consultation contributions, co-production work and compensation for involvement in meetings.

3d Interest earned on cash deposits

3e Funds brought forward means funding retained from 2023-24 for use during 2024-25.

3f Funds carried forward means funding reserved for 2025-26.

3g The organisation has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from producing a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is an exempt entity.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Charitable Activities				
Henry Smith Charity	3h	-	40,000	40,000
Henry Smith Covid Fund	3i		55,330	55,330
Good Thing Foundation	3j	-	1,000	1,000
Lloyds Banking Foundation	3k	25,000	-	25,000
London B of Merton	3l	-	49,416	49,416
Trust for London Policy	3n	-	43,802	43,802
Three Guineas Trust	3m	-	38,129	38,129
Propel	3o	-	86,296	86,296
Total Income from Charitable Activities	3a	**25,000**	**313,973**	**338,973**
Voluntary Income	3b	226	-	226
Other income	3c	11,210	-	11,210
Interest	3d	3,915	-	3,915
Total Incoming Resources	2b	**40,351**	**313,973**	**354,324**

3h Henry Smith Charity - funding to support the organisation and all projects.
3i Henry Smith Covid Funding – funding to help us increase our capacity in response to needs emerging from the pandemic.
3j Good Thing Foundation - to support our digital inclusion work.
3k Lloyds Banking Foundation – funding to support the running and development of our organisation.
3l London Borough of Merton – funding to support our information and advice service.
3m Three Guineas Trust - funding to support our speaking up casework service.
3n Trust for London Policy – funding to support our policy and campaigns work.
3o Propel – funding to support the development of our advice trainee opportunities and information and advice service.

4. Expenditure

4a No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year.
4b The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.
4c Salaries and associated costs of £337,979 includes: Salaries and Employers' NIC £316,069, Pensions £ 13,115 , HR Costs £ - , Other (DBS checks, Travel, Development, Recruitment) £ 8,795.
The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil.
4d **Costs Allocated to Activities 2025**

	Note	£
Cost of Charitable Activities		
Independence and Inclusion	4e	295,889
Challenging Discrimination	4f	50,852
Achieving Change Locally	4g	62,544
		£409,295

4e Independence and Inclusion Project – Information and Advice casework to resolve issues around benefits and low income, social care, housing, concessionary travel, aids and adaptations and grant applications. Speaking up casework to navigate barriers to health care and services and isolation and loneliness.
4f Challenging Discrimination Project – Policy and Campaigns work relating to welfare benefits, social care, housing, access and health to lead systemic change.
4g Achieve Change Locally Project – building skills, confidence and connection in the Disabled community.
4k Liabilities on balance sheet relates to income received in advance, expenses accrued and accounting fees.
4l Governance costs include accounting and audit costs, Annual General Meeting costs, insurance, trustee expenses.

5. Reserves

These funds have been designated to cover future running costs in the event of lack of funding, in accordance with the reserves policy. According to the business continuity plan £13,600 of reserves is designated to secure immediate business continuity and the Board has approved this to be set aside in a Designated Fund.

		2025		2024
RESERVES	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Designated Funds	13,600		13,600	
General Funds	130,290		116,727	
Unrestricted Funds		143,890		130,327
Restricted Funds		90,521		159,055
TOTAL RESERVES		**234,411**		**289,382**

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

England & Wales - Charity number 1152825

Accounts

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (MERTON CIL)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

Registered Charity Number 1152825
Registered Company Number 7645926

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

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Directors and Trustees
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Co-Chair: Giovanna Vettese & Amanda Edwards
Vice Chair: Estifanos Habtesellasie
Trustees Claire Benjamin, Sarah Henley, Raheema Olajide, Chris Bull, Kirstin Hellard, Daniel Beglin

Senior Management
Joint CEO's: Charlet Wilson & David Jenkins
Senior Managers: Stuart Butler & Pippa Maslin

Registered Office and Principal Office
Vestry Hall, 336 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3UD

Independent Examiner
Lesley Cornwell FCCA, Cornwell & Cornwell, 194 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8UE

Principal Bankers
HSBC Bank, 5 Wimbledon Hill Rd, Wimbledon, London, SW19 7NF

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024

The Board presents the report and financial statements of Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) for the year ended 31 March 2024. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

History

The organisation was originally started as a steering group in 2008, it was incorporated as a company in 2011 and registered as a charity in 2013.

Governing Document

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Appointment of Trustees

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Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets quarterly. The Joint CEO is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the organisation. To facilitate effective operations, the Joint CEO has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment, and operations.

Risk Management
The Directors have reviewed the risks to which the charity is exposed and maintain a risk register. Risks are ameliorated by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice.

Objectives and Activities
A summary of the objects as set out in the charity's Governing document: "To relieve the needs of Disabled persons in Merton and the surrounding areas by providing support and services to enable them to live as full and equal citizens in all aspects of life."

Our Vision: To enable Deaf and Disabled people to take control over their lives and achieve full participation in Merton and wider society.

Our Aims:
- To promote the independence and inclusion of Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To identify and challenge discrimination faced by Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To encourage Deaf and Disabled people and supporters to achieve change locally.

Key Activities:
- Independence and Inclusion: An AQS accredited Information & Advice service supporting issues relating to welfare benefits, debt and low income, social care, concessionary travel, grant applications, aids and adaptations and housing. We also run a small speaking up services that supports Disabled people to navigate barriers to health care and services.
- Challenging Discrimination: Social policy work that aims to improve policies and procedures relating to social care, housing and health. As well as exploring and better understanding the intersectional experiences of Disabled people.
- Achieving Change Locally: Collorative work with local Disabled people to creatively push for societal change. This includes monthly Craftivism & Chat sessions using disability arts to address isolation and loneliness and increase participation and connection, events, debates, and member led

policy work on key issues raised by local Disabled people using lived experience to influence positive change within our community.

Summary of Achievements

Independence and Inclusion: Our AQS accredited information & advice service and advocacy pilot (new 'speaking up' service) provided support in 252 cases. We supported 289 service users with 1,210 of person-centred and accessible support sessions. We also supported wellbeing, guidance, signposting and connection in further 288 cases. 61% of service users saw improved resilience, confidence and wellbeing after using our services. Our work over the past year contributed £487,715 to the local economy.

Challenging Discrimination: Our organisation spent 466 hours conducting policy work that identified and challenged discrimination. We saw great outcomes such as supporting the ASC team to develop a new evaluation tool, involvement in the local authorities' new EDI strategy and more. We continued to support members to speak up and use their lived experiences to influence changes to local policies and procedures around social care, housing and health that impact our ability to live independently. We responded to local consultations and shared feedback on the council's budget setting process.

Achieve Change Locally: We now have 415 members – the majority being local Disabled people or individuals with a long-term health condition and an additional 78 being supporters of our work and values. We have a growing group of Access Champions conducting member-led policy work powered by lived experience to make Merton accessible for all. We delivered 22 events, including My Voice Matters and Craftivism & Chat. We engaged with 141 people through events and outreach and a further 3035 people across our social media platforms. 100% of attendees rated our events good or great. Volunteers provided 232 hours of support, and we hosted 3 M&E steering groups where members, volunteers, staff and trustees donated time to help improve the organisation and its work.

Please see our 2023-24 Impact Report for further details of the year's achievements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements. The charity brought forward unrestricted funds of £84,300 and restricted funds of £52,610 from the previous accounting period. During the current accounting period, the net surplus is £152,472 of which £46,027 is unrestricted and £106,445 restricted. This leaves final balances to carry forward of £130,327 unrestricted and £159,055 restricted funds.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Charity continues to rely on grant applications and fundraising to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the charity is doing. During the year, the Charity's Trustees have monitored the financial position of the organisation to ensure that the charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted, are correctly applied, and accounted for.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Throughout 2023-24, we continued our work with local Disabled people to navigate the complex and growing issues that we faced. Our organisation had limited capacity throughout the year due to staff retention and recruitment issues. We used this struggle to inform learning around developing our staff and to influence internal policy and culture changes. Our team, however, still managed to achieve great outcomes, which you can read about in our impact report. We pulled together feedback from staff, service users, members, supporters and more to help develop our new strategy that will be implemented from April 2024. Over the next year we plan to:

- Launch our new co-produced and evolving strategy.
- Begin work to start an organisational rebrand including a name change.
- To rethink the structure of the organisation to allow for more routes into leadership for Disabled people or individuals with long term health conditions.
- Continue to provide accredited, free and person-centred information and advice to local Disabled people.
- To launch our new 'Speaking Up' service that works with local Disabled people to address barriers in a holistic manner and with the aim of increasing access to health care and services.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

- To conclude our SVRR trainee programme and establish our new propel trainee programme that aims to build skills and knowledge in Disabled people as well as leadership skills.
- To increase our capacity for policy work relating to social care to see improved outcomes for local Disabled people.
- To increase engagement with local council officers, councilors and local partners with the aim of more collaborative approaches and co-production work.
- To begin to explore intersectionality and how our organisation can better understand how social issues care intersect for some Disabled people to improve our work and services.
- To build skills and confidence with our members leading our member led policy work to further strengthen and mobilize our membership to push for change.
- To continue our work improving our strategic communications work to ensure that our aims, values, mission and impact are evident.
- To continue to deliver Craftivism & Chat and support more Disabled people to build skills and confidence to host sessions.
- To reinstate volunteering opportunities for local Disabled people.
- Expand capacity around fundraising to bring in multi-year funding to support sustainability and unrestricted income to allow for growth and creativity.
- Continue work to strength and develop our organisational culture.

RESERVES POLICY

Merton CIL will maintain sufficient reserves to allow it to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity.

Merton CIL will hold unrestricted funds to meet at least 2 month's running costs and aims to hold 5 months running costs by 2025. This will enable Merton CIL to provide reliable services over the long term, and to provide a safety net against dramatic swings in income or costs, and sufficient time to replace lost income, through fundraising.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Amanda Edwards ..... Amanda Edwards (Co-Chair/Secretary)

..... Giovanna Vettese (Co-Chair)

Date: 31 10 2024

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 13 and 14 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently, no opinion is view given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records:
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts apart from that set out below:

.....Lesley Cornwell for Cornwell + Cornwell

Lesley Cornwell FCCA of Cornwell & Cornwell 194 Stanley Road Teddington TW11 8UE

Date..10 October 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024[2a]

	Note	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Incoming Resources	2b				
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	3a	27,970	420,712	448,682	325,843
Voluntary income	3b	5,280	-	5,280	6,863
Other Income	3c	12,645	-	12,645	2,063
Interest	3d	1,400	-	1,400	-
Total Incoming Resources		**47,295**	**420,712**	**468,007**	**334,769**
Resources Expended	2c				
Charitable Activities	4d	1,268	305,449	306,717	318,221
Governance Costs	4l	-	8,014	8,014	9,072
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**1,268**	**314,267**	**315,535**	**327,293**
Net Incoming /(Outgoing) Resources		**46,027**	**106,445**	**152,472**	**7,476**
Total Funds Brought Forward	3d	84,300	52,610	136,910	129,434
Total Funds Carried Forward	3e	**130,327**	**159,055**	**289,382**	**136,910**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities. The notes on pages 16-19 form part of these accounts.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		316,200	151,222
Debtors and prepayments		5,922	28,312
		322,122	**179,534**
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4k	32,740	42,624
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**289,382**	**136,910**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**289,382**	**136,910**
RESERVES	5		
Unrestricted Funds		130,327	84,300
Restricted Funds		159,055	52,610
TOTAL RESERVES		**289,382**	**136,910**

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of Companies Act 2006.
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors' acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. The financial statements were approved by the Board on October 31st 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Amanda Edwards (Co-Chair/Secretary) Amanda Edwards

Giovanna Vettese (Co-Chair) G. Vettese

The notes on pages 16-19 form part of these accounts.

020 3397 3119
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@MertonCIL
Mertoncil
Merton.cil

Merton CIL is a company limited by guarantee.
Registered Company No. 7645926
Registered Charity No. 1152825

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. These Notes form part of the financial statements.

2. **Accounting Policies**

2a Basis of Accounting: The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and in compliance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

2b Income: from grants, donations and contributions represents the amounts receivable in respect of the year.

2c Expenditure: is recognised in the year in which it is incurred.

2d Fixed Assets should be capitalised and written off over their useful lives on a straight line basis if their purchase value is over £1,000.

2e Voluntary Help: No amounts have been included in these financial statements to reflect the value of services provided free of charge to the charity by volunteers.

2f Pension Costs and other post-retirement benefits: The Company contributes to NEST on behalf of eligible employees.

3. Income

3a Incoming Resources from Charitable Activity means grants and fees received on the understanding that they will be used to undertake activities to further the charity's objects.

3b Voluntary Income means donations or grants given with no expectation of a specific service in return.

3c Other income is funds received for consultation contributions, co-production work and compensation for involvement in meetings.

3d Interest earned on cash deposits

3e Funds brought forward means funding retained from 2022-23 for use during 2023-24.

3f Funds carried forward means funding reserved for 2024-25.

3g The organisation has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from producing a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is an exempt entity.

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable Activities				
Henry Smith Charity	3h	-	60,000	60,000
Henry Smith Covid Fund	3i		39,200	39,200
City Bridge Trust	3j	2,970	49,500	52,470
The London Community Foundation	3k	-	9,775	9,775
Lloyds Banking Foundation	3l	25,000	-	25,000
NHS SW London	3m	-	37,200	37,200
London B of Merton	3n	-	49,416	49,416
Wimbledon Foundation	3o	-	12,490	12,490
Evening Standard	3p	-	31,250	31,250
Trust for London	3q	-	76,148	76,148
TFL SVRR	3r	-	27,029	27,029
Inclusion Barnet	3s	-	28,704	28,704
Total Income from Charitable Activities	3a	**27,970**	**420,712**	**448,682**
Voluntary Income	3b	5,280	-	5,280
Other income	3c	12,645	-	12,645
Interest	3d	1,400	-	1,400
Total Incoming Resources	2b	**47,295**	**420,712**	**468,007**

3h Henry Smith Charity - core funding to support the organisation.
3i Henry Smith Covid Funding – funding to help us increase our capacity in response to needs emerging from the pandemic.

3j City Bridge Trust - funding to support the information and advice service.
3k The London Community Foundation – funding to support the running of our organisation.
3l Lloyds Banking Foundation – funding to support the running of our organisation.
3m NHS SW London - funding to support with a health advocacy pilot.
3n London Borough of Merton – funding to support our information and advice service.
3o The Wimbledon Foundation - funding to support with a health advocacy pilot.
3p Evening Standard – funding to support our work achieving change locally.
3q Trust for London – funding to support our policy and campaigns work.
3r Trust for London SVRR - funding to support our trainee caseworker programme.
3s Inclusion Barnet – funding to support the development of our trainee programmes.

4. Expenditure

4a No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year.
4b The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.
4c Salaries and associated costs of £243,324 includes: Salaries and Employers' NIC £212,767, Pensions £9,839, HR Costs £10,200, Other (DBS checks, Travel, Development, Recruitment) £10,518.
The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil.
4d **Costs Allocated to Activities 2024**

	Note	£
Cost of Charitable Activities		
Independence and Inclusion	4e	209,563
Challenging Discrimination	4f	38,185
Achieving Change Locally	4g	67,787
Total Cost of Charitable Activities		**£315,535**

4e Independence and Inclusion Project – Information and Advice support for local Disabled people to resolve issues around benefits and low income, social

care, housing, concessionary travel, and grant applications. In 23-24, an advocacy pilot supporting Disabled people to navigate issues around health care and services.
4f Challenging Discrimination Project – Social policy work relating to social care, housing and health.
4g Achieve Change Locally Project - Member led policy work, Craftivism and Chat group, events, consultations, and voice activity with local Disabled people.
4k Liabilities on balance sheet relates to income received in advance, expenses accrued and accounting fees.
4l Governance costs include accounting and audit costs, Annual General Meeting costs, insurance, trustee expenses.

5. Reserves

These funds have been designated to cover future running costs in the event of lack of funding, in accordance with the reserves policy. According to the business continuity plan £13,600 of reserves is designated to secure immediate business continuity and the Board has approved this to be set aside in a Designated Fund.

		2024		2023
RESERVES	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Designated Funds	13,600		13,600	
General Funds	116,727		70,700	
Unrestricted Funds		130,327		84,300
Restricted Funds		159,055		52,610
TOTAL RESERVES		**289,382**		**136,910**

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

England & Wales - Charity number 1152825

Accounts

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (MERTON CIL)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

Registered Charity Number 1152825
Registered Company Number 7645926

CONTENTS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

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Balance sheet	13
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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Constitution

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Charity number 1152825 - Company number 7645926

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Management Board comprises the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Treasurer supported by up to nine trustees. At each Annual General Meeting one-third of the directors must retire from office and may be re-elected at the recommendation of the board. The trustees serving during the year and since the year-end are as follows:

Co-Chair: Giovanna Vettese & Amanda Edwards
Vice Chair: Estifanos Habtesellasie
Trustees Claire Benjamin, Sarah Henley, Raheema Olajide, Chris Bull, Roy Benjamin (Until Dec 2022)

Senior Management

Joint CEO's: Charlet Wilson & David Jenkins
Senior Managers: Stuart Butler & Michael Turner (Until Nov 2022)

Registered Office and Principal Office

Vestry Hall, 336 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3UD

Independent Examiner

Lesley Cornwell FCCA, Cornwell & Cornwell, 194 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8UE

Principal Bankers

HSBC Bank, 5 Wimbledon Hill Rd, Wimbledon, London, SW19 7NF

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

The Board presents the report and financial statements of Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) for the year ended 31 March 2023. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

History

The organisation was originally started as a steering group in 2008, it was incorporated as a company in 2011 and registered as a charity in 2013.

Governing Document

Merton CIL is a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated June 2013 and Special Resolution dated October 2016. The liability of the Trustees is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is made up of not less than three and no more than twelve people. Trustees are elected from the membership at the AGM or co-opted during the year by agreement of the Board and confirmed at the AGM. Trustees must be aged 16 years or older. At least 75% of trustees must be Deaf or Disabled. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no financial benefits from the organisation. New trustees are given induction on their roles and responsibilities and are offered additional training where necessary.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets quarterly. The Joint CEO is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the organisation. To facilitate effective operations, the Joint CEO has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment, and operations.

Risk Management
The Directors have reviewed the risks to which the charity is exposed and maintain a risk register. Risks are ameliorated by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice.

Objectives and Activities

A summary of the objects as set out in the charity's Governing document:
"To relieve the needs of Disabled persons in Merton and the surrounding areas by providing support and services to enable them to live as full and equal citizens in all aspects of life."

Our Vision: To enable Deaf and Disabled people to take control over their lives and achieve full participation in Merton and wider society.

Our Aims:

- To promote the independence and inclusion of Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To identify and challenge discrimination faced by Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To encourage Deaf and Disabled people and supporters to achieve change locally.

Key Activities:

- Independence and Inclusion: An AQS accredited Information & Advice service supporting issues relating to welfare benefits, debt and low income, social care, concessionary travel, grant applications, health, and housing. We are also running an advocacy pilot supporting to access health care and services.
- Challenging Discrimination: Social Policy work speaking up about the issues faced by the Deaf and Disabled community. Disability Hate Crime partnership work with DDPOs across London and local Hate Crime awareness and prevention work.
- Achieving Change Locally: Voice Activity including monthly Craftivism & Chat sessions, events, debates, and member led policy work on key issues raised by local Deaf and Disabled people.

Summary of Achievements

Independence and Inclusion: Our AQS accredited Information & Advice service provided support in 342 Information & Advice and Advocacy cases. We supported 318 unique individuals through our casework services, providing 1,228 sessions of in-depth support. We also supported wellbeing, information, signposting, guidance, and connection in a further 423 cases. Our work throughout the year contributed £876,324 to the local economy. 61% of service users saw increased resilience after using our services.

Challenging Discrimination: Merton CIL spent 605 hours on policy and strategy work on behalf of Deaf and Disabled people. We continued to ensure that we supported members and service users to speak up around topics like housing, welfare reform, social care and hate crime. We supported Deaf and Disabled People to respond consultations and make statements on issues that matter to us. We continued to work with Inclusion London and Stay Safe East on the pan-London disability hate crime project. We supported a number of London based DDPOs to build and develop their disability hate crime projects.

Achieve Change Locally: We now have 427 members – 336 (78%) are Deaf and Disabled people or people with a long-term health condition and 90 (22%) are non-Disabled people who support our work and values. Throughout the year we delivered 20 events including Craftivism and Chat Groups, My Voice Matters our AGM. We engaged with 125 people through events activities and outreach, and another 2906 engaged with us across our social media platforms. 100% of attendees at our events rated them good or great. Volunteers and trustees provided 264 hours of support. Their donation of time helped us to achieve our aims. We also worked closely with a group of Deaf and Disabled people passionate about pushing for a more accessible borough. We supported the group to run 6 sessions.

Please see our 2022-23 Impact Report for further details of the year's achievements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements**.** The charity brought forward unrestricted funds of £103,356 and restricted funds of £28,048 from the previous accounting period. During the current accounting period, the net surplus is £7,476 of

which £(17,087) is unrestricted and £24,563 restricted. This leaves final balances to carry forward of £86,269 unrestricted and £52,611 restricted funds.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Charity continues to rely on grant applications and fundraising to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the charity is doing. During the year, the Charity's Trustees have monitored the financial position of the organisation to ensure that the charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted, are correctly applied and accounted for.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Throughout 2022/23, we continued our work supporting local Deaf and Disabled people. We also began to think more about how strengthening our internal environment/culture could help our organisation to support our community better. The cost-of-living crisis as well as the lasting effects of the pandemic combined with the increasing cost of disability, affected the community that we serve and our team. This required us to think about wellbeing, purpose, and growth in a more multi-faceted way. Struggles around recruitment have led us to think about how we develop people and build roles around Disabled people who are keen to get involved at Merton CIL.

Over the next year, we plan to:

- Continue working to develop our new strategy. The pandemic, lockdowns and current cost of living crisis have changed a lot for local Deaf and Disabled. We will work to ensure that our strategic priorities meet our new, evolving, and interlinked needs in accessible ways.
- Provide support to local Disabled people with issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis/cost of disability and the effects of the pandemic.
- Continue delivering information and advice around welfare benefits, low income, health, grant applications, housing, and social care.
- Continue the advocacy pilot and explore ways to address the needs of Deaf and Disabled people outside of an advice framework.
- Increase our policy capacity and work to identify and challenge discrimination effectively.
- Increase engagement with the local authority and councilors to work

towards more local co-production work.
- Continue campaigning for reduced social care charges.
- Conclude our trainee caseworker programme that is funded until 2024 and establish new ways to build advice skills in local Deaf and Disabled people.
- Continue to work with Deaf and Disabled people to achieve change locally and speak up about issues affecting our community.
- Increase our capacity to facilitate more member led social policy work.
- Improve our strategic communications work to increase engagement with members and supporters and make our messaging clearer.
- Better connect craftivism & chat with our strategic policy work to increase impact and purpose for attendees.
- Conduct a review of our volunteering programme to ensure that it's meeting the needs of local Disabled people, and the organisation.
- Expand capacity around fundraising and bringing in unrestricted income.
- Aim to secure multi-year funding to provide security for services and allow for growth.
- Strengthen our internal culture and embed learning and innovate ways to manage change based on learning from previous years.
- Use learning from previous years around hiring and retention of staff to rethink organisational approach to recruitment and career development.

RESERVES POLICY

Merton CIL will maintain sufficient reserves to allow it to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity.

Merton CIL will hold unrestricted funds to meet at least 1 month's running costs and aims to hold 4 months running costs by 2024. This will enable Merton CIL to provide reliable services over the long term, and to provide a safety net against dramatic swings in income or costs, and sufficient time to replace lost income, through fundraising.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable

accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Amanda Edwards (Co-Chair/Secretary)

Giovanna Vettese (Co-Chair)

Date: 26th October 2023

020 3397 3119
info@mertoncil.org.uk
www.mertoncil.org.uk

@MertonCIL
Mertoncil
Merton.cil

Merton CIL is a company limited by guarantee.
Registered Company No. 7645926
Registered Charity No. 1152825

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages 14 and 15 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

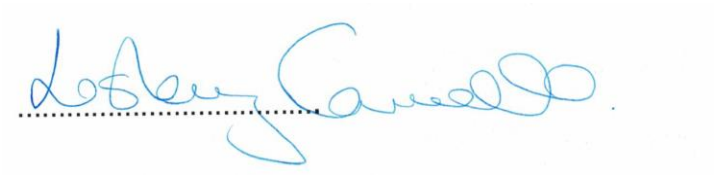
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently, no opinion is view given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records:
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts apart from that set out below:



Date: 26th October 2023

Lesley Cornwell FCCA of Cornwell & Cornwell 194 Stanley Road Teddington TW11 8UE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH

31 2023[2a]

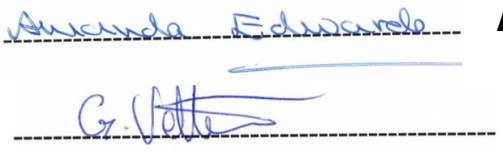
	Note	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Incoming Resources	2b				
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	3a	65,669	260,174	325,843	333,093
Voluntary income	3b	6,863	-	6,863	1,243
Other Income	3c	2,063	-	2,063	9,477
Total Incoming Resources		**74,595**	**260,174**	**334,769**	**343,813**
Resources Expended	2c				
Charitable Activities	4d	91,682	226,539	318,221	351,664
Governance Costs	4l	-	9,072	9,072	9,745
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**91,682**	**235,611**	**327,293**	**361,409**
Net Incoming /(Outgoing) Resources		**(17,087)**	**24,563**	**7,476**	**(17,596)**
Total Funds Brought Forward	3d	103,356	28,048	131,404	149,000
Total Funds Carried Forward	3e	**86,269**	**52,611**	**138,880**	**131,404**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities. The notes on pages 16-19 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		150,558	145,276
Debtors and prepayments		28,312	13,987
		178,870	**156,293**
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4k	39,990	27,858
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**138,880**	**131,404**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**138,880**	**131,404**
RESERVES	5		
Unrestricted Funds		86,269	103,356
Restricted Funds		52,611	28,048
TOTAL RESERVES		**138,880**	**131,404**

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of Companies Act 2006.
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors' acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. The financial statements were approved by the Board on 26th October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Amanda Edwards (Co-Chair/Secretary)

Giovanna Vettese (Co-Chair)

The notes on pages 16-19 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. These Notes form part of the financial statements.

2. **Accounting Policies**

2a Basis of Accounting: The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and in compliance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

2b Income: from grants, donations and contributions represents the amounts receivable in respect of the year.

2c Expenditure: is recognised in the year in which it is incurred.

2d Fixed Assets should be capitalised and written off over their useful lives on a straight line basis if their purchase value is over £1,000.

2e Voluntary Help: No amounts have been included in these financial statements to reflect the value of services provided free of charge to the charity by volunteers.

2f Pension Costs and other post-retirement benefits: The Company contributes to NEST on behalf of eligible employees.

3. Income

3a Incoming Resources from Charitable Activity means grants and fees received on the understanding that they will be used to undertake activities to further the charity's objects.

3b Voluntary Income means donations or grants given with no expectation of a specific service in return.

3c Other income is earned interest and funds received for consultation contributions.

3d Funds brought forward means funding retained from 2021-22 for use during 2022-23.

3e Funds carried forward means funding reserved for 2023-24.

3f The organisation has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from producing a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is an exempt entity.

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable Activities				
Henry Smith Charity	3g	-	60,000	60,000
Henry Smith Covid Fund	3h		38,500	38,500
City Bridge Trust	3i	-	53,430	53,430
Edward Gostling Foundation	3j	-	5,000	5,000
Inman Charity	3k	5,000	-	5,000
NHS SW London	3l	-	12,364	12,364
Merton Giving	3m	-	9,650	9,650
Merton Connected	3n	2,500	-	2,500
Wimbledon Foundation	3o	-	9,792	9,792
Wimbledon DNMBS	3p	-	321	321
Trust for London	3q	-	63,700	63,700
Real SVRR Phase 2	3r	-	7,417	7,417
Cornerstone	3s	2,624	-	2,624
Inclusion London	3t	55,545	-	55,545
Total Income from Charitable Activities	3a	**65,669**	**260,174**	**325,843**
Voluntary Income	3b	6,863	-	6,863
Other Income	3c	2,063	-	2,063
Total Incoming Resources	2b	**74,595**	**260,174**	**334,769**

3g Henry Smith Charity - core funding to support the organisation.
3h Henry Smith Covid Funding – funding to help us increase our capacity in response to needs emerging from the pandemic.
3i City Bridge Trust - funding to support the information and advice service.
3j Edward Gostling Foundation - funding to support our achieve change locally project.

3k Inman Charity - grant to support with the costs of our independence and inclusion project.
3l NHS SW London ICB - funding to support with a health advocacy pilot.
3m Merton Giving - funding to support with the adaptation of services during the pandemic.
3n Merton Connected – funding to support attendance at community meetings.
3o The Wimbledon Foundation - funding to support with a health advocacy pilot.
3p Wimbledon DNMBS - grant to cover the costs of service user grant application awards.
3q Trust for London SVRR - funding to support our trainee caseworker programme.
3r Real SVRR Phase 2 - funding to support our policy work around social care charging.
3s Cornerstone – funding to support our achieve change locally project.
3t Inclusion London - 3-year pan-London hate crime prevention partnership programme where Merton CIL is the lead partner. Supporting our work to challenge discrimination.

4. Expenditure

4a No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year.
4b The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.
4c Salaries and associated costs of £247,304 includes: Salaries and Employers' NIC £223,250, Pensions £9,597, HR Costs £10,200, Other (DBS checks, Travel, Development) £4,257.
The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil.
4d **Costs Allocated to Activities 2023**

	Note	£
Cost of Charitable Activities		
Independence and Inclusion	4e	211,155
Challenging Discrimination	4f	59,003
Achieving Change Locally	4g	57,135
Total Cost of Charitable Activities		**£327,293**

4e Independence and Inclusion Project – Information and Advice support for local Deaf and Disabled people to resolve issues around benefits and low income, social care, housing, health, concessionary travel, and grant applications.
4f Challenging Discrimination Project – Disability Hate Crime awareness and prevention in Merton as well as across London as part of a pan-London disability hate crime project.
4g Achieve Change Locally Project - Social policy work, Member led policy work, Craftivism and Chat group, events, consultations, and voice activity with Deaf and Disabled People.
4k Liabilities on balance sheet relates to income received in advance, expenses accrued and accounting fees.
4l Governance costs include accounting and audit costs, Annual General Meeting costs, insurance, trustee expenses.

5. Reserves

These funds have been designated to cover future running costs in the event of lack of funding, in accordance with the reserves policy. According to the business continuity plan £13,600 of reserves is designated to secure immediate business continuity and the Board has approved this to be set aside in a Designated Fund.

		2023		2022
RESERVES	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Designated Funds	13,600		13,600	
General Funds	72,669		89,756	
Unrestricted Funds		86,269		103,356
Restricted Funds		52,611		28,048
TOTAL RESERVES		**138,880**		**131,404**

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

England & Wales - Charity number 1152825

Accounts

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (MERTON CIL)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

Registered Charity Number 1152825
Registered Company Number 7645926

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Constitution

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Charity number 1152825 - Company number 7645926

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Management Board comprises the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Treasurer supported by up to nine trustees. At each Annual General Meeting one-third of the directors must retire from office and may be re-elected at the recommendation of the board. The trustees serving during the year and since the year-end are as follows:

Co-Chair: Giovanna Vettese & Amanda Edwards
Vice Chair: Estifanos Habtesellasie
Trustees Claire Benjamin, Roy Benjamin, Sarah Henley, Raheema Olajide, Chris Bull

Senior Management

Joint CEO's: Charlet Wilson & David Jenkins from April 2022
Senior Managers: Stuart Butler & Michael Turner

Registered Office and Principal Office

Vestry Hall, 336 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3UD

Independent Examiner

Lesley Cornwell FCCA, Cornwell & Cornwell, 194 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8UE

Principal Bankers

HSBC Bank, 5 Wimbledon Hill Rd, Wimbledon, London, SW19 7NF

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022

The Board presents the report and financial statements of Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) for the year ended 31 March 2022. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

History

The organisation was originally started as a steering group in 2008, it was incorporated as a company in 2011 and registered as a charity in 2013.

Governing Document

Merton Centre for Independent Living is a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated June 2013 and Special Resolution dated October 2016. The liability of the Trustees is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is made up of not less than three and no more than twelve persons. Trustees are elected from the membership at the AGM or co-opted during the year by agreement of the Board and confirmed at the AGM. Trustees must be aged 16 years or older. At least 75% of trustees must be Deaf or Disabled. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no financial benefits from the organisation. New trustees are given induction on their roles and responsibilities and are offered additional training where necessary.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets quarterly. The Joint CEO is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Joint CEO has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment, and operations.

Risk Management
The Directors have reviewed the risks to which the charity is exposed and maintain a risk register. Risks are ameliorated by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice.

Objectives and Activities

A summary of the objects as set out in the charity's Governing document:
"To relieve the needs of Disabled persons in Merton and the surrounding areas by providing support and services to enable them to live as full and equal citizens in all aspects of life."

Our Vision: To enable Deaf and Disabled people to take control over their lives and achieve full participation in Merton and wider society.

Our Aims:

- To promote the independence and inclusion of Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To identify and challenge discrimination faced by Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- To encourage Deaf and Disabled people and supporters to achieve change locally.

Key Activities:

- Independence and Inclusion: Information & Advice service supporting with issues relating to welfare benefits, social care, concessionary travel, grant applications, health, hate crime and housing.
- Challenging Discrimination: Disability Hate Crime partnership work with DDPOs across London and local Hate Crime awareness and prevention work.
- Achieving Change Locally: Voice Activity including monthly Craftivism & Chat sessions, events, debates, and policy work on key issues affecting local Deaf and Disabled people.

Summary of Achievements

Independence and Inclusion: Our AQS accredited Information & Advice service provided support in 303 Information & Advice cases. We supported 272 unique individuals through our casework services, providing nearly 1182

sessions of in-depth support. We also supported with information, signposting, guidance, and connection in a further 416 cases. Our work throughout the year contributed £732,799 to the local economy. 51% of service users saw increased resilience after using our services.

Challenging Discrimination: We continued to work with Inclusion London and Stay Safe East on the pan-London disability hate crime project. We supported 2 London based DDPOs to build and develop their disability hate crime projects by allocating them 616 hours of dedicated support.

Achieve Change Locally: We now have 419 members – 330 (80%) are Deaf and Disabled people and 89 (21%) are non-Disabled people who support our work and values. This is a 4% increase from last year. Throughout the year we delivered 20 events including Craftivism and Chat Groups, My Voice Matters our AGM. We engaged with 73 people through events activities and outreach, and another 2278 engaged with us across our social media platforms. Merton CIL also spent 707 hours on policy and strategy work on behalf of Deaf and Disabled people. We continued to ensure that we supported members and service users to speak up around topics like housing, welfare reform, social care and hate crime. We supported Deaf and Disabled People to respond to 5 consultations. We conducted social policy work into the treatment of Deaf and Disabled people throughout the pandemic and lockdowns. We also worked closely with Deaf and Disabled members to speak up about accessibility around the borough.

Please see our 2021-22 Impact Report for further details of the year's achievements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements. The charity brought forward unrestricted funds of £103,864 and restricted funds of £45,485 from the previous accounting period. During the current accounting period, the net deficit is £18,095 of which £112 is unrestricted and £17,983 restricted. This leaves final balances to carry forward of £103,752 unrestricted and £27,502 restricted funds.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Charity continues to rely on grant applications and fundraising to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be

available for the valuable work the charity is doing. During the year, the Charity's Trustees have monitored the financial position of the organisation to ensure that the charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted, are correctly applied and accounted for.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Throughout 2021/22, we implemented learning from a period of instability and change, to emerge a more resilient and sustainable organisation so that our work supporting local Deaf and Disabled people could continue without future interruption.

Over the next year we plan to put measures in place to safeguard the management of the organisation and think more closely about succession. Merton CIL's board of trustees decided to formalise the streamlined Joint-CEO structure in April 2022, giving stability to the management of the organisation. In Dec 2021, we decided to mirror the joint management structure within the board to provide more routes into leadership for Disabled people.

Over the next year, we plan to:

- Continue work to develop our new strategy. The pandemic, lockdowns and current cost of living crisis have changed a lot for local Deaf and Disabled. We will work to ensure that our strategic priorities meet our new, evolving, and interlinked needs.
- Provide support to local Disabled people with issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis/cost of disability and the effects of the pandemic.
- Continue delivering information and advice around welfare benefits, health, grant applications, housing, and social care.
- Explore ways to respond to the needs identified within local Disabled people during the pandemic
- Continue raising awareness of disability hate crime through the pan London project and local work.
- Develop our trainee caseworker programme that is funded until 2024.
- Continue to work with Deaf and Disabled people to achieve change locally and speak up about issues affecting our community.
- Increase our capacity to facilitate more member led social policy work.
- Improve our strategic communications work to increase engagement with

members and supporters.
- Better connect craftivism & chat with our strategic policy work to increase impact.
- Increase engagement with the local authority and councilors to work towards more local co-production work.
- Continue campaigning for reduced social care charges.
- Conduct a review of our volunteering programme to ensure that it's meeting the needs of local Disabled people, and the organisation.
- Expand capacity around fundraising and brining in unrestricted income.
- Aim to secure multi-year funding to provide security for services and allow for growth.
- Strengthen our internal culture and embedding learning and innovation.

RESERVES POLICY

Merton CIL will maintain sufficient reserves to allow it to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity.

Merton CIL will hold unrestricted funds to meet at least 1 month's running costs and aims towards holding 4 months running costs by 2023. This will enable Merton CIL to provide reliable services over the long term, and to provide a safety net against dramatic swings in income or costs, and sufficient time to replace lost income, through fund raising.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

---------- Giovanna Vettese (Co-Chair)

---------- Amanda Edwards (Co-Chair/Secretary)

Date: 21st November 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages 14 and 15 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently, no opinion is view given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

• accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006

- the accounts do not accord with such records
- where accounts are prepared on an accrual's basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts apart from that set out below

L. Cornwell for Cornwell + Cornwell

Date: 18th November 2022

Lesley Cornwell FCCA of Cornwell & Cornwell 194 Stanley Road Teddington TW11 8UE

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022[2a]

	Note	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Incoming Resources	2b				
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	3a	53,927	279,166	333,093	364,179
Voluntary income	3b	1,243	-	1,243	8,536
Other Income	3c	9,473	-	9,473	109
Total Incoming Resources		**64,643**	**279,166**	**343,809**	**372,824**
Resources Expended	2c				
Charitable Activities	4d	64,755	287,404	352,159	345,574
Governance Costs	4l	-	9,745	9,745	7,662
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**64,755**	**297,149**	**361,904**	**353,236**
Net Incoming /(Outgoing) Resources		**(112)**	**(17,983)**	**(18,095)**	**19,588**
Total Funds Brought Forward	3d	103,864	45,485	149,349	129,761
Total Funds Carried Forward	3e	**103,752**	**27,502**	**131,254**	**149,349**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15-18 form part of these accounts.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		145,276	206,529
Debtors and prepayments		13,987	8,350
		159,263	**214,879**
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4k	28,009	65,530
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**131,254**	**149,349**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**131,254**	**149,349**
RESERVES	5		
Unrestricted Funds		103,752	103,864
Restricted Funds		27,502	45,485
TOTAL RESERVES		**131,254**	**149,349**

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of Companies Act 2006.
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors' acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. The financial statements were approved by the Board on 21st November 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

G. Vettese ---------- (Giovanna Vettese, Co-Chair)

Amanda Edwards ----------(Amanda Edwards, Co-Chair/Secretary)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. These Notes form part of the financial statements.

2. **Accounting Policies**

2a Basis of Accounting: The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and in compliance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

2b Income: from grants, donations and contributions represents the amounts receivable in respect of the year.

2c Expenditure: is recognised in the year in which it is incurred.

2d Fixed Assets should be capitalised and written off over their useful lives on a straight line basis if their purchase value is over £1,000.

2e Voluntary Help: No amounts have been included in these financial statements to reflect the value of services provided free of charge to the charity by volunteers.

2f Pension Costs and other post-retirement benefits: The Company contributes to NEST on behalf of eligible employees.

3. Income

3a Incoming Resources from Charitable Activity means grants and fees received on the understanding that they will be used to undertake activities to further the charity's objects.

3b Voluntary Income means donations or grants given with no expectation of a specific service in return.

3c Other income is earned interest and funds received for consultation contributions and service fees.

3d Funds brought forward means funding retained from 2020-21 for use during 2021-22.

3e Funds carried forward means funding reserved for 2022-23.

3f The organisation has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from producing a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is an exempt entity.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Charitable Activities				
Henry Smith Charity	3g	-	60,000	60,000
City Bridge Trust	3h	-	47,500	47,500
Edward Gosling Foundation	3i	-	4,857	4,857
LCRW4-WF	3j	-	5,000	5,000
LCRW5-CBT	3k	-	48,200	48,200
Merton Giving	3l	-	4,036	4,036
Merton Giving RF	3m	-	5,124	5,124
Barchester Foundation	3n	-	1,500	1,500
MOPAC	3o	-	38,197	38,197
Trust for London- SVRR	3p		60,000	60,000
Real SVRR Phase 2	3q	-	4,752	4,752
Inclusion London	3r	53,927	-	53,927
Total Income from Charitable Activities	3a	**53,927**	**279,166**	**333,093**
Voluntary Income	3b	1,243	-	1,243
Other Income	3c	9,473	-	9,473
Total Incoming Resources	2b	**64,643**	**279,166**	**343,809**

3g Henry Smith Charity core funding support.
3h City Bridge Trust funding to support the information and advice service.
3i Edward Gosling Foundation funding to support our achieve change locally project.
3j LCRW4 (The Wimbledon Foundation) funding to increase organisational capacity and conduct policy work around the effect of the pandemic on local Disabled people.
3k LCRW5 funding to support the organisation to emerge from the pandemic.
3l Merton Giving funding to support with the adaptation of services during the pandemic.

3m Merton Giving Renewal Fund funding to support increase organisational capacity with administrative support and invest in strategic development.
3n Barchester Foundation funding to support our achieve change locally project.
3o MOPAC funding to support the delivery of disability hate crime support within our information and advice service.
3p Trust for London funding to support our trainee caseworker programme.
3q Real SVRR Phase 2 funding to support our policy work around social care charging.
3r Inclusion London 3-year pan-London hate crime prevention partnership programme where Merton CIL is the lead partner.

4. Expenditure

4a No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year.
4b The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.
4c Salaries and associated costs of £256,278 includes: Salaries and Employers' NIC £224,239, Pensions £8,102, HR Costs £10,200, Other (DBS checks, Travel, Development) £13,737.
The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil.

4d Costs Allocated to Activities 2022

	Note	£
Cost of Charitable Activities		
Independence and Inclusion	4e	226,477
Challenging Discrimination	4f	66,770
Achieving Change Locally	4g	68,657
Total Cost of Charitable Activities		**361,904**

4e Independence and Inclusion Project – Information and Advice support for local Deaf and Disabled people to resolve issues around benefits and low income, social care, housing, health, concessionary travel, and grant applications.
4f Challenging Discrimination Project - Disability Hate Crime awareness and prevention in Merton as well as across London as part of a pan-London disability hate crime project.

4g Achieve Change Locally Project - Social policy work, Member led policy work, Craftivism and Chat group, events, consultations, and voice activity with Deaf and Disabled People.
4k Liabilities on balance sheet relates to income received in advance, expenses accrued and accounting fees.
4l Governance costs include accounting and audit costs, Annual General Meeting costs, insurance and trustee expenses. This year we invested in trustee training and development.

5. Reserves

These funds have been designated to cover future running costs in the event of lack of funding, in accordance with the reserves policy. According to the business continuity plan £13,600 of reserves is designated to secure immediate business continuity and the Board has approved this to be set aside in a Designated Fund.

		2022		2021
RESERVES	£	£	£	£
Designated Funds	13,600		13,600	
General Funds	90,152		90,264	
Unrestricted Funds		103,752		103,864
Restricted Funds		27,502		45,485
TOTAL RESERVES		**131,254**		**149,349**

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

England & Wales - Charity number 1152825

Accounts

MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
(Merton CIL)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

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Mertoncil
Merton.cil

Merton CIL is a company limited by guarantee.
Registered Company No. 7645926
Registered Charity No. 1152825

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

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Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Constitution

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Charity number 1152825
Company number 7645926

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Management Board comprises the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Treasurer supported by up to nine trustees. At each Annual General Meeting one-third of the directors must retire from office and may be re-elected at the recommendation of the board. The trustees serving during the year and since the year-end are as follows:

Chair: Roy Benjamin
Vice Chair: Giovanna Vettese
Secretary: Amanda Edwards
Trustees Claire Benjamin, R.A. (Slim) Flegg, Estifanos Habtesellasie, Sarah Henley, Raheema Olajide

Senior Management

Stuart Butler, David Jenkins, Michael Turner and Charlet Wilson – The Senior Management Team began temporarily co-managing the organisation from May 2020

Registered Office and Principal Office

Vestry Hall, 336 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3UD

Independent Examiner

Lesley Cornwell FCCA, Cornwell & Cornwell, 194 Stanley Road,

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

Teddington, TW11 8UE

Principal Bankers
HSBC Bank PLC, 5 Wimbledon Hill Rd, Wimbledon, London SW19 7NF

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES for year end 31 March 2021

The Board presents the report and financial statements of Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) for the year ended 31 March 2021. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

History:
The organisation was originally started as a steering group in 2008, it was incorporated as a company in 2011 and registered as a charity in 2013.

Governing Document:
Merton Centre for Independent Living is a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated June 2013 and Special Resolution dated October 2016. The liability of the Trustees is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of Trustees:
The Board of Trustees is made up of not less than three and no more than twelve persons. Trustees are elected from the membership at the AGM or co-opted during the year by agreement of the Board and confirmed at the AGM. Trustees must be aged 16 years or older. At least 75% of trustees must be Deaf or Disabled. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no financial benefits from the organisation. New trustees are given induction on their roles and responsibilities and are offered additional training where necessary.

Organisation:
The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets quarterly. The Senior Management Team (SMT) is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the SMT has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment, and operations.

Risk Management:
The Directors have reviewed the risks to which the charity is exposed and maintain a risk register. Risks are ameliorated by the implementation of procedures and policies, with a regular review of these to ensure current good practice.

Objectives and Activities
A summary of the objects as set out in the charity's Governing document.

"To relieve the needs of Disabled persons in Merton and the surrounding areas by providing support and services to enable them to live as full and equal citizens in all aspects of life."

Our Vision: To enable Deaf and Disabled people to take control over their lives and achieve full participation in Merton and wider society.

Our Aims:

- To promote the independence and inclusion of Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- Challenge discrimination facing Deaf and Disabled people in Merton.
- Encourage Deaf and Disabled people and supporters to achieve change locally.

Key Activities:

- Independence and Inclusion: Advice and Advocacy Support covering: Benefits and low income, social care, disability hate crime, health and housing.
- Challenging Discrimination: Hate Crime awareness and prevention work and Disability Hate Crime partnership work with DDPOs across London.
- Achieving Change Locally: Voice Activity including a range of regular groups, events, debates and policy work on key issues affecting local Deaf and Disabled people. Supporting Deaf and Disabled people to speak up.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

Summary of Achievements:

Independence and Inclusion: Our AQS accredited Advice and Advocacy service provided support in 108 cases where people had issues relating to benefits and low income and social care. We supported 206 unique individuals through our casework services, providing nearly 618 sessions of in-depth support. We also supported with information, signposting, guidance, and connection in a further 131 cases. These figures are lower than last year due to the pandemic. Our work throughout the year contributed £370,774 to the local economy. 47% of service users saw increased resilience after using our services.

Challenging Discrimination: We continued to work with Inclusion London and Stay Safe East on the pan-London disability hate crime project. We supported 2 London based DDPOs to build and develop their disability hate crime projects by allocating them 336 hours of dedicated support. We produced and published a disability hate crime toolkit which has been shared with 18 individuals and a number of DDPOs. We delivered a hate crime support session at Craftivism and Chat. This was a space for Deaf and Disabled people to come together get more information about hate crime and where to get support in Merton and speak about their experiences. 40% of Deaf and Disabled people reported feeling safer after using our service.

Achieve Change Locally: We now have 402 members - 313 (78%) are Deaf and Disabled people and 89 (22%) are non-Disabled people who support our work and values. This is a 11% increase from last year. Throughout the year we delivered 12 adapted events including Craftivism and Chat Groups, My Voice Matters our AGM. We engaged with 125 people through events activities and outreach, and another 2634 engaged with us across our social media platforms. Merton CIL also spent 662 hours on policy and strategy work on behalf of Deaf and Disabled people. This figure is lower than last year due to a decrease in capacity for policy work. We continued to ensure that we supported members and service users to speak up around topics like housing, welfare reform, social care and hate crime. We supported Deaf and Disabled People to respond to 6 consultations to

ensure their voices are heard. We conducted extensive social policy work into the treatment of Deaf and Disabled people throughout the pandemic. We also worked closely with Deaf and Disabled members to speak up about access issues around the borough.

In late 2020, we were asked to leave Batsworth Road at short notice. We found office space within Vestry Hall and moved in, in Feb 2021.

Please see our 2020-21 Impact Report for further details of the year's achievements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements. The charity brought forward unrestricted funds of £88,354 and restricted funds of £41,407 from the previous accounting period. During the current accounting period, the net surplus is £19,588 of which there is £15,510 is unrestricted and £4,078 restricted funds. This leaves final balances to carry forward of £103,864 unrestricted and £45,485 restricted balance.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Charity continues to rely on grant applications and fundraising to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the charity is doing. During the year, the Charity's Trustees have monitored the financial position of the organisation to ensure that the charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted, are correctly applied and accounted for.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Throughout 2020/21, we adapted and evolved due to the pandemic and the changing landscape. Emergency funding helped us to fund buying equipment needed to effectively work from home and increase our capacity, sustaining the organisation so that we could continue to provide accessible support to local Deaf and Disabled people.

Over the next year we plan to start work rewriting our strategy. The

pandemic has changed a lot for local Deaf and Disabled people, and we will work to ensure that our work and services meet their current and their evolving needs. The pandemic has pushed us to reconsider how we provide our services. Moving forward we will work towards a hybrid offering which will see us provide appointments and services both face to face and online. The past year has shown us that online appointments and services are more accessible to some Deaf and Disabled people.

Our work around independence and inclusion will broaden to provide support around hate crime, health and housing. During the pandemic we conducted a review of the recommendations we set out in our 2016 disability hate crime report. We found that of a high percentage of our disability hate crime cases were interlinked with housing issues. Over the next year we will work to increase our capacity around housing as there is a high probability there may be a hate crime element to these cases. We will continue to develop our trainee caseworker program that is funded until 2024.

Craftivism & Chat will continue to work with Deaf and Disabled people to speak up about issues affecting our lives in creative ways. We will work to better connect craftivism & chat and strategic and policy work. We believe if our craftivism becomes more strategic, we could get the attention needed to make change happen. The project will also work towards addressing the digital divide and provide support to Deaf and Disabled people with developing digital skills.

Over the next year we also aim to focus on reviewing our digital strategies and engagement with members and supporters. We are keen to increase engagement with Deaf and Disabled people in Merton to inform our work and the wider community with our content online. We have recently developed a communications strategy that we are working to implement.

We will work towards increasing our capacity around volunteering, so that we can support Deaf and Disabled people to build their confidence and get more involved with Merton CIL's work. Increasing volunteer support will also support effective service delivery of advice and advocacy

and craftivism & chat.

Merton CIL's board of trustees decided to move to an innovative co-management structure that saw the 4 members of the skilled senior management team share CEO responsibilities. The structure was under close and constant review and in November 2021, the board decided to move to a streamlined Joint-CEO structure to stabilize management of the organisation. This structure arrangement will be formalised by the end of March 2022, following a probationary period.

We will also see our Chair Roy Benjamin, stand down and become a trustee. Our vice chair and secretary will share the chair position, mirroring the structure within the front-line team and feeding into our plans to provide more routes into leadership for Disabled people.

Our work to sustain our core services will continue. We are using our relationships with funders to explore how we build upon some of the work and services we are already funded to provide based on the new needs of Deaf and Disabled people.

RESERVES POLICY

Merton CIL will maintain sufficient reserves to allow it to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity.

Merton Centre for Independent Living will hold unrestricted funds to meet at least 1 month's running costs and aims towards holding 3 months running costs by 2022. This will enable Merton CIL to provide reliable services over the long term, and to provide a safety net against dramatic swings in income or costs, and sufficient time to replace lost income, through fund raising.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In

company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

---------- Giovanna Vettese (Vice-Chair)

---------- Amanda Edwards (Secretary)

Date: 24th November 2021

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 14 and 15 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently, no opinion is view given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records:
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts apart from that set out below:

Date 28 October 2021

Lesley Cornwell FCCA of Cornwell & Cornwell 194 Stanley Road Teddington TW11 8UE

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021[2a]

	Note	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Incoming Resources	2b				
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	3a	31,533	332,646	364,179	357,624
Voluntary income	3b	8,536	-	8,536	6,171
Other Income	3c	109	-	109	347
Total Incoming Resources		**40,178**	**332,646**	**372,824**	**364,142**
Resources Expended	2c				
Charitable Activities	4d	24,668	320,906	345,574	342,117
Governance Costs	4l	-	7,662	7,662	6,788
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**24,668**	**328,568**	**353,236**	**348,905**
Net Incoming /(Outgoing) Resources		**15,510**	**4,078**	**19,588**	**15,237**
Total Funds Brought Forward	3d	88,354	41,407	129,761	114,524
Total Funds Carried Forward	3e	**103,864**	**45,485**	**149,349**	**129,761**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 16-19 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		206,529	147,466
Debtors and prepayments		8,350	50,081
		214,879	**197,547**
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4k	65,530	67,786
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**149,349**	**129,761**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**149,349**	**129,761**
RESERVES	5		
Unrestricted Funds		103,864	88,354
Restricted Funds		45,485	41,407
TOTAL RESERVES		**149,349**	**129,761**

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of Companies Act 2006.
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors' acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. The financial statements were approved by the Board on 24th November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

---------- **(Giovanna Vettese, Vice-Chair)**

---------- **(Amanda Edwards, Secretary)**

The notes on pages 16-19 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. These Notes form part of the financial statements.

2. **Accounting Policies**

2a Basis of Accounting: The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and in compliance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) ("the SORP").

2b Income: from grants, donations and contributions represents the amounts receivable in respect of the year.

2c Expenditure is recognised in the year in which it is incurred.

2d Fixed Assets should be capitalised and written off over their useful lives on a straight-line basis if their purchase value is over £1,000.

2e Voluntary Help: No amounts have been included in these financial statements to reflect the value of services provided free of charge to the charity by volunteers.

2f Pension Costs and other post-retirement benefits: The Company contributes to NEST on behalf of eligible employees.

3. Income

3a Incoming Resources from Charitable Activity means grants and fees received on the understanding that they will be used to undertake activities to further the charity's objects.

3b Voluntary Income means donations or grants given with no expectation of a specific service in return.

3c Other income is earned interest and funds received for consultation contributions.

3d Funds brought forward means funding retained from 2019-20 for use during 2020-21.

3e Funds carried forward means funding reserved for 2021-22.

3f The organisation has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from producing a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is an exempt entity.

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Charitable Activities				
Henry Smith Charity	3g	-	30,000	30,000
Merton Giving	3h	-	1,350	1,350
MOPAC	3i	-	8,750	8,750
NLCF	3j		163,736	163,736
NLCF – Emergency	3k		10,000	10,000
Trust for London - Hate Crime Evaluation	3l	-	31,000	31,000
Trust for London-SVRR	3m		60,000	60,000
CAF	3n		4,000	4,000
LCR	3o		21,810	21,810
WDN MBS	3p		2,000	2,000
Inclusion London	3q	31,533		31,533
Total Income from Charitable Activities	3a	**31,533**	**332,646**	**364,179**
Voluntary Income	3b	8,536	-	8,536
Other Income	3c	109	-	109
Total Incoming Resources	2b	**40,178**	**332,646**	**372,824**

3g Henry Smith Charity core funding support.
3h Merton Giving funding to support with the adaptation of services during the pandemic.
3i MOPAC funding to deliver hate crime hate crime service from April – August 2020.
3j. National Lottery Community Fund funding for the Advice and Advocacy service, policy work and general running costs.
3k. National Lottery Emergency Funding awarded during the pandemic to fund admin support and inclusion and engagement work.
3l. Trust for London funding for evaluation work in relation to pan London hate crime project.

3m. Trust for London Strengthening Voices Realising Rights funding that funded trainee caseworker program.
3n. Charities Aid Foundation emergency funding to support the Advice & Advocacy service.
3o. London Community Response emergency funding support Merton CIL to adapt during the pandemic.
3p. Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society
3q. Inclusion London 3-year pan-London hate crime prevention partnership program.

4. Expenditure

4a No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year.
4b The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.
4c Salaries and associated costs of £208,047 includes: Salaries and Employers' NIC £182,490, Pensions £10,555, HR Costs £4,650, Other (DBS checks, Travel, Development) £10,352.
The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil.
4d **Costs Allocated to Activities 2021**

	Note	£
Cost of Charitable Activities		
Independence and Inclusion	4e	182,599
Challenging Discrimination	4f	94,414
Achieving Change Locally	4g	68,560
Total Cost of Charitable Activities		**345,574**

4e Independence and Inclusion - Advice and advocacy supports Deaf and Disabled people to resolve issues around benefits and low income, community care and disability hate crime. (In 2021/22, the service began supporting with issues relating to health and housing). It includes early prevention policy work.
4f Challenging Discrimination - Disability Hate Crime awareness and prevention in Merton as well as across London as part of our pan-London

disability hate crime work.
4g Achieve Change Locally - Social policy work, Craftivism and Chat group, events, activities, and consultations with Deaf and Disabled People.
4k Liabilities on balance sheet relates to income received in advance, expenses accrued and accounting fees.
4l Governance costs include accounting and audit costs, Annual General Meeting costs, insurance, trustee expenses.

5. Reserves

These funds have been designated to cover future running costs in the event of lack of funding, in accordance with the reserves policy. According to the business continuity plan £23,600 of reserves is designated to secure immediate business continuity and the Board has approved this to be set aside in a Designated Fund.

		2021		2020
RESERVES	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Designated Funds	23,600		13,600	
General Funds	80,264		74,754	
Unrestricted Funds		103,864		88,354
Restricted Funds		45,485		41,407
TOTAL RESERVES		**149,349**		**129,761**