

THE MARGINS PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1153070

Details

Other names	Union Chapel Project The Margins Project
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-07-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	19B Compton Terrace London N1 2UN
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Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE NEED, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS OF PERSONS WHO ARE IN NEED BY REASON OF THEIR SOCIAL AND/OR ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE WHO ARE FACING HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY, THROUGH A RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDING PROVIDING A SAFE SPACE WHERE THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE AND DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL AND FEEL EMPOWERED TO PROGRESS TOWARDS THEIR RECOVERY.

Activities: The charitable activities of The Margins Project are to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty, through a range of services including providing a safe space where they are encouraged to explore and develop their potential and progress to recovery.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Camden
- Hackney
- Islington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£415,109	£312,955	-	-
2024-03-31	£297,780	£269,707	-	-
2023-03-31	£223,123	£281,370	-	-
2022-03-31	£185,938	£234,640	-	-
2021-03-31	£254,677	£228,820	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kenneth Beech	Chair	2025-10-20
Dr Angela Burnett		2023-04-27
Fajer Qasem		2024-05-30
Rev Catherine Bird		2025-02-13
SIMON CARRUTH		2024-07-15
Sue Lukes		2023-04-27

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England & Wales - Charity number 1153070

Accounts

Charity number: 1153070

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**UNAUDITED TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

Trustees	Ken Beech, Interim Chair (Appointed 20 October 2025) Leon Chng, Chair (Resigned 2 October 2025) Vaughan Jones, Chair (Resigned 11 August 2024) Rev Catherine Bird (Appointed 13 February 2025; interim chair 2 October 2025 to 20 October 2025)) Angela Burnett Simon Carruth (Appointed 15 July 2024) Mark G Jones (Appointed 15 July 2024; resigned 16 December 2025) Sue Lukes Fajer Qasem (Appointed 30 May 2024)
Charity registered number	1153070
Principal Office	19b Compton Terrace London N1 2UN
Independent Examiner	Goodman Jones LLP 1st Floor Arthur Stanley House 40-50 Tottenham Street London W1T 4RN
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc Leicester LE87 2BB
Solicitors	Bates, Wells and Braithwaite LLC 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

The Margins Project – Proudly Serving the Community Since 1992

Established in 1992 and registered as a charity in 2013, The Margins Project exists to support those on the margins of society who are experiencing homelessness and other forms of crisis. For over three decades, it has been at the heart of community life, providing a welcoming, inclusive, and safe space for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Through our core programmes—Drop-in, Advice and Engagement, and Supported Employment—we support individuals and communities facing daily challenges related to housing, poverty, health, and social exclusion.

Margins supports people to realise their potential and improve their quality of life by providing access to nutritious meals; offering advice on housing and welfare issues to help secure temporary and permanent accommodation and prevent eviction; facilitating access to creative engagement activities and physical and mental wellbeing services; and delivering training that leads to meaningful employment or further education, alongside increased confidence and self-esteem.

As Chair of the charity, I am proud to highlight Margins' achievements during the 2024/25 financial year:

- Continued support for over 400 unique individuals, providing access to hot nutritious meals, showers, laundry, and IT facilities twice a week.
- A record number of over 300 guests received tailored advice and support on housing, benefits, and related needs, alongside referrals to specialist agencies.
- The Supported Employment Programme continued to gain recognition from local councils for its impact, with nine trainees completing Stage One and/or Two during the year.
- Ongoing strengthening of The Margins Project's position within Islington's voluntary and community sector partnerships.
- Expanded access to services for more diverse communities, including refugees and asylum seekers.

Margins is a practical, community-connected charity that consistently delivers a high level of support across all its programmes.

I would like to thank the volunteer board of Trustees for their work during the year, particularly Leon Chng (2023-2025) and Minister Cathy Bird for their service as chair. On behalf of the Board may I also thank the staff, trainees and volunteers who work so hard to make the organisation a success and a welcoming place for service users. We thank all our many tireless supporters and stakeholders who have contributed to our achievements, including our generous funders, the Church and Islington Council.

In 2026, we will begin the search for a new Chair to lead the board and drive our strategy. We remain determined to deliver high-quality, cost-effective services to our communities and to continue building on our success. We look forward positively to working closely with all organisations in the Union Chapel family.

Ken Beech

Chair

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

The Trustees present their annual report together with financial statements of the Margins Project for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Principal Aims and Objectives

The Margins Project (Margins) was established in 1992 to help people experiencing injustices and crisis, particularly those who are experiencing homelessness or living in precarious housing conditions. Although the charity helps people from across London, most of the people it supports are from the London Borough of Islington and surrounding boroughs.

In 2013 Margins registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Its charitable objectives are 'to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty, through a range of services including providing a safe space where they are encouraged to explore and develop their potential and progress to recovery'.

Values statement

- **Inclusion:** we strive to support people other agencies do not reach.
- **Personal:** we tailor our work to the individuals we work with, providing in-depth support that has a meaningful positive impact for them
- **Empowerment:** we provide people with the time, tools and opportunities to realise their potential and succeed and to do so at their own pace.
- **Quality:** we are a team of specialists who aim high, because people facing homelessness and social injustices have a right to be supported by experts.
- **Belonging:** we aim to foster conditions where our communities can exercise agency, participate fully, and cultivate a strong sense of belonging within mainstream society.

Vision statement

We are here to support people facing homelessness and social injustice. We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to flourish, realise their potential, and live with dignity and belonging in society.

Mission statement

People facing poverty, homelessness, and social injustice will achieve significant improvements in their wellbeing, economic circumstances, employment prospects, and/or housing situation. They will achieve this through vertically integrated programmes of in-depth activities provided by our Community Drop-in, Advice and Engagement, and Supported Employment Programmes, that are tailored to enhance personal development, maximise income, access housing support, and engage with wider group of communities.

We aim to support our service users to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increase quality of life through accessing better nutritious food, hygiene and safety, access to temporary or permanent accommodation, and the prevention of eviction.
- Improve physical and/or mental health and well-being.
- Improve economic circumstances through access to benefits and employment.
- Improve life skills and employability skills.
- Improve confidence and self-esteem
- Improve links and engagement with mainstream society.

We achieve this by delivering a coordinated range of programmes and services designed to promote a welcoming space of empowerment and long-term inclusion:

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

Community Drop-in Programme:

Provides a warm, welcoming, and inclusive space where guests can enjoy nutritious hot meals and access to essential facilities, including showers, laundry, clothing, and emergency hardship support. The programme operates twice weekly and offers immediate relief alongside pathways to further support.

Advice and Advocacy Programme:

Provides guests with an initial assessment and tailored guidance on housing, benefits, and related support needs. The programme also facilitates referrals to specialist agencies for health care, debt management, immigration advice, and domestic abuse support, ensuring individuals can access the right help at the right time.

Community Engagement Programme:

Delivers inclusive and empowering creative workshops—such as poetry, drama, and acting—in collaboration with external partners. These activities support well-being, self-expression, and confidence-building, helping participants strengthen their sense of belonging and community connection.

Supported Employment Programme:

Offers practical training in catering for individuals who have experienced homelessness and wish to develop new skills, build confidence, and prepare for employment or further training. In addition to hands-on experience, participants receive complementary support in areas such as CV development, job search skills, and workplace readiness.

Public Benefit

In shaping the objectives and planning activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The Trustees ensure that all activities are in accordance with the equal opportunities policy of The Margins Project and consider the accessibility to its venues for those on low incomes by offering free and/or low-cost activities, onsite and remotely.

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work within the last twelve months. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought in, to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The report also helps the Trustees ensure that the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

Summary Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

- Continued support to over 402 unique individuals with access to nutritious hot meals, shower, laundry and IT facilities twice a week.
- Record number of guests getting tailored advice and support on housing, benefits, and related support needs, alongside referrals to specialist agencies
- Supported Employment Programme continues to get recognition by the local councils for its potential to help vulnerable communities that the council works with. We had 9 trainees go through stage one and/or two in this financial year.
- Continued to entrench The Margins Project Islington's vibrant Voluntary and Community partnership.
- Closer working relationship with Union Chapel Directions (UCD) to underscore and promote the role creative activities to support vulnerable people and communities,

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

- Opening Margins' services to wider and more diverse communities, reflecting the make-up of our society, including refugees and asylum seekers
- Strengthening and further developing good relationships with local statutory, voluntary and corporate organisations and funders.
- Featuring The Margins Project and its activities on local and local and national social mediums, such as on The Big Issu and BBC Radio2.

Community Support and Development Programmes

Margins' four vertically integrated community programmes provide a range of support for people facing homelessness, isolation, and social injustice. Together, they address immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs—helping individuals progress from crisis to stability, growth, and belonging.

Our programmes include:

- **Community Drop-in Programme:** offering a warm, welcoming space with nutritious meals, showers, laundry facilities, and emergency hardship support.
- **Advice and Information Service:** providing tailored advice on housing, benefits, and related support needs, alongside referrals to specialist agencies.
- **Engagement Programme:** creating opportunities for creativity and craftsmanship through inclusive workshops that build confidence, connection, and wellbeing.
- **Supported Employment Programme:** offering structured catering training that helps participants develop confidence, transferable skills, and readiness for employment or further training.

As we continue to embed these programmes into our organisational ethos and culture, Margins strives to empower our communities to gain confidence to seek and advocate for the support they need—without feeling excluded from mainstream society. During this reporting period, the number of guests using our services has continued to rise. Attendance at each drop-in session averaged 72 people, compared to 65 last year. This increase reflects growing needs due to:

- The ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis.
- legacy of transitioning from benefits to Universal Credit.
- Rising awareness of The Margins Project as a key Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partner of Islington Council.
- The appeal of our professionally prepared, nutritious meals.
- Strong reputation for effective and trust on most of our services.
- The success of our Supported Employment Programme
- A welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages engagement and participation

Recognition of Margins as a safe and supportive space where people can find respite from hardship and isolation.

Margins delivered three blocks of drama and poetry activities in collaboration with Islington People's Theatre. Each block consisted of eight workshops, offering guests creative opportunities for expression, confidence-building, and connection.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

We also provided regular IT support and digital skills training on Monday afternoons from November 2024 to March 2025, helping guests build essential IT and digital skills for communication, and day-to-day life.

In partnership with Union Chapel Church, we offered a free haircut service on Tuesday afternoons for over 8 months, as well as dancing activities. These service, though simple, continues to have a meaningful impact—helping restore dignity, wellbeing, and confidence among our guests.

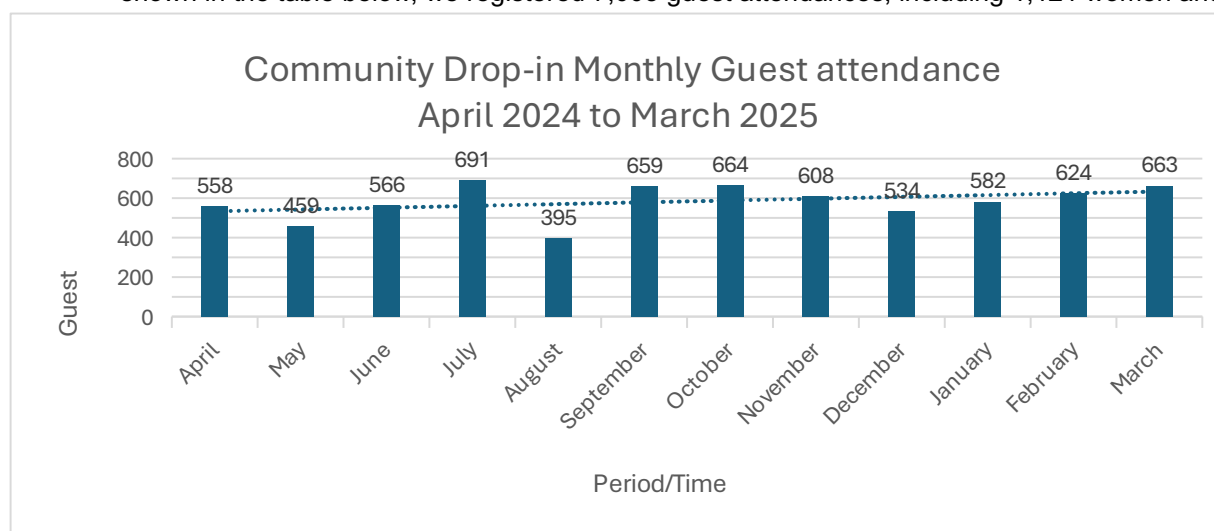
A. Community Drop-in Services Programme

The Community Drop-in Programme continued to provide essential frontline support to over 400 people, offering nutritious hot meals, access to showers, laundry, and IT facilities, as well as emergency housing and welfare benefits advice. Guests also had the opportunity to participate in kitchen-based training activities, supporting both skill development and community engagement.

Working collaboratively with the Advice & Engagement and Supported Employment programmes, the Drop-in Programme has ensured that guests receive coordinated, holistic support under one roof. Demand for services has more than doubled over the past three years, reflecting both the growing local need and the success of this integrated delivery model.

Key achievements during the reporting period include:

- Throughout the period, we continued to offer warm, nutritious meals and desserts to everyone who came through our doors. Alongside this, we estimate that more than 14,000 cups of tea and coffee were served—small moments of comfort that mean a great deal to our guests. As shown in the table below, we registered 7,003 guest attendances, including 1,121 women and



216 individuals visiting for the first time. Our facilities have remained a vital lifeline; clients accessed showers on 981 occasions and used the laundry service 71 times. None of these would have been possible without our 16 dedicated volunteers, whose generosity of time represents the equivalent of 615 volunteer sessions. The chart above highlights the average monthly attendance.

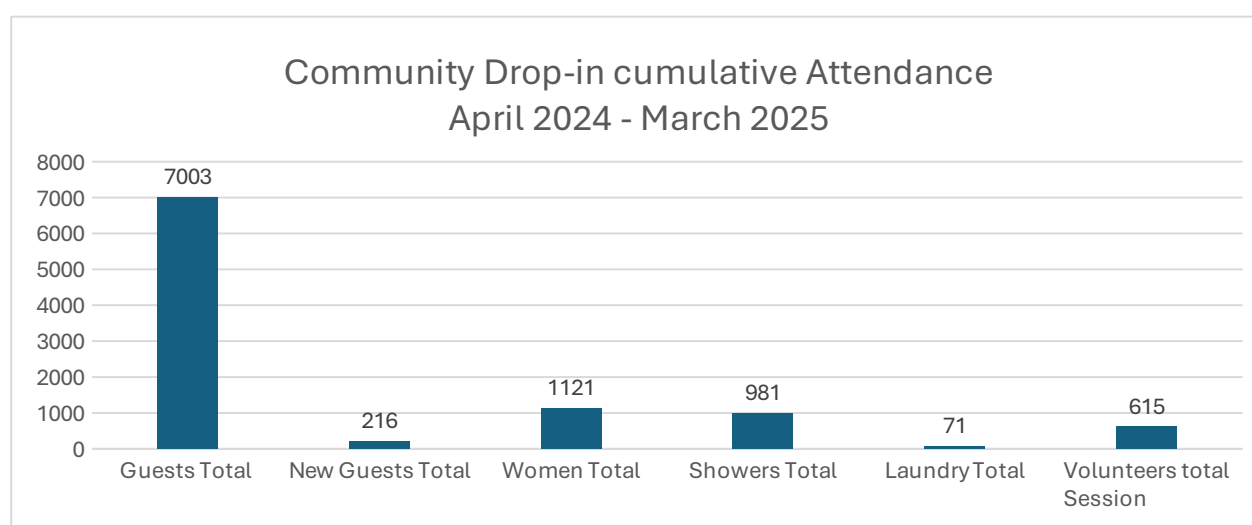
- Ensured smooth, timely referrals to in-house advice and engagement worker, helping guests access essential support around housing, welfare, and wider needs.
- Sustained the provision of laundry and shower facilities, as well as occasional access to IT, and to haircut services whenever a barber is available—small but meaningful supports that help restore dignity and confidence.

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- Provided ongoing hands-on learning opportunities for participants in the Supported Employment Programme, giving trainees invaluable real-world experience in catering for vulnerable and marginalised communities.
- Maintained strong volunteer involvement, with 5–7 volunteers supporting each drop-in session, offering not just practical help but warmth, welcome, and consistency.
- Endeavouring to have a more structured guest feedback process, ensuring that the voices of those we serve directly shape future service design and quality improvements.
- Developed enhanced demographic and attendance monitoring systems to improve the accuracy of our data, deepen our understanding of guest needs, and strengthen our ability to measure impact.



Advice and Engagement Programme

Our Advice and Engagement Programme experienced a substantial and sustained increase in demand during the reporting period. A significant proportion of this increase came from newly granted refugees seeking advice, advocacy and practical support as they navigated their new status and associated rights.

While the programme continues to prioritise individuals in acute or urgent need, the overall demand for advice and casework has become overwhelming. We offer support by telephone, email and text, but most of our advice is delivered through face-to-face appointments, as this approach is far more suitable and effective for most of our guests. Where appropriate, individuals are also signposted to specialist services for further or more complex assistance.

Over the reporting period, the programme experienced a marked rise in requests for financial assistance to meet basic needs—an indication of how deep and entrenched the cost-of-living crisis has become for many of our guests. This ongoing demand has been further compounded by the increasing number of asylum seekers seeking our support, including those staying in Home Office contingency hotels in Islington, as well as newly recognised refugees who have recently been granted status but are residing outside the borough. Together, these pressures have placed significant additional strain on our advice and engagement activities.

During the year, the Advice Engagement programme delivered the following outcomes:

- 309 unique advice and group engagements, averaging 78 per quarter.
- 387 face-to-face appointments, averaging 97 per quarter.
- 145 newly registered guests, averaging 37 per quarter.

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- Over 70 individuals supported with hardship support directly linked to the cost-of-living crisis.
- An increase of 26% in individuals seeking general benefits and housing advice.

The advice and engagement programme is devising a system to collect feedback that will inform how Margins can best prioritise the delivery of its services and strengthen opportunities for guest participation in shaping and implementing these services.

Activity summary table, April 2024 to March 2025

Activity	Numbers/info	Notes/description
Drop-in and food takeaway		
Total number of unique visitors this year	423	highest number ever recorded
Total number of separate visits this year	7003	The highest number ever recorded.
Advice and support		
Total number of advice and engagement sessions	309 Advice sessions	Highest number recorded
Number of people supported this year	309	• Advocacy by Benefit Advisor • Universal Credit Support • Cloudesley fund • General Benefit Advice given. • Housing Issues • Streetlink referral • Applied for benefits. • Applied for PIP • Benefit assessment pending • Food Bank • Signposted for mental health support. • Signposted to Law centre. • Housing options • Referred into 3rd Party employment. • Signposted to Immigration specialist. • Successful Benefit application • Drug and alcohol referral • Housing review

Margins delivered three blocks of drama and poetry activities in collaboration with Islington People's Theatre. Each block consisted of eight workshops, offering guests creative opportunities for expression, confidence-building, and connection.

We also provided regular IT support and digital skills training on Monday afternoons from November 2024 to March 2025, helping guests build essential skills for communication and day-to-

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

day life.

In partnership with Union Chapel Church, we offered a free haircut service on Tuesday afternoons for over 8 months, as well as dancing activities. These service, though simple, continues to have a meaningful impact—helping restore dignity, wellbeing, and confidence among our guests.

Supported Employment Programme

Margins intensive Supported Employment Programme, which includes tailored job-search support, worked with nine trainees. Referrals came from a range of organisations, including Union Chapel Church, though the majority this year came from the council. The referral pattern from the council proved challenging, as many of the candidates were not yet ready to progress into employment or further training. Consequently, we have returned to accepting referrals from organisations able to clearly identify individuals who would benefit from our programme, including Hillside Clubhouse, St Giles, as well as through internal referrals.

Three trainees successfully completed both Stage One and Stage Two of the programme, with one securing paid employment in a restaurant in addition to developing practical skills in food preparation, hygiene and safety, budgeting, healthy eating, customer service, and employability.

In 2024/25, a total of 13 people applied for the programme. Of these, nine trainees were enrolled and registered for trial periods. Their progress over the year is summarised below:

- One trainee withdrew during Stage One, as they required a level of support beyond what Margins can provide. In agreement with their referring agency, they were supported to access a more appropriate programme elsewhere.
- Two trainees withdrew during Stage Two, choosing — with Margins' support — to move into structured volunteering opportunities that offer the additional guidance they need.
- Two trainees remain in Stage Two and are progressing well.
- Two trainees have completed the programme and continue to engage positively with us.
- One trainee successfully secured employment.
- One trainee, although having completed the programme, continues to receive additional support and now contributes actively by providing peer support to newly enrolled trainees.

Supported Employment Programme Trainees					
	April- June 2024	July -Sept 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Total 2024- 25
Applied/Registered	3	3	4	3	13
Trialled	3	3	3	3	9
Graduated	3	3	1	3	5
Employed/further training/volunteering	0	1	1	1	3
Moved without graduation	0	0	0	1	2

External partners and links with service activities

Margins has continued to work, link and liaise closely with various organisations and groups throughout the year:

- Bright Lives Practitioners Forum
- Cloudesley
- Cross Islington Coordination Call
- Cubitt Artists
- Employability Practitioners' Network
- Forward Trust
- Gender Informed Women's Survey – a Pilot project
- Islington Homelessness Prevention Forum
- Islington People's Theatre
- Islington Together
- Islington Voluntary, Faith & Social Enterprise Sector
- London Homelessness Foundation - London Homelessness Award; Policy discussion
- Manor Gardens Centre

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Google – Local Food Summit• Govia Thameslink Railway• Help On Your Doorstep (HOYD)• Hillside Clubhouse, volunteer referral and advice on mental health• Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeper Forum• Islington Borough of Sanctuary Team• Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants• Islington Food Partnership – structured regular catch up on food poverty in the borough• Islington Hate Crime Forum | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mary's – the charity arm of St Mary's Islington – community development network• NHS, Whittington Hospital outreach team• Pret A Manger – funding support and training• The Felix Foundation• The Manna, St Stephens Church• The Passage and the Upper Room – employability in hospitality• Voluntary Action Islington |
|---|--|

Margins continued to organise events and collaborates with partners to enhance community engagement, including:

- Hosting and collaborating with Islington People's Theatre to deliver weekly community engagement workshops.
- Participating in and taking a leading role in Islington Food Partnership meetings, contributing significantly as a member of the coordinating group.

Margins also facilitated a range of partner visits and activities:

- Four visits by the Council's Rough Sleepers Outreach Team to Margins drop-in services.
- Monthly visits from Islington Library to replenish Margins' book library/collection.
- NHS Trust doctors and nurses visiting Margins services on second Wednesday of a month.
- Supporting the Complex Need Navigators from Islington to conduct a survey on homelessness affecting women, as part of the Council's Gender-Informed research.
- Distributing Islington Council Cost of Living crisis information leaflets and providing referrals to associated workshops.

Donation point

Our communities continue to be generous, and we encourage people to donate items, such as toiletries, underwear, socks, canned vegetables, but not large and bulky items such as bedding, jackets and trousers due to the lack of capacity within the organisation to manage these items. We have added online Wishlist of donation through Amazon, which has been very successful

The Felix Project have continued the delivery donations of fresh food every Monday, and we continue collecting fresh food from our regular two local businesses - Budgens and Belle Epoque - on drop-in days, Mondays and Wednesdays.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

Demography of service users and attendance											
	April - June 2024		July - September 2024		Oct - Dec 2024		Jan - Mar 2025		TOTAL April 2024 - March 2025		TOTAL April 2023 - March 2024
Total unique users	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% where known	Number	% where known	Number	% Increase since n-1	Number
Drop-ins	185		227		313		369		423	58%	268
Advice Service	136		127		233		282		309	26%	245
Total unique users											
New Guests											
Drop-ins	33	18%	42	19%	86	27%	56	15%	54	18%	
Advice Service	11	8%	44	35%	50	21%	49	17%	39	21%	
Advice and Engagement											
Gender											
Male	109	80%	102	80%	218	94%	251	89%	170	80%	
Female	27	20%	25	20%	15	6%	31	11%	25	20%	
Age											
20 -	1	1%	2	2%	2	1%	8	3%	3	1%	
21-30	52	38%	24	19%	71	30%	73	26%	55	29%	
31-40	27	20%	36	28%	47	20%	93	33%	51	24%	
41-50	12	9%	15	12%	67	29%	54	19%	37	10%	
51-60	22	16%	8	6%	31	13%	17	6%	20	11%	
61+	22	16%	42	33%	15	6%	37	13%	25	25%	
Unknown											
Ethnicity											
White											
British or Irish	46	34%	28	22%	16	7%	31	11%	30	28%	
Other white											
EU nationals	12	9%	16	13%	42	18%	23	8%	23	11%	
Romanian/white other					5	2%	11	4%	8		
Mixed/multiple ethnicity											
White and Black Caribbean	4	3%	6	5%					5	4%	
Asian/Asian British											
Indian	3	2%	3	2%	2	1%	3	1%	3	2%	
Pakistani	1	1%	1	1%	5	2%	4	1%	3	1%	
Bangladeshi	1	1%	2	2%	4	2%	3	1%	3	1%	
Chinese	1	1%		0%	6	3%	6	2%	4		
Sri Lanka		0%	1	1%	1	0%	1	0%	1		
Blank/African/Caribbean/Black British											
African	17	13%	24	19%	44	19%	71	25%	39	16%	
Caribbean											
Black British	13	10%	19	15%	30	13%	65	23%	24	12%	

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

Demography of service users and attendance (continued)											
	April - June 2024		July - September 2024		Oct - Dec 2024		Jan - Mar 2025		TOTAL April 2024 -		TOTAL April 2023 -
Total unique users	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% where known	Number	% where known	Number	% Increase since n-1	Number
Housing											
Homeless	53	39%	51	40%	121	52%	152	54%	94	40%	
Permanent Housing	37	27%	41	32%	58	25%	59	21%	49	30%	
Temporary Accommodation	43	32%	31	24%	47	20%	59	21%	45	28%	
Unknown	3	2%	4	3%	7	3%	11	4%	6	3%	
Disability											
Mental Health	47	35%	58	46%	135	58%	144	51%	96	40%	
Physical ill health	15	11%	26	20%	37	16%	39	14%	29	16%	
Both mental & Physical ill health	40	29%	21	17%	30	13%	34	12%	31	23%	
Substance misuse/dependency	23	17%	14	11%	16	7%	48	17%	25	14%	
None	5	4%	4	3%	8	3%	11	4%	7	3%	
Unknown	6	4%	4	3%	7	3%	6	2%	6	4%	
Borough											
Islington	88	65%	79	62%	165	71%	192	68%	131	63%	
Camden	19	14%	8	6%	19	8%	25	9%	18	10%	
Enfield	5	4%	5	4%	5	2%	6	2%	5	4%	
Hackney	11	8%	12	9%	12	5%	17	6%	13	9%	
Haringey	4	3%	6	5%	9	4%	17	6%	9	4%	
Kensington & Chelsea			1	1%	2	1%	3	1%	2	1%	
Tower Hamlets	4	3%	5	4%	5	2%	6	2%	5	3%	
Other	3	2%	8	6%	12	5%	14	5%	9	4%	
Unknown	2	1%	3	2%	5	2%	3	1%	3	2%	
Referred from											
Islington Council	36	26%	32	25%	42	18%	64.86	23%	44	26%	
JobCentre Plus	6	4%	7	6%	7	3%	5.64	2%	6	5%	
Margins Drop Ins	41	30%	32	25%	107	46%	121.26	43%	75	28%	
Online	8	6%	6	5%	9	4%	5.64	2%	7	5%	
Self-Referral	9	7%	8	6%	9	4%	14.1	5%	10	6%	
Word of Mouth	20	15%	25	20%	28	12%	31.02	11%	26	17%	
Third-party organisation	12	9%	15	12%	23	10%	33.84	12%	21	10%	
Unknown	4	3%	2	2%	7	3%	5.64	2%	5	2%	
Appointment Type											
In-person	105	77%	114	90%	221	95%	271	96%	178	83%	
Remote	31	23%	13	10%	12	5%	11	4%	17	17%	
Mixed											

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

Plans for the Future

In the coming year, Margins will continue to play a significant role in supporting communities whose lives are made precarious by the current economic and political policy framework.

~~We will prioritise work with:~~

- People homeless or vulnerable to homelessness, because of insecure or inadequate housing, and domestic abuse
- Refugees, asylum seekers, including survivors of trafficking and people with no recourse to public funds
- People experiencing mental ill health, through prolonged duress, stress, depression, diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions
- People with inadequate income for their daily needs, who benefit from material help such as a hot meal
- People who need to acquire new skills including English language and vocational skills to advance within this society and be able to secure a place within the labour market
- Recognising the intersectionality with ethnicity, gender, sexuality, abilities within these groups

Our intention is to continue to be a welcoming space in which people affected by society's injustices are enabled and supported by providing:

- practical help in the form of nutritious meals, clothing, showers, laundry;
- activities which encourage creativity, awareness raising, and mental and physical wellbeing.
- training that leads to employment and social integration, and language skills (in partnership with Union Chapel Church).
- advice on benefits, access to housing, housing repairs, and signposting to immigration advice services; and
- hardship intervention, as and when needed.

We will address the social policy issues which disproportionately disadvantage many of our communities by:

- advocating with our beneficiaries in resolving bureaucratic problems;
- publicising our work in a manner which adds dignity to our beneficiaries and highlights the inequalities and injustices which they experience; and
- participating in the wider voluntary sector campaigns and forums.

The impact of our work will be felt by our service users as they build relationships of mutual support, are enabled to access employment and/or further training, improve their well-being, and participate in the wider community.

Financial Review

Summary

Overall, Margins reported a surplus of £102,154 for the financial year compared with a surplus of £28,073 for 2024. Income increased by 39% to £415,109, while costs rose by 16% to £312,955. This is partly due to inflationary pressures but partly due to increased overheads as detailed below under the Expenditure heading.

Of the surplus, £22,781 has been carried forward as restricted reserves while £79,373 has been added to unrestricted reserves.

Net funds at 31 March 2025 were £133,241, of which £46,781 was restricted funds and £86,460 was unrestricted.

Income

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

Income for the period was £415,109 (2024: £297,780) of which £345,081 (2024: £233,206) was from donations and legacies, and £70,025 (2024: £64,285) from charitable activities.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled £312,955 against £269,707 for 2024, an increase of 16%. The organisation was impacted by inflation in areas such as energy and food, the overall cost increase was also due to filling staff vacancies.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Reserves policy

Margins' reserves policy reflects the organisation's objective of striking a balance between the need for financial stability and the ambition to expand the range of services offered. This year reserves have been restored to a stronger level to ensure sustainability whilst working to develop a new strategy and associated funding model. Margins' policy is to maintain reserves sufficient to cover six months' unavoidable costs.

At 31 March 2025, unrestricted funds, of which reserves form a part, were reported as £86,460. This represents:

	£
Designated fixed assets reserve	4,964
Other unrestricted reserves	<u>81,496</u>
Total	<u><u>86,460</u></u>

Fundraising Approach

Margins' approach to fundraising is to be transparent, clear and friendly. We currently use personnel employed by Union Chapel Project. Occasionally, we do engage with third party fundraisers or commercial operators and with online providers such as *justgiving.com* and *crowdfunder.com*. We fundraise for activities and services within Margins' aims and objectives.

Our main fundraising activities are through formal applications to Trusts and Foundations, corporate supporters and statutory bodies. We also receive donations from individuals, mainly generated through our website, or through ticket sales and donations at fundraising events. The fundraising team, in liaison with the head of Margins, is responsible for managing all donated funds and reporting where required. The head of Margins, along with the Board of Trustees, reviews fundraising income, expenditure and procedures on a quarterly basis while the fundraising strategy is reviewed annually.

Margins is independently registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abides by its Code of Practice.

Margins has received no complaints about its fundraising activities. However, to ensure that vulnerable people are protected, it has adopted guidance from the Institute of Fundraising's guide, *Treating Donors Fairly – Fundraising with People in Vulnerable Circumstances*.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Margins Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity registration no:1153070), registered on 25 July 2013. It is governed by a constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable organisation.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

Margins is one of the four sister organisations based in Union Chapel in Islington:

- Union Chapel Project (UCP) (Charity No. 1010166, Company No. 02583801)
- Union Chapel Directions (UCD) (Company No. 03047257)
- Union Chapel Church (Charity No. 1172808)

UCP is the founding member and currently the sole member of Margins, and UCD is a trading subsidiary of UCP. There is much co-operation between the three organisations to mutual benefit. UCP provides support services for Margins including amongst other areas HR, Finance, Fundraising and premises. Previously UCP has provided financial support and letters of support for Margins finances.

The UCP family of organisations also share a number of relevant policies.

Margins is governed by its Board of Trustees, two of whom are nominated from the UCP. The Board of Margins oversees and directs the aims and objectives of The Margins Project.

Organisation

The Board meets four times each year, or more frequently if required. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic objectives of the organisation and to review the charity's annual budget and operational plan.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, there should be between four (minimum) and nine (maximum) Trustees. Two of these Trustees are nominated by UCP, with the remainder being elected. When considering new Trustees, the Board has regard both to the organisation's need for any specialist skills and to the diversity of the Board's membership.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the CIO. Any expenses reclaimed from the CIO are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an orientation process to meet key staff and other Trustees. An information pack is provided that includes the Charity's Constitution, most recent statutory and management accounts, the business plan and organisational chart, along with signposting to Charity Commission guidance on the role and responsibilities of Trustees.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events, where these will facilitate their own development and undertaking of their role.

Employees

Day to day management and operations of the CIO are delegated to its paid staff with specific responsibility for activities within the building.

Margins strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less than favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Selection criteria and procedures are reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated based on their relevant merits and abilities. Equal opportunities data is collected to review and ensure recruitment processes are engaging with diverse applicants, and particularly applicants with protected characteristics or underrepresented in the organisation or sector, and to inform the shortlisting process to ensure applicants at interview stage represent the diversity of applications received. Diversity reviews are undertaken to ensure the Margins Project and Union Chapel are improving the representation of our local communities across the organisation; retaining staff, casuals, volunteers and Trustees/directors from diverse backgrounds; and improving our

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Continued)

procedures, culture, engagement, development and approach to diversity, equality and representation.

Salaries are reviewed on an annual basis by the Finance and Remuneration Sub-Committee. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation.

Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the risk management strategy for the organisation. A comprehensive review of risks and opportunities is carried out annually by the Trustees and the staff are responsible for overseeing and mitigating risks throughout the year.

Currently, the key risks facing the CIO are financial sustainability, staff capacity and safeguarding. Some of the measures taken to mitigate these risks are the following:

- Staff capacity is under ongoing review
- Robust adult and child safeguarding policies, and an established training plan to ensure all staff and volunteers have the necessary understanding to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns with Margins' client group which includes people who are at risk of harm or abuse
- Plans in place to manage service capacity (up to a realistic maximum capacity) in response to increased demand arising from the cost-of-living crisis and other factors
- Monitoring by the Margins Board along with the management and development team to ensure funding (grants awarded and donations) is sufficient to ensure the continuation of the service and financial stability

Therefore, the Trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the risks identified

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Beech
(Chair of Trustees)
Date:

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THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable incorporated organisation and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable incorporated organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable incorporated organisation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable incorporated organisation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable incorporated organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Beech
(Chair of Trustees)
Date:

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Margins Project ('the charitable incorporated organisation')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable incorporated organisation for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the charitable incorporated organisation you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charitable incorporated organisation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the charitable incorporated organisation's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charitable incorporated organisation has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable incorporated organisation as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

THE MARGINS PROJECT**(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)****INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

This report is made solely to the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable incorporated organisation and the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

Julian Flitter

Dated:

FCA

Julian Flitter

Goodman Jones LLP

1st Floor Arthur Stanley House

40-50 Tottenham Street

London

W1T 4RN

THE MARGINS PROJECT**(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

		2025			2024
	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	100,104	244,977	345,081	233,206
Charitable activities	4	70,025	-	70,025	64,285
Investments		3	-	3	289
Total. Income		170,132	244,977	415,109	297,780
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		24,553	-	24,553	19,550
Charitable activities	5	56,828	231,574	288,402	250,157
Total expenditure		81,381	231,574	312,955	269,707
Net movement in funds		88,751	13,403	102,154	28,073
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds at beginning of year		7,087	24,000	31,087	3,014
Net movement in funds		88,751	13,403	102,154	28,073
Transfer		(9,378)	9,378	-	-
Total funds at end of year		86,460	46,781	133,241	31,087

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 22 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARGINS PROJECT**(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Not e	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	9		4,964		959
Current Assets					
Stocks	10	1,000		1,000	
Debtors	11	1,376		1,255	
Cash at bank and in hand		251,746		155,964	
		254,122		158,219	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(125,845)		(128,091)	
Net current assets			128,277		30,128
Total net assets			133,241		31,087
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	13		46,781		24,000
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	13	4,964		959	
General funds	13	81,496		6,128	
Total unrestricted funds			86,460		7,087
Total funds			133,241		31,087

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Beech
(Chair of Trustees)

Date:

The notes on pages 22 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

1. General information

The Margins Project is a charitable incorporated organisation ("CIO") registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales under charity number 1153070. The main activities of the charity are to provide services to relieve need, hardship and distress for people in need as a result of social and / or economic circumstances. The registered office is 19b Compton Terrace, Islington, London N1 2UN.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The Margins Project meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charitable incorporated organisation to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charitable incorporated organisation's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charitable incorporated organisation; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition are included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% Straight Line
-----------------------	---	-------------------

2.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the CIO anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Financial instruments

The CIO only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable incorporated organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

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

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

Core	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Various other donations	85,104	1,167	86,270
Union Chapel Church		4,192	4,192
The Hadley Trust	15,000		15,000
Albert Hunt Trust		7,000	7,000
Cloudesley		35,000	35,000
Henry Smith Foundation		27,083	27,083
London Borough of Islington		25,000	25,000
Oak Foundation		36,000	36,000
Total	100,104	135,442	219,268
Supported Employment			
Govia Thameslink Railway Ltd		20,000	20,000
Streets Of London		15,000	15,000
Total	-	35,000	35,000
Crisis Service - Housing and Benefits Advisor			
Slaughter and May Charitable Trust		34,667	34,667
Total	-	34,667	34,667
Crisis Service - Drop in Service			
Islington Giving		20,000	20,000
Tides Foundation		18,722	18,722
Total	-	38,722	38,722
Hardship Fund			
Cloudesley		1,146	1,146
Total	-	1,146	1,146
Total for 2025	100,104	244,977	345,081

4. Charitable Income

Charitable income in both the year ended 31 March 2025 and the comparative period comprises proceeds from catering services provide by The Margins Project kitchen team and Supported Employment programme participants.

5.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

5. Analysis of charitable expenditure by activities

	2025			
	Supported Employment	Crisis Service	Support costs	Total
Staff costs	80,353	74,786	10,368	165,507
Cost of sales	29,756	29,774	1,781	61,311
Services costs	7,825	7,845	15,089	30,759
Premises costs	10,408	10,921	6,184	29,509
Other costs	372	372	572	1,316
	<u>128,714</u>	<u>123,698</u>	<u>33,994</u>	<u>288,402</u>
Allocation of support costs	17,335	16,659	(33,994)	-
	<u>146,049</u>	<u>140,357</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>288,402</u>

	2024			
	Supported Employment	Crisis Service	Support costs	Total
Staff costs	95,808	49,205	10,058	155,071
Cost of sales	35,554	17,080	-	52,634
Services costs	5,191	5,691	10,798	21,680
Premises costs	4,350	4,558	4,115	13,023
Other costs	814	2,104	4,831	7,749
	<u>141,717</u>	<u>78,638</u>	<u>29,802</u>	<u>250,157</u>
Allocation of support costs	19,166	10,636	(29,802)	-
	<u>160,883</u>	<u>89,274</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,157</u>

The comparative figures have been restated to conform to the current year's basis of presentation.

6. Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £2,100 (2024 £3,000).

7. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	149,629	141,865
Social security costs	12,886	10,967
Pension contributions	2,992	2,239
	<u>165,507</u>	<u>155,071</u>

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

7. Staff Costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the charitable incorporated organisation during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Total employees	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £46,800 (2024: £45,432).

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024: £Nil). During the year, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £Nil).

9. Tangible fixed assets

Fixtures and fittings	Cost or valuation	Depreciation	Net book amount
	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	14,000	(13,041)	959
Additions	6,000		6,000
Depreciation		(1,995)	(1,995)
At 31 March 2025	<u>20,000</u>	<u>(15,036)</u>	<u>4,964</u>

10. Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Goods for resale	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	<u>1,376</u>	<u>1,255</u>
	<u>1,376</u>	<u>1,255</u>

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Creditors amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,224	9,514
Amounts owed to group undertakings	91,712	89,205
Other taxation and social security	5,218	4,511
Other creditors	688	444
Accruals and deferred income	18,004	24,417
	<u>125,846</u>	<u>128,091</u>

13. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated funds	959	-	-	4,005	4,964
General funds	6,128	170,132	81,381	(13,383)	81,496
Total unrestricted funds	<u>7,087</u>	<u>170,132</u>	<u>81,381</u>	<u>(9,378)</u>	<u>86,460</u>
Restricted funds					
Supported employment	12,000	35,000	106,879	71,879	12,000
Crisis service	12,000	74,535	124,695	67,358	29,198
Margins - general	-	135,442	-	(129,859)	5,583
Total restricted funds	<u>24,000</u>	<u>244,977</u>	<u>231,574</u>	<u>9,378</u>	<u>46,781</u>
Total funds	<u>31,087</u>	<u>415,109</u>	<u>312,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>133,241</u>

Purposes of restricted funds

Crisis Services

Grants and donations in kind received towards the running of the Drop-In services and Advice Service.

Supported Employment Programme

Grants received towards the running of the Supported Employment programme.

Margins – Core

A number of funders provide grants which are restricted only in so far as they refer to Margins' core costs. These funds are applied as allowed by the respective agreements. In the financial statements, Margins core costs and other costs related to the Supported Employment and Crisis Service activities are allocated to those activities based on their respective use. The Margins' core restricted income is allocated to those activities to cover both direct and allocated costs and appropriate transfers are made.

THE MARGINS PROJECT**(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

13. Statement of funds (continued)**Transfers**

An amount of £4,005 of general funds was moved to designated funds equal to the increase in fixed assets, while £9,378 was applied to the Supported Employment programme to supplement the restricted funds.

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated funds	-	-	-	959	959
General funds	3,014	109,174	105,101	(959)	6,128
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,014</u>	<u>109,174</u>	<u>105,101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,087</u>
Restricted funds					
Supported employment	-	105,134	93,134	-	12,000
Crisis service	-	83,472	71,472	-	12,000
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>188,606</u>	<u>164,606</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,000</u>
Total funds	<u>3,014</u>	<u>297,780</u>	<u>269,707</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,087</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,964	-	4,964
Current assets	190,841	63,281	254,122
Creditors due within one year	(109,346)	(16,500)	(125,846)
Total	<u>86,460</u>	<u>46,781</u>	<u>133,241</u>

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	959	-	959
Current assets	134,219	24,000	158,219
Creditors due within one year	(128,091)	-	(128,091)
Total	<u>7,087</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>31,087</u>

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

15. Pension commitments

The Margins Project operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund. At 31 March 2025, contributions of £668 (2024: £444) were payable to the fund and are included in creditors.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1153070

Accounts

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE INCORPORATED
ORGANISATION, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Trustees	Vaughan Jones, Chair (resigned 31 August 2024) Angela Burnett, Trustee (appointed 27 April 2023) Leon Chng, Chair (appointed 16 November 2023) Sue Lukes, Trustee (appointed 27 April 2023) Fajer Qasem, Trustee (appointed 30 May 2024) Mark Glanville Jones, Trustee (appointed 15 July 2024) Simon Carruth, Trustee (appointed 15 July 2024) Jean Appleyard, Trustee (resigned 23 April 2024)
Charity registered number	1153070
Principal office	19b Compton Terrace London N1 2UN
Independent examiner	Julian Flitter Goodman Jones LLP 1st Floor Arthur Stanley House 40-50 Tottenham Street London W1T 4RN
Bankers	Barclays Bank 38 Islington Green London N1 8EH
Solicitors	Bates, Wells and Braithwaite London LLP 2-6 Cannon Street London EC1 6YH

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the The Margins Project for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Principal Aims and Objectives

The Margins Project (Margins) was established by the Union Chapel in 1992 to help people experiencing injustices and crisis, particularly those who are experiencing homelessness or living in precarious housing conditions. The charity, although it helps people from across London, primarily supports people from the London Borough of Islington and surrounding boroughs.

In 2013 Margins was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Its charitable objectives are 'to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty, through a range of services including providing a safe space where they are encouraged to explore and develop their potential and progress to recovery'.

Values Statement

- Inclusion: we strive to support people other agencies do not reach.
- Personal: we tailor our work to the individuals we work with, providing in-depth support that has a meaningful impact for them
- Empowerment: we provide people with the time, tools and opportunities to realise their potential and succeed and to do so at their own pace.
- Quality: we are a team of specialists who aim high, because people facing homelessness and social injustices have a right to be supported by experts.
- Belonging: we strive for our communities to be their own agencies and create an atmosphere of their own belonging in mainstream society.

Vision Statement

We are here for people facing homelessness and social injustice. We believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to flourish, realise their potential and find a place of dignity in society.

Mission Statement

People facing poverty, homelessness, and social injustice will achieve significant improvements in their wellbeing, economic circumstances, employment prospects, and/or housing situation. They will achieve this through vertically integrated programmes of in-depth activities provided by our Community Drop-in, Advice and Engagement, and Supported Employment Programmes, which are tailored to enhance personal development, maximise income, access housing support, and engage with wider group of communities.

We aim to support our service users to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increase quality of life through better shelter, food, hygiene and safety, access to temporary or permanent accommodation, and the prevention of eviction.
- Improve physical and/or mental health and well-being.
- Improve economic circumstances through access to benefits and employment.
- Improve life skills and employability skills.
- Improve confidence and self-esteem
- Improve links and engagement with mainstream society.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

We do this by providing the following services:

- A community drop-in programme of services twice a week, offering communities nutritious hot meals, warm space, access to showers, laundry and clothing, hardship support, and emergency packs.
- Advice programme: services of advice on housing and benefits where all newcomers receive an initial assessment to work on each of their cases, primarily on housing and benefits, with referrals to specialist agencies including to health services, debt management advice, immigration advice and domestic violence support services.
- Community engagement programme to provide practical empowering support as well as creative workshops that ameliorate one's well-being and mitigate isolation.
- A Supported Employment Programme, catering for guests visiting our community drop-in programme and for audiences joining Union Chapel events in the Margins Café. This programme also provides ancillary support such as CV writing and job-search.

Public Benefit

In shaping the objectives and planning activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The Trustees ensure that all activities are in accordance with the equal opportunities policy of The Margins Project and consider the accessibility of the chapel to those on low incomes by offering free and low-cost activities, onsite and remotely.

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work within the last twelve months. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought in, to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The report also helps the Trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

Summary Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

- Continued support to over 400 unique individuals with access to nutritious hot meals, shower, laundry and IT facilities twice a week.
- Supported Employment Programme going from strength to strength getting recognition by the local councils for its potential to help vulnerable communities.
- Establishing The Margins Project as a strategic ally and contributor to Islington's vibrant Voluntary and Community partnership.
- Closer working relationship with Union Chapel Directions (UCD) to underscore and promote the central role Union Chapel plays in supporting the most vulnerable communities in our society,
- Opening Margins' services to wider and more diverse communities, reflecting the make-up of our society, including newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers
- Strengthening and further developing good relationships with local statutory, voluntary and corporate organisations and funders.
- Featuring The Margins Project and its activities on national radio and newspapers, local newspapers, and social media.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

Community Support and Development Programmes

Margins' four vertically integrated community programmes support and provide our communities with: -

- a warm and welcoming space through our **community drop-in programme**.
- an advice and information service through our **advice programme**.
- a space of creativity and craftsmanship through our **engagement programme**; and
- a training scheme to help people develop confidence and self-esteem, potentially leading to employment and/or to further training through our **supported employment programme**.

Addressing the immediate, intermediate and long-term support needs, these integrated community programmes continue to take people through a journey of support, advice and engagement, and training to a destiny of belonging in our society. As we assert and strengthen this journey of community work and its fundamental values into our working culture, we empower our communities to have confidence to engage with and to seek pertinent support without people feeling themselves as outsiders from mainstream society. All Margins programmes: community drop-in programme, Supported Employment Programme, and Advice and Engagement programme, have provided an inclusive and engaging service throughout the year.

The number of guests (service users) using our services have continued to increase during this reporting period. Attendance per drop-in service averaged 65, very much higher than last year's 58 average. This drastic increase is for several reasons, including:

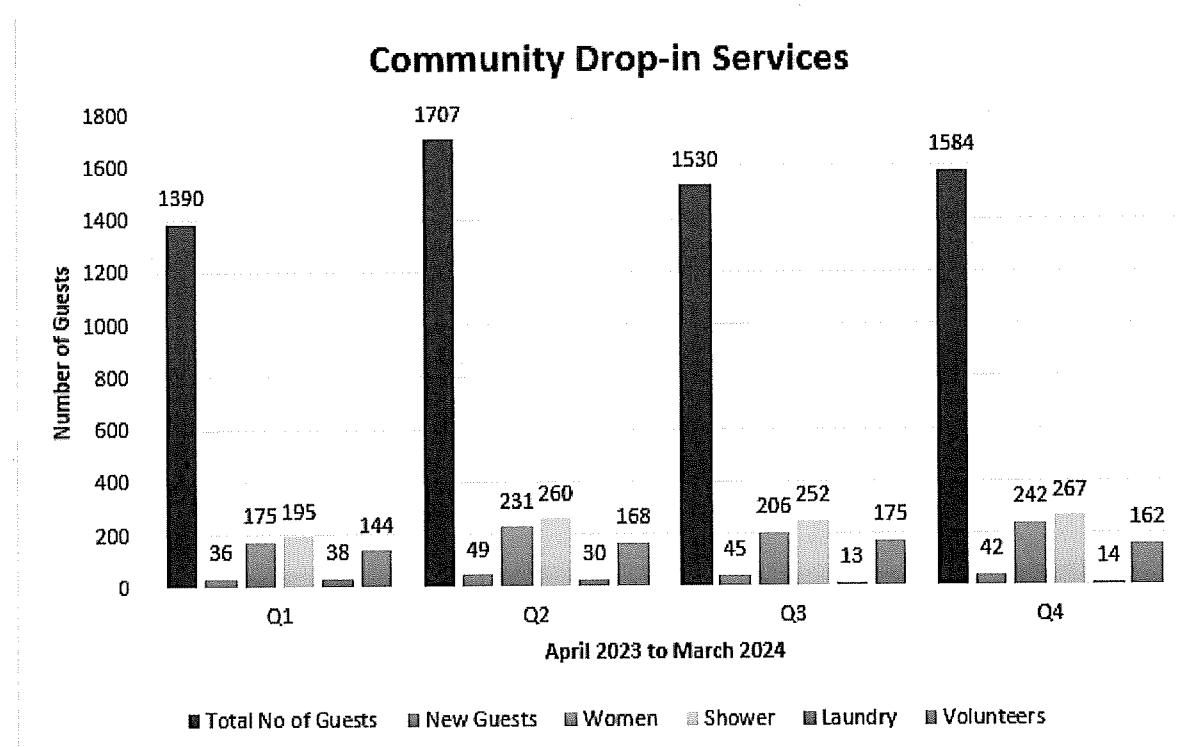
- A sequence of more people needing our support following the pandemic.
- Cost-of-living crisis continues to bite.
- Many people transitioning from legacy benefits onto Universal Credit
- Increase of awareness about The Margins Project and its role as one of the major Voluntary and Community Partners with Islington Council.
- The provision and service of professionally prepared nutritious hot meal to the community.
- Recognition and respect of our excellent advice service.
- The positive impact of the Supported Employment Programme on guests coupled with acknowledgement by many of its effectiveness in guiding guests to move forward.
- The welcoming atmosphere we have created to help people to engage, to contribute and to participate in the delivery of services.
- Acknowledgement that Margins is a safe place where many people in our communities feel safe and can have reprieve from the impacts and challenges of cold weather and isolation.

A Drop-in services programme

The community drop-in programme continued to offer to over 275 individuals hot nutritious meals, access to showers, laundry, and IT facilities; access to emergency housing/benefit advice; and the opportunity to engage in the kitchen training programmes. Working collaboratively and seamlessly with the Advice & Engagement and Supported Employment programmes, this programme has seen the needs for its services double over the last two years. This collaborative work has given our guests readily accessible services under one roof. These are some of the achievements during this period:

- Continued offering over 6,181 nutritious hot meals and desserts, and over 12000 cups of tea/coffee.
- Whenever further support on housing and/or welfare benefits is needed, the programme has provided seamless access to our inhouse advice and engagement service.
- Continued to offer access to IT, laundry and shower facilities.
- Continued providing trainees to engage with drop-in service and learn the art of catering for vulnerable communities.
- Maintained the number of volunteers, with at least 6-7 volunteers during drop-in session.
- Started gathering feedback about Margins services from guests to help Margins develop appropriate services going forward.
- Started to develop more in-depth demographic and attendance information for the service

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



Advice and Engagement Programme

Ever since the advice and engagement programme became a full-time service two years ago, demands for its services have increased dramatically. The programme, ensuring those in extreme crisis are always prioritised, provided in-person, telephone and email advice, and where necessary it signposts individuals to relevant support services. The programme also saw a significant increase in individuals requesting financial support. This sustained demand plus more and more asylum seekers resident in the two Home Office contingency hotels in Islington gaining their refugees status have added extra demand from our advice engagement services. The programme provided the following services over the period:

- A total of 212 unique advice and group engagements, averaging 53 unique registered every quarter
- A total of 351 face-to-face appointments, averaging 87 a quarter
- A total of 46 newly registered guests, averaging 11 a quarter
- Over 160 referrals to a Food Bank, an increase of 40%, as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis as told by guests, and new guests
- Over 75 supported on travel and utility top up, an increase of 39%, as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis as told by guests
- An 89% increase in people seeking general benefit advice, largely due to cost-of-living payments and eligibility queries, and new refugees
- 145 guests receive hardship support from Cloudesley's hardship fund to support guests and trainees with expenses such as travel, emergency food, emergency accommodation, furniture, electricity/gas, mobile top-ups, cutlery, and bedding
- We continue gathering feedback on how Margins can prioritise the services of the advice and engagement programme and how guests can participate in the delivery of the services

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

Activity summary table, April 2023 to March 2024

Activity	Numbers/info	Notes/description
Drop-in and food takeaway		
Total number of visitors this year	275	April 2023 to March 2024
Total number of separate visits this year	6,181	The highest number ever recorded.
Total people supported.	3,500 estimated (double counting apply)	An estimate
Advice and support		
Total number of advice sessions April 2023 to March 2024	440 Advice sessions	Highest number recorded
Number of people supported this year	232	• Advocacy by Benefit Advisor • Universal Credit Support • Cloudesley fund • General Benefit Advice given. • Housing Issues • Streetlink referral • Applied for benefits. • Applied for PIP • Benefit assessment pending • Food Bank • Signposted for mental health support. • Signposted to Law centre. • Housing options • Referred into 3rd Party employment. • Signposted to Immigration specialist. • Successful Benefit application • Drug and alcohol referral • Housing review
Number of hardship payments	145	

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

Supported Employment Programme

Our intensive Supported Employment Programme, with ancillary job search support has continued uninterrupted. We have had referrals from a wide range of organisations, including Hillside Club House but increasingly from Islington Council and Job Centre Plus. Three trainees completed the programme (Stages One and Two) and one was offered a job in a restaurant. In addition to learning food preparation, hygiene and safety, budgeting, healthy eating, customer service skills, employability, and job search skills, trainees also gain level 2/3 food hygiene accreditation (certificated).

In 2023/24 we had 9 people registered for the programme. Of these 9 trainees:

- One trainee withdrew in **Stage ONE** for they have needed more support than Margins can provide them with. It was this agreed with their referring agency to find them an alternative supporting scheme elsewhere.
- One trainee withdrew in **Stage TWO** for they have moved on with Margins' help to a suitable volunteering opportunity where they will have and get additional support.
- Three graduated and gained employment – in a bakery shop, in a school and in a charity respectively, and a fourth is volunteering with various charities, including Margins.
- Two trainees are still in **Stage TWO** of the programme and are progressing well.
- One trainee, although already completed the programme, has needed more support, so they are still in the programme to provide peer support to newly registered candidates and to provide themselves with additional support.

Supported Employment Programme Trainees					
	April - June 2023	July - Sept 2023	Oct - Dec 2023	Jan - March 2024	TOTAL Y3 2023-2024
Registered	4	2	2	1	9
Trialled	4	2	2	1	9
Graduated	2	0	3	0	5
Employed/further training	2	0	2	0	4
Moved without graduation	0	0	1	1	2

External partners and links with service activities

Margins has continued to work, link and liaise closely with various organisations and groups throughout the year:

- London Housing Foundation – supported employment programme
- Groundswell to support Margins guests with health support needs
- Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeper Forum
- Islington Food Partnership – regular catch up on food poverty in the borough
- Manor Gardens Centre

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

- Mary's – the charity arm of St Mary's Islington – community development network
- Pret A Manger – funding support and training
- Help on Your Doorstep
- Islington Council – funding support and monitoring
- Hillside Clubhouse, volunteer referral and advice on mental health
- NHS, Whittington Hospital outreach nurse
- The Manna, St Stephens Church
- The Passage and the Upper Room – employability in hospitality
- Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
- The Felix Foundation
- Royal Holloway University
- Cloudesley

Margins continued organising events for and with partners, including:

- Hosting, facilitating, and running weekly community engagement workshops in the lower Hall for eight weeks
- Two information and discussion sessions on the cost-of-living crisis for Margins guests
- Several events of the Islington Food partnership, for which Margins played a significant role as a member of the coordinating body.

Margins also facilitated the following:

- Visit from Rough Sleepers Outreach Team to drop-in services on a Wednesdays once a month.
- Islington Library attended Margins drop-in services and donated a selection of free books regularly.
- NHS Trust mental health nurse to occasionally attend and to visit Margins services as and when needed
- Public Health Strategist from Camden and Islington Public Health compiled a survey with guests to update the Camden and Islington Food Poverty Needs Assessment. Report expected to come out soon.
- Attendance from Islington's Complex Needs Navigator to conduct a survey with guests around homelessness affecting women
- Islington Council's Cost of Living crisis Information leaflets given out as well referral to workshops on cost-of-living crisis

Donation point

Our communities continue to be generous, and we encourage people to donate items, such as toiletries, underwear, socks, canned vegetables, but not large and bulky items such as bedding, jackets and trousers due to the lack of capacity within the organisation to manage these items.

The Felix Project have continued the delivery donations of fresh food every Monday, and we continue collecting fresh food from two local businesses - Budgens and Belle Epoque - on Mondays and Wednesdays.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

Demography of service users and attendance for advice and drop-in services										
	April - June 2023		July - Sept 2023		Oct - Dec 2023		Jan - March 2024		TOTAL Y3 2023-2024	
Total unique users	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Increase from last year
Community Drop-ins	150		130		151		152		275	
Advice & Engagement	95		125		165		173		196	
Total unique users									410	
Drop-ins - average	69	50%	59	45%	64	42%	68	45%	65	46%
Advice Service										
Advice Service	48	51%	35	28%	40	24%	25	14%	37	29%
Gender										
Male	65	68%	85	65%	110	116%	120	96%	95	86%
Female	30	32%	40	35%	55	58%	53	42%	45	42%
Age										
20 -	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%
21-30	7	4%	8	6%	13	14%	27	22%	14	11%
31-40	19	12%	27	22%	37	39%	31	25%	29	24%
41-50	25	15%	35	28%	45	47%	49	39%	39	32%
51-60	27	16%	32	26%	42	44%	39	31%	35	29%
61+	6	4%	8	6%	8	8%	6	5%	7	6%
Unknown	11	7%	14	11%	19	20%	20	16%	16	13%
Ethnicity										
White										
British or Irish	29	31%	40	32%	56	59%	45	36%	43	39%
Other white			10	8%					10	8%
EU nationals	8	8%			20	21%	18	14%	15	14%
Romanian	1	1%							1	1%
Other ethnicities										
White and Black Caribbean	9	9%	9	7%	11	12%	13	10%	11	9%

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

Ethnicity										
Asian										
Indian	2	2%	2	2%	3	3%	3	2%	3	2%
Pakistani	1	1%					1	1%	1	1%
Demography of service users and attendance for advice and drop-in services										
	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Increase from last year
Bangladeshi							3	2%		
Chinese							1	1%		
Sri Lanka	1	1%					1	1%	1	1%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British										
African	7	7%	15	12%	25	26%	26	21%	18	17%
Caribbean										
Black British	13	14%	13	10%	20	21%	21	17%	17	15%
Arab	7	7%	10	8%	10	11%	6	5%	8	8%
Another ethnic group	5	5%	5	4%	10	11%	16	13%	9	8%
Ethnicity unknown	13	14%	21	17%	10	11%	19	15%	16	14%
Housing Situation										
Homeless	19	20%	28	23%	36	38%	38	30%	30	28%
Permanent Housing	33	35%	38	30%	46	48%	52	42%	42	39%
Temporary Accommodation	20	21%	31	25%	42	44%	44	35%	34	31%
Unknown	23	24%	27	21%	41	43%	39	31%	33	30%
Health Situation										
Mental Health	22	23%	29	23%	40	42%	43	34%	34	31%
Physical ill health	6	6%	6	5%	20	21%	25	20%	14	13%
Both mental & Physical ill health	19	20%	29	23%	40	42%	41	33%	32	29%
Substance misuse/dependency	7	7%	10	8%	15	16%	14	11%	12	10%
None	14	15%	17	14%	10	11%	9	7%	13	12%
Unknown	27	28%	34	27%	40	42%	41	33%	36	32%
Borough of Residence										
Islington	61	64%	80	64%	95	100%	107	86%	86	78%
Camden	8	8%	8	6%	10	11%	17	14%	11	10%
Enfield	1	1%	1	1%	2	2%	3	2%	2	2%
Hackney	5	5%	8	6%	15	16%	8	6%	9	8%
Haringey	7	7%	10	8%	20	21%	18	14%	14	13%
Kensington & Chelsea	1	1%							1	1%
Tower Hamlets	2	2%	6	5%	10	11%	11	9%	7	7%
Other	3	3%	4	3%	5	5%	4	3%	4	4%

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

Demography of service users and attendance for advice and drop-in services										
Unknown	9	9%	8	6%	8	8%	5	4%	8	7%
Referred From	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Increase from last year
Islington Council	11	12%	18	14%	23	24%	23	18%	19	17%
JobCentre Plus	8	8%	11	9%	16	17%	6	5%	10	10%
Margins Drop Ins	25	26%	35	28%	40	42%	77	62%	44	39%
Online	8	8%	6	5%	10	11%			8	8%
Self-Referral	1	1%	1	1%	5	5%	14	11%	5	5%
Word of Mouth	17	18%	23	18%	35	37%	32	26%	27	25%
Third-party organisation	9	9%	11	9%	11	12%	1	1%	8	8%
Unknown	16	17%	20	16%	25	26%	20	16%	20	19%
In-person	36	38%	49	38%	124	131%	114	91%	81	86%
Remote	36	38%	8	14%	41	43%	59	47%	36	36%
Mixed	23	24%							23	24%

Plans for the Future

In the coming year, Margins will continue to play a significant role in supporting communities whose lives are made precarious by the current economic and political policy framework.

We will prioritise work with:

- People homeless or vulnerable to homelessness, because of insecure or inadequate housing, and domestic abuse
- Refugees, asylum seekers, including survivors of trafficking and people with no recourse to public funds
- People experiencing mental ill health, through prolonged duress, stress, depression, diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions
- People with inadequate income for their daily needs, who benefit from material help such as a hot meal
- People who need to acquire new skills including English language and vocational skills to advance within this society and be able to secure a place within the labour market
- Recognising the intersectionality with ethnicity, gender, sexuality, abilities within these groups

Our intention is to be a welcoming space in which people affected by society's injustices are enabled and supported by providing:

- practical help in the form of nutritious meals, clothing, showers, laundry;
- activities which encourage creativity, awareness raising, and mental and physical wellbeing;
- training and language skills leading to employment and social integration;
- advice on benefits, signposting to immigration advice, access to housing, housing repairs; and
- crisis intervention, when needed, in mental health

We will address the social policy issues which disproportionately disadvantage some local communities by:

- advocating with our beneficiaries in resolving bureaucratic problems;
- publicising our work in a manner which adds dignity to our beneficiaries and highlights the inequalities and injustices which they experience; and
- participating in the wider not-for-profit sector campaigns and forums

The impact of our work will be felt by beneficiaries as they build relationships of mutual support, are enabled to access employment, improve their physical and mental well-being, participate in the wider community.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

Financial review

Summary

Overall, Margins reported a surplus of £28,073 for the financial year compared with a loss of £58,247 for 2023. Income increased by 33% to £297,780, while costs have fallen by 4% to £269,707. This is due to lower salary costs as detailed below under the Expenditure heading.

Of the surplus, £24,000 has been carried forward as restricted reserves while £4,073 has been added to unrestricted reserves.

Net funds at 31 March 2024 were £31,087, of which £24,000 was restricted funds and £7,087 was unrestricted.

Income

Income for the period was £297,780 (2023: £223,123) of which £233,206 (2023: £173,093) was from donations and legacies, and £64,285 (2023: £49,947) from charitable activities.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled £269,707 against £281,370 for 2023, a reduction of 4%. Although the organisation continued to be impacted by inflation the overall costs were reduced, in part due to staff vacancies.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Reserves policy

Margins' reserves policy reflects the organisation's objective of striking a balance between the need for financial stability and the ambition to expand the range of services offered. This year and for the next few years the focus of attention is to restore reserves to a prudent level to ensure sustainability whilst working to develop a new strategy and associated funding model.

At 31 March 2024, unrestricted funds, of which reserves form a part, were reported as £7,087. This represents:

	£
Designated fixed assets reserve	959
Other unrestricted reserves	6,128
Total	7,087

Fundraising Approach

Margins' approach to fundraising is to be transparent, clear and friendly. We currently use personnel employed by Union Chapel Project. Occasionally, we do engage with third party fundraisers or commercial operators and with online providers such as justgiving.com and crowdfunder.com. We fundraise for activities and services within Margins' aims and objectives.

Our main fundraising activities are through formal applications to Trusts and Foundations, corporate supporters and statutory bodies. We also receive donations from individuals, mainly generated through our website, or /and donations at fundraising events.

The fundraising team, in liaison with the head of Margins, is responsible for managing all donated funds and reporting where required. The head of Margins, along with the Board of Trustees, reviews fundraising income,

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

expenditure and procedures on a quarterly basis while the fundraising strategy is reviewed annually.

Margins is independently registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abides by its Code of Practice. Margins has received no complaints about its fundraising activities. However, to ensure that vulnerable people are protected, it has adopted guidance from the Institute of Fundraising's guide, Treating Donors Fairly – Fundraising with People in Vulnerable Circumstances.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Margins Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity registration no:1153070), registered on 25 July 2013. It is governed by a constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable organisation.

Margins is one of the four organisations based in Union Chapel in Islington, the other three being:

- Union Chapel Project (UCP) (Charity no. 1010166, Company no.02583801)
- Union Chapel Directions (UCD) (Company no 03047257)
- Union Chapel Church (Charity no1172808)

Margins is governed by its Board of Trustees, two of whom are nominated from the UCP. The Board of Margins oversees and directs the aims and objectives of The Margins Project.

Organisation

The Board meets four times each year, or more frequently if required. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic objectives of the organisation and to review the charity's annual budget and operational plan.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, there should be between four (minimum) and nine (maximum) Trustees. Two of these Trustees are nominated by UCP, with the remainder being elected. When considering new trustees, the Board has regard both to the organisation's need for any specialist skills and to the diversity of the Board's membership.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the CIO. Any expenses reclaimed from the CIO are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an orientation process to meet key staff and other trustees. An information pack is provided that includes the Charity's Constitution, most recent statutory and management accounts, the business plan and organisational chart, along with signposting to Charity Commission guidance on the role and responsibilities of trustees.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events, where these will facilitate their own development and undertaking of their role.

Employees

Day to day management and operations of the CIO are delegated to its paid staff through the Head of Margins with specific responsibility for activities.

Margins strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less than favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Selection criteria and procedures are reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated based on their relevant merits and abilities. Equal opportunities data is collected to review and ensure recruitment processes are engaging with diverse applicants, and particularly applicants with protected characteristics or underrepresented in the organisation or sector, and to inform the shortlisting process to

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

ensure applicants at interview stage represent the diversity of applications received. Diversity reviews are undertaken to ensure the Margins Project and Union Chapel are improving the representation of our local communities across the organisation; retaining staff, casuals, volunteers and trustees from diverse backgrounds; and, improving procedures, culture, engagement, development and approach to diversity, equality and representation.

Salaries are reviewed on an annual basis by Union Chapel's Finance and Remuneration Sub-Committee of which The Margins Project is represented along with all the organisations in Union Chapel. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risk management strategy for the organisation. A comprehensive review of risks and opportunities is carried out annually by the trustees and the staff are responsible for overseeing and mitigating risks throughout the year.

Currently, the key risks facing the charity are financial sustainability, staff capacity and safeguarding. Some of the measures taken to mitigate these risks are the following:

- Staff capacity is under ongoing review
- Robust vulnerable adult and child safeguarding policies, and an established training plan to ensure all staff and volunteers have the necessary understanding to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns with Margins' client group which includes people who are at risk of harm or abuse
- Plans in place to manage service capacity (up to a realistic maximum capacity) in response to increased demand arising from the cost-of-living crisis and other factors
- Monitoring by the Margins Board to ensure funding (grants awarded and donations) is sufficient to ensure the continuation of the service and financial stability

Therefore, the trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the risks identified.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

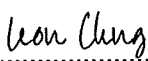
Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable incorporated organisation and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable incorporated organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable incorporated organisation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable incorporated organisation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable incorporated organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


.....

Leon Chng
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 30-01-25

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Margins Project ('the charitable incorporated organisation')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable incorporated organisation for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the charitable incorporated organisation you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charitable incorporated organisation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the charitable incorporated organisation's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charitable incorporated organisation has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable incorporated organisation as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

This report is made solely to the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable incorporated organisation and the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

Julian Flitter



Dated: 30-01-25

FCA

Julian Flitter

Goodman Jones LLP
1st Floor Arthur Stanley House
40-50 Tottenham Street
London
W1T 4RN

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	44,600	188,606	233,206	173,093
Charitable activities	4	64,285	-	64,285	49,947
Investments	5	289	-	289	83
Total income		109,174	188,606	297,780	223,123
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		19,550	-	19,550	19,904
Charitable activities	6	85,551	164,606	250,157	261,466
Total expenditure		105,101	164,606	269,707	281,370
Net movement in funds		4,073	24,000	28,073	(58,247)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,014	-	3,014	61,261
Net movement in funds		4,073	24,000	28,073	(58,247)
Total funds carried forward		7,087	24,000	31,087	3,014

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

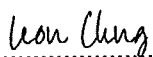
The notes on pages 20 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	959	2,588
		<u>959</u>	<u>2,588</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	11	1,000	-
Debtors	12	1,255	27,384
Cash at bank and in hand		155,964	137,427
		<u>158,219</u>	<u>164,811</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(128,091)	(164,385)
Net current assets		<u>30,128</u>	<u>426</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>31,087</u></u>	<u><u>3,014</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	24,000	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	14	959	-
General funds	14	6,128	3,014
		<u>7,087</u>	<u>3,014</u>
Total unrestricted funds	14	<u>7,087</u>	<u>3,014</u>
Total funds		<u><u>31,087</u></u>	<u><u>3,014</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Leon Chng
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 30-01-25

The notes on pages 20 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. General information

The Margins Project is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales under charity number 1153070. The main activities of the charity are to provide services to relieve need, hardship and distress for people in need as a result of social and / or economic circumstances. The registered office is 19b Compton Terrace, Islington, London N1 2UN.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Margins Project meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the group's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charitable incorporated organisation has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charitable incorporated organisation to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charitable incorporated organisation's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charitable incorporated organisation; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition are included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% Straight Line
-----------------------	---	-------------------

2.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charitable incorporated organisation anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Financial instruments

The charitable incorporated organisation only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable incorporated organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

Core	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Charitable Aid Foundation	21,129		21,129
Bentley Motors Ltd	500		500
The Grace Trust	1,000		1,000
Union Chapel Church	4,604		4,604
The Allan Charitable Trust	2,000		2,000
Slaughter and May Charitable Trust	1,200		1,200
The Mount Fund		5,000	5,000
Cloudsley		1,951	1,951
London Housing Foundation		7,500	7,500
Albert Hunt Trust		7,000	7,000
The Henry Smith Charity		10,417	10,417
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust		6,000	6,000
London Borough of Islington		15,000	15,000
Oak Foundation		36,000	36,000
Linbury Trust		5,000	5,000
Other donations	14,167	12,833	27,000
Total	44,600	106,701	
Supported Employment - Chefs			
Cloudsley		4,905	4,905
Total	-	4,905	
Supported Employment - Trainee Chefs			
The Henry Smith Charity		12,500	12,500
Total	-	12,500	
Supported Employment - Head Chef			
Cloudsley		10,000	10,000
Total	-	10,000	
Crisis Service - Housing and Benefits Advisor			
Slaughter and May Charitable Trust		29,333	29,333
Cloudsley		1,000	1,000
Total	-	30,333	

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

3. Income from Donations and Legacies (continued)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Crisis Service - Drop in Service Food			
Cloudsley		17,500	17,500
Total	-	17,500	
Crisis services - Hardship Fund			
Islington Giving		6,667	6,667
	-	6,667	
Total for 2024	44,600	188,606	233,206

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from charitable activities	64,285	64,285

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from charitable activities	49,947	49,947

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	289	289

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

5. Investment income (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Investment income	83	83

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Supported Employment	107,641	54,193	161,834
Crisis Services	46,172	42,151	88,323
Total 2024	153,813	96,344	250,157

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Supported Employment	82,896	36,722	119,618
Crisis Services	75,240	66,608	141,848
Total 2023	158,136	103,330	261,466

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Supported employment Programme 2024 £	Crisis service 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	75,633	29,041	104,674
Other direct costs	32,008	17,131	49,139
Total 2024	107,641	46,172	153,813

	<i>Supported Employment Programme 2023 £</i>	<i>Crisis service 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	60,153	42,527	102,680
Other direct costs	22,743	32,713	55,456
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>82,896</i>	<i>75,240</i>	<i>158,136</i>

Analysis of support costs

	Supported employment programme 2024 £	Crisis service 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	28,287	22,000	50,287
Services	10,324	8,031	18,355
Other	8,256	6,422	14,678
Premises	7,326	5,698	13,024
Total 2024	54,193	42,151	96,344

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs (continued)

	<i>Supported Employment Programme 2023 £</i>	<i>Crisis service 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	31,952	49,349	81,301
Services	1,848	7,070	8,918
Other	1,634	5,683	7,317
Premises	1,288	4,507	5,795
Total 2023	36,722	66,609	103,331

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £3,000 (2023 - £2,500).

8. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	141,855	163,382
Social security costs	10,867	16,393
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,239	4,206
	154,961	183,981

The average number of persons employed by the charitable incorporated organisation during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Total employees	8	11

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

8. Staff costs (continued)

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £49,147 (2023:£47,925).

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023: £Nil).

During the year, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £Nil).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2023	16,900
Disposals	(2,900)
At 31 March 2024	14,000
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2023	14,312
Charge for the year	1,629
On disposals	(2,900)
At 31 March 2024	13,041
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	959
At 31 March 2023	2,588

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. Stocks

	2024	2023
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,000	-
	<u><u>1,000</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

12. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	1,255	1,269
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	23,471
Other debtors	-	2,644
	<u><u>1,255</u></u>	<u><u>27,384</u></u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	9,514	4,799
Amounts owed to group undertakings	89,205	143,554
Other taxation and social security	4,511	6,595
Other creditors	444	6,937
Accruals and deferred income	24,417	2,500
	<u><u>128,091</u></u>	<u><u>164,385</u></u>

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Fixed asset fund	-	-	-	959	959
General funds					
General Funds - all funds	3,014	109,174	(105,101)	(959)	6,128
Total Unrestricted funds	3,014	109,174	(105,101)	-	7,087
Restricted funds					
Supported Employment	-	105,134	(93,134)	-	12,000
Crisis Services	-	83,472	(71,472)	-	12,000
	-	188,606	(164,606)	-	24,000
Total of funds	3,014	297,780	(269,707)	-	31,087

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	61,261	95,623	(111,141)	(42,729)	3,014
Restricted funds					
Core	-	15,500	(15,500)	-	-
Margins Manager	-	15,000	(49,029)	34,029	-
Supported Employment	-	51,875	(60,575)	8,700	-
Crisis Services	-	45,125	(45,125)	-	-
	-	127,500	(170,229)	42,729	-
Total of funds	61,261	223,123	(281,370)	-	3,014

Purposes of restricted funds

Crisis Services

Grants and donations in kind received towards the running of the Drop In services and Winternight shelter.

Supported Employment Programme

Grants received towards the running of the supported employment programme

Margins Manager

Grants and donations received relating to funding management of The Margins Project

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	959	-	959
Current assets	134,219	24,000	158,219
Creditors due within one year	(128,091)	-	(128,091)
Total	7,087	24,000	31,087

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	2,588	2,588
Current assets	164,811	164,811
Creditors due within one year	(164,385)	(164,385)
Total	3,014	3,014

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16. Pension commitments

The Margins Project operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund. At the balance sheet date contributions of £444 (2023: £460) were payable to the fund and are included in creditors.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1153070

Accounts

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE INCORPORATED
ORGANISATION, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Charity registered number	1153070
Registered office	19B Compton Terrace London N1 2UN
Trustees	Vaughan Jones (Chair) Jean Appleyard Angela Burnett (appointed 27 April 2023) Leon Chng (appointed 16 November 2023) Kathryn Dixon (resigned 27 April 2023) Sue Lukes (appointed 27 April 2023) Fazil Kawani (appointed 20 July 2023) Thomas Linton-Smith (resigned 22 November 2022)
Independent examiner	Julian Flitter 29/30 Fitzroy Square London W1T 6LQ
Bankers	Barclays Bank Highbury Corner Branch 2 Highbury Corner London N5 1RE
Solicitors	Bates, Wells and Braithwaite London LLP 2-6 Cannon Street London EC1 6YH

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the The Margins Project for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

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

2. Principal Aims and Objectives

The Margins Project (Margins) was established by the Union Chapel in 1995 to help people experiencing injustices and crisis, particularly those who are experiencing homelessness or living in precarious housing conditions. The charity primarily supports people from the London Borough of Islington and surrounding boroughs although it helps people from across London.

In 2013 Margins was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Its' charitable objectives are to provide a range of services 'to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty'.

Values statement

- Inclusion: we strive to support people whom other agencies do not
- Personal: we tailor our work to the individuals we work with, providing in-depth support that has a meaningful impact for them
- Empowerment: we provide people with the time, tools and opportunities to realise their potential and succeed in their own right
- Quality: we are a team of specialists who aim high, because people facing homelessness have a right to be supported by experts

Vision statement

We are here for people facing homelessness. We believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to flourish and realise their potential, and find a place of dignity in society.

Mission statement

People facing homelessness will achieve significant improvements in their employment prospects, wellbeing, and/or housing situation. They will achieve this through an in-depth programme of supported employment, personal development, and housing support, tailored to the individual.

We aim to support our service users to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increase quality of life through better shelter, food, hygiene and safety, access to temporary or permanent accommodation, and the prevention of eviction
- Improve physical and/or mental health and well-being
- Improve economic circumstances through access to benefits and employment
- Improve life skills and employability skills
- Improve confidence and self-esteem

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

We do this by providing the following services:

- A drop-in service twice a week offering food, showers, laundry and clothing, hardship support, and emergency packs. Newcomers receive an initial assessment so that we can work on each individual case
- Advice, primarily on housing and benefits, and engagement services through the week with referrals to specialist agencies including to health services, debt management advice, immigration advice and domestic violence support services
- Well-being support and mentoring

An intensive Supported Employment Programme in the Margins Café with ancillary support such as job-search

Public Benefit

In shaping the objectives and planning activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The trustees ensure that all activities are in accordance with the equal opportunities policy of UCM and consider the accessibility of the chapel to those on low incomes by offering free and low-cost activities, onsite and remotely.

3. Achievements and Performance

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work within the last twelve months. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought, to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The report also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

Summary Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

- Smooth re-establishment of the Supported Employment Programme (SEP) after nearly two years of inactivity due to the pandemic
- Closer working relationship with Union Chapel Project's events team to feature and promote Margins' services, especially the catering services, more widely among audiences and stakeholders
- Opening Margins services to a wider and more diverse groups, including refugees and asylum seekers
- Developing good relationships with local organisations and funders

Challenges and Solutions

- Managing guests' expectations; guests are often misinformed or lead to believe that our services offer unrealistic services such as accommodation and employment. Solution: Clarity of Margins service from the outset, explaining what we offer: advice, training, and community engagement
- How to appropriately manage workload and caseloads. Solution: Setting a clear timeline and boundaries for the support and expectation

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Cost-of-living crisis making food poverty much more acute. Solution. make guests aware of support available from council, alternative drop-in services offering food, referring to foodbanks; make the Pavement magazine available at every drop-in day
- Structural and governance challenges of accountability, both of services and finance

The key activities and achievements during this year were as follows.

Community Support and Development

After the lifting of the government restrictions which impacted on the regular delivery of services during the pandemic in 2020-21, the 2022-23 year saw a consolidation and strengthening of a fully operational and vertically integrated suite of services. An inclusive and engaging indoor service was provided for all Margins programmes, community drop-in service, Supported Employment Programme, and advice and engagement.

The number of guests (service users) continued to increase during this reporting period. Attendance per drop-in service averaged 58, slightly higher than last year's 57 guests and 50 guests the year before that (2020-21). This steady increase is for several reasons, including:

- An increase in those people needing our support post pandemic
- Cost-of-living crisis
- Many people transitioning from legacy benefits onto Universal Credit
- An increase of awareness about the Margins Project which has played a major role as a community hub during the pandemic
- The recognition by Islington Council as one of the few voluntary and community sector partners in the borough
- The welcoming atmosphere we have created to help the community to engage, to contribute and to participate in the delivery of services
- Cold weather impact on our community

Drop-in services programme

The community drop-in programme continued to offer hot meals, showers, access to housing/benefit advice and the opportunity to engage in the kitchen training programmes. As the service grew, we recruited a service facilitator on a one-year contract to coordinate the drop-in service in liaison with the leads of the Supported Employment Programme and the advice and engagement programmes, the chef and the advice and engagement worker, respectively. The programme covered the following services:

- Continued to offer a selection of nutritious hot meals and desserts accompanied with tea/coffee, with over 5,000 meals served
- Provided easy access to our inhouse advisor and engagement worker for further support on housing and welfare benefits whenever needed
- Continued to offer access to IT, laundry and shower facilities.
- Started providing an opportunity for trainees to fully engage with the drop-in service and learn the art of catering services
- Maintained the number of volunteers, with at least 6-7 volunteers at each drop-in session throughout the year
- Started gathering feedback about Margins services from guests to help Margins develop appropriate services going forward
- Started to develop more in-depth demographic and attendance information for the service

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3. Activity summary table, April 2022 to March 2023

Activity	Numbers/information	Notes/description
Drop-in and food takeaway		
Total number of unique visitors	212	April 2022 to March 2023
Total number of separate visits in last 3 months	5,379	Highest number ever recorded
Total people supported	3,500 estimated	
Advice and support		
Total number of advice sessions April 2022 to March 2023	440 Advice sessions	Highest number recorded
Number of people supported April / Jun 2022	234 supported via: • Advocacy by Benefit Advisor • Universal Credit Support • Cloudesley fund small grants • General benefit advice • Benefits applications • Benefit assessment pending • Applied for PIP • Housing issues • StreetLink referral • Food Bank • Signposted for mental health support • Signposted to Law Centre • Housing options advice • Housing review • Referred into third party employment • Signposted to immigration specialist • Drug and alcohol referral	
Number of crisis payments	135	

Supported Employment Programme

Our intensive Supported Employment Programme (SEP), with ancillary job search support has continued uninterrupted throughout this year. We have had referrals from a wide range of organisations, including St Giles, Hillside Club House, Islington Council and Connection. One trainee completed the programme (Stages One and Two) and was offered a job in a restaurant. In addition to learning food preparation, hygiene and safety, budgeting, healthy eating, customer service skills, employability, and job search skills, trainees also gain level 2/3 food hygiene accreditation (certificated). The table below shows candidates who had enrolled to the programme in the 2022/23

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

financial year. There was only one withdrawal in Stage One; five candidates withdrew in Stage Two to pursue other interests.

	Candidate initials	Gender	Ethnicity	Stage One	Stage Two	Comments
1	AA	M	White	Completed	Not completed	Candidate needs more external support to follow Stage Two training instructions
2	AU	M	Bangladeshi	Not completed	Not completed	Candidate wanted to pursue other interests
3	CP	M		Completed	In progress	Candidate progressing well
4	CO	M	Black	Completed	Completed	Successfully completed the programme and has been offered a cooking job but he has yet to accept. He is in touch with Margins chef
5	HN	M	Black	Completed	Completed	Candidate moved on to work in a street market, considerable progress for this person
6	JF	F	Black	Completed	In progress	Candidate is flourishing in this programme
7	MH	M	Turkish	Completed	Did not want to progress to stage two	Candidate wanted to pursue other interests
8	DA	M	Black	Completed	In progress	Candidate progressing well
9	KAK	M	Arab	Completed	Not completed	Candidate wanted to pursue other interests
10	HS	M	Black	In progress		Candidate progressing well
11	OS	M	Black	Completed	In Progress	Candidate progressing well

External partners and links with service activities

Margins has continued working, linking, and liaising closely with various organisations and groups throughout the year:

- London Housing Foundation – supported employment programme
- Groundswell to support Margins guests with health support needs
- Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeper Forum

THE MARGINS PROJECT
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Islington Food Partnership – regular catch up on food poverty in the borough
- Manor Gardens Centre
- Mary's – the charity arm of St Mary's Islington – community development network
- Pret A Manger – funding support and training
- Help on Your Doorstep
- Islington Council – funding support and monitoring
- Hillside Clubhouse, volunteer referral and advice on mental health
- NHS, Whittington Hospital outreach nurse
- The Manna, St Stephens Church
- The Passage and the Upper Room – employability in hospitality
- Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
- The Felix Foundation
- Royal Holloway University
- Cloudesley

Margins continued organising events for and with partners, including:

- Hosting, facilitating, and running two community engagement events in the Union Chapel, producing a promo film about the charity
- An information and discussion session on the cost-of-living crisis for Margins guests and a public discussion forum
- A launch event of the Islington Food Strategy document, for which Margins played a significant

role Margins also facilitated the following:

- Attendance of Rough Sleepers outreach nurse from The Community Safety Team at the Wednesday drop-in session every month to support guests
- Islington Library to attend Margins drop-in services and to donate a selection of free books every month
- NHS Trust mental health nurse attend and to visit guests
- Public Health Strategist from Camden and Islington Public Health to compile a survey with guests to update the Camden and Islington Food Poverty Needs Assessment
- Complex Needs Navigator from Community Safety Team attended and conducted a survey with guests around homelessness affecting women
- Islington Council's Cost of Living crisis Information leaflets given out as well organised workshops on cost-of-living crisis

Donation point

Our communities continue to be generous, and we encourage people to donate items, such as toiletries, underwear, socks, canned vegetables, but not large and bulky items such as bedding, jackets and trousers due to the lack of capacity within the organisation to manage these items. The Felix Project's van continues to deliver donations of fresh food every Monday, and we continue collecting fresh food from two local businesses, Budgens and Belle Epoque, on Mondays and Wednesdays. Demography of service users

THE MARGINS PROJECT
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Demography of service users and attendance for advice and drop-in services for 2022/23								
	Advice Service							
	Q1 Apr to Jun 22		Q2 Jul to Sep 22		Q3 Oct to Dec 22		Q4 Jan to Mar 23	
	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know	Number	% Where know
Total clients registered and engaged	44		45		70		74	
Gender								
Male	30	68.18%	31	68.89%	52	74%	56	76%
Female	14	31.82%	14	31.11%	18	26%	18	24%
Age								
20 and under	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	1%		
21-30	3	6.82%	3	6.67%	4	6%	3	4%
31-40	8	18.18%	11	24.44%	15	21%	16	22%
41-50	15	34.09%	14	31.11%	18	26%	20	27%
51-60	13	29.55%	12	26.67%	20	29%	23	31%
61+	5	11.36%	5	11.11%	5	7%	5	7%
Unknown	0	0	0	0.00%	7	10%	7	9%
Ethnicity								
White								
British or Irish	17	38.64%	15	33.33%	17	24%	22	30%
Other white								
EU nationals	7	15.91%	7	15.56%	8	11%	7	9%
White and Black Caribbean	5	11.36%	9	20.00%	9	13%	7	9%
Asian/Asian British								
Indian	2	4.55%	0	0.00%	4	6%	3	4%
Pakistani	0	0.00%	3	6.67%				
Bangladeshi								
Chinese								
Sri Lanka	1	2.27%	1	2.22%	1	1%	1	1%
Blank/African/Caribbean/Black British								
African	2	4.55%	2	4.44%	5	7%	12	16%
Caribbean	1	2.27%	1	2.22%	2	3%	0	
Black British	4	9.09%	3	6.67%	10	14%	11	15%
Ethnicity unknown	5	11.36%	4	8.89%	14	20%	7	9%
Housing								

THE MARGINS PROJECT
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Homeless	4	9.09%	3	6.67%	13	19%	11	15%
Permanent Housing	22	50.00%	24	53.33%	28	40%	27	36%
Temporary Accommodation	10	22.73%	9	20.00%	13	19%	21	28%
Unknown	8	18.18%	9	20.00%	16	23%	15	20%
Disability								
Mental Health	11	25.00%	15	33.33%	15	21%	19	26%
Physical ill health	7	15.91%	6	13.33%	6	9%	6	8%
Both mental and physical ill health	9	20.45%	7	15.56%	12	17%	16	22%
Substance misuse/alcohol dependency	0	0.00%		0.00%	2	3%	4	5%
None	8	18.18%	4	8.89%	7	10%	7	9%
Unknown/did not disclose	9	20.45%	13	28.89%	28	40%	22	30%

4. Plans for the Future

In the coming year

Margins will continue to play a significant role in supporting communities whose lives are made precarious by the current economic and political policy framework.

We will prioritise work with:

-
- People homeless or vulnerable to homelessness, because of insecure or inadequate housing, and domestic abuse
- Refugees, asylum seekers, survivors of trafficking and people with no recourse to public funds
- People experiencing mental ill health, through prolonged duress stress, depression and diagnosed conditions
- People with inadequate income for their daily needs, who benefit from material help such as a hot meal
- People who need to acquire new skills including English language and vocational skills to advance within this society and be able to secure a place within the labour market
- Recognising the intersectionality with ethnicity, gender, sexuality, abilities within these groups

Our intention is to be a welcoming space in which people affected by society's injustices are enabled and supported:

- practical help in the form of nutritious meals, clothing, showers, laundry;
- activities which encourage creativity, awareness raising, and mental and physical wellbeing;
- training and language skills leading to employment and social integration;
- advice in benefits, signposting to immigration advice, access to housing, housing repairs; and
- crisis intervention, when needed, in mental health

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Address the social policy issues which disproportionately disadvantage some local communities by:

- advocating with our beneficiaries in resolving bureaucratic problems;
- publicising our work in a manner which adds dignity to our beneficiaries and highlights the inequalities and injustices which they experience; and
- participating in the wider not-for-profit sector campaigns and forums

The impact of our work will be felt by beneficiaries as they build relationships of mutual support, are enabled to access employment, improve their physical and mental well-being, participate in the wider community.

5. Financial Review

Summary

Overall, Margins reported a loss of £58k for the financial year compared with a loss of £48.7k for 2022. Although income has increased by 20% to £223k, costs have risen steeply by 20% to £281k. This is partly due to inflationary pressures but partly due to increased overheads as detailed below under the Expenditure heading.

The deficit has been funded by retained unrestricted reserves.

To support the proposed new three-year plan, a budget is being prepared.

Net funds at 31 March 2023 were £3k, which were mostly unrestricted with restricted income being matched by expenditure.

Income

Income for the period was £223k (2022: £185k) of which £173k (2022: £82k) was from donations and legacies, and £50k (2022: £103k) from charitable activities.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled £281k against £235k for 2022, a significant increase of 20%. The organisation was impacted by significant inflation in areas such as energy and food. In addition, costs increased as a reflection of increased activity levels.

Reserves policy

Margin's reserves policy reflects the organisation's objective of striking a balance between the need for financial stability and the ambition to expand the range services offered. This year, as a result of fundraising not keeping pace with increased costs incurred, reserves were depleted to fund the deficit. Therefore, the focus of attention for the next few years will be to restore reserves to a prudent level to ensure sustainability whilst working to develop the new strategy and associated funding model.

At 31 March 2023, unrestricted funds, of which reserves forms a part, were reported as £3k. This represents:

- £2k invested in Tangible Fixed Assets
- £1k General Reserves

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Advice and Engagement Programme

The advice and engagement programme service continued with face-to-face and telephone appointments during the year. Where necessary, the service signposts individuals to relevant support services to ensure that those in extreme crisis are always prioritised. The programme saw a significant increase in individuals requesting financial support, not all of whom Margins can support. Due to sustained demand during the previous year, the part-time role of the advice service became a full-time advice and engagement service in July 2022, with an emphasis on practical engagement with guests. The programme covered the following services:

- A total of 234 unique advice and group engagements, averaging 58 unique registered every quarter
- A total of 409 face-to-face appointments, averaging 105 a quarter
- A total of 54 newly registered guests, averaging 14 a quarter
- Over 150 referrals to a Food Bank, an increase of 44%, as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis as told by guests
- Over 65 supported on utility top up, an increase of 44%, as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis as told by guests
- An 89% increase in people seeking general benefit advice, largely due to cost-of-living payments and eligibility queries
- 135 guests receive hardship support from Cloudesley's hardship fund to support guests and trainees with expenses such as travel, emergency food, emergency accommodation, furniture, electricity/gas, mobile top-ups, cutlery, and bedding
- Started gathering feedback on how Margins can prioritise the services of the advice and engagement programme and how guests can participate in the delivery of the services

6. Fundraising Approach

Margins' approach to fundraising is to be transparent, clear and friendly. We use internal personnel employed by our partnership organisation, Union Chapel Project. We do not engage with third party fundraisers or commercial operators except for online providers such as justgiving.com and crowdfunder.com. We fundraise for activities and services within Margins' aims and objectives.

Our main fundraising activities are through formal applications to Trust and Foundations, corporate supporters and statutory bodies. We also receive donations from individuals, mainly generated through our website, or through ticket sales and donations at fundraising events.

The fundraising team is responsible for managing all donated funds and reporting where required. The Board of Trustees reviews fundraising income, expenditure and procedures on a quarterly basis and the fundraising strategy is reviewed annually.

Margins and its partnership organisation Union Chapel Projects are both independently registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abide by its Code of Practice. Neither have failed to comply with the schemes or standards mentioned above.

Margins has received no complaints about its fundraising activities. However, to ensure that vulnerable people are protected, it has adopted guidance from the Institute of Fundraising's guide, Treating Donors Fairly – Fundraising with People in Vulnerable Circumstances.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7. Structure, Governance and

Management Constitution

The Margins Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (Charity Registration no 1153070), registered on 25 July 2013. It is governed by a constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable organisation.

Margins is one of three organisations operating under the Union Chapel Project group in Islington, the other two being:

- Union Chapel Project (UCP) (Charity no. 1010166, Company no. 02583801)
- Union Chapel Directions (UCD) (Company no. 03047257)

UCP is the sole member of Margins. Prior to being registered as a CIO, Margins had operated for nearly 20 years as part of UCP, governed by UCP's Board of Directors. Margins is governed by a Board of Trustees and works within the aims and objectives of UCP.

Organisation

The business of the charity is governed by the Board of Trustees which meets four times each year, or more frequently if required. The trustees are responsible for the strategic objectives of the organisation and to review the charity's annual budget and operational plan.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, there should be between four (minimum) and nine (maximum) trustees. Two of these trustees will be nominated by UCP, with the remainder being elected. When considering new trustees, the Board has regard both to the organisation's need for any specialist skills and to the diversity of the Board's membership.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the CIO. Any expenses reclaimed from the CIO are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees undergo an orientation process to meet key staff and other trustees. An information pack is provided that includes the Charity's Constitution, most recent statutory and management accounts, the business plan and organisational chart, along with signposting to Charity Commission guidance on the role and responsibilities of trustees.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events, where these will facilitate their own development and undertaking of their role.

Employees

Day to day management and operations of the CIO are delegated to its paid staff with specific responsibility for activities within the building. In 2022-23, Margins had two full time and four part time staff. The staff are supported by a pool of approximately 20 volunteers.

Margins strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less than favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Selection criteria and procedures are reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated based on their relevant merits and abilities. Equal opportunities data is collected to review and ensure recruitment processes are engaging with diverse applicants, and particularly applicants with protected characteristics or underrepresented in the organisation or sector, and to inform the shortlisting process to ensure applicants at interview stage represent the diversity of applications received. Diversity reviews are undertaken to ensure the Margins Project and Union Chapel are improving the representation of our local communities across the organisation; retaining staff, casuals, volunteers and trustees/directors from diverse backgrounds; and, improving our procedures, culture, engagement, development and approach to diversity, equality and representation.

Salaries are reviewed on an annual basis by the Finance and Remuneration Sub-Committee. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risk management strategy for the organisation. A comprehensive review of risks and opportunities is carried out annually by the trustees and the staff are responsible for overseeing and mitigating risks throughout the year.

Currently, the key risks facing the CIO are financial sustainability, staff capacity and safeguarding. Some of the measures taken to mitigate these risks are the following:

- Staff capacity is under ongoing review
- Robust adult and child safeguarding policies, and an established training plan to ensure all staff and volunteers have the necessary understanding to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns with Margins' client group which includes people who are at risk of harm or abuse
- Plans in place to manage service capacity (up to a realistic maximum capacity) in response to increased demand arising from the cost-of-living crisis and other factors
- Monitoring by the Margins Board along with the management and development team to ensure funding (grants awarded and donations) is sufficient to ensure the continuation of the service and financial stability

Therefore, the trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the risks identified.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable incorporated organisation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable incorporated organisation and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable incorporated organisation will continue in business.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 28-03-24

and signed on their behalf by Vaughan Jones:

Robert Vaughan Jones

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Margins Project ('the charitable incorporated organisation')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable incorporated organisation for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the charitable incorporated organisation (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

This report is made solely to the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable incorporated organisation and the charitable incorporated organisation's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: 

Dated: 28-03-24

Julian Flitter

FCA

Goodman Jones LLP
29-30 Fitzroy Square,
London
W1T 6LQ

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	127,500	45,593	173,093	82,511
Charitable activities	4	-	49,947	49,947	103,302
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	100
Investments	6	-	83	83	25
Total income		127,500	95,623	223,123	185,938
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	19,904	19,904	82,316
Charitable activities	7	170,229	91,237	261,466	152,323
Total expenditure		170,229	111,141	281,370	234,639
Net expenditure		(42,729)	(15,518)	(58,247)	(48,701)
Transfers between funds	15	42,729	(42,729)	-	-
Net movement in funds		-	(58,247)	(58,247)	(48,701)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		-	61,261	61,261	109,962
Net movement in funds		-	(58,247)	(58,247)	(48,701)
Total funds carried forward		-	3,014	3,014	61,261

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 20 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
REGISTERED NUMBER:

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	2,588	4,763
		<u>2,588</u>	<u>4,763</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	27,383	37,507
Cash at bank and in hand		137,427	121,748
		<u>164,810</u>	<u>159,255</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(164,385)	(102,757)
Net current assets		<u>425</u>	<u>56,498</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,014</u>	<u>61,261</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>3,014</u></u>	<u><u>61,261</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	15	-	-
Unrestricted funds	15	3,014	61,261
Total funds		<u><u>3,014</u></u>	<u><u>61,261</u></u>

The charitable incorporated organisation was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
REGISTERED NUMBER:

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28-03-24

and signed on their behalf by Vaughan Jones: *Robert Vaughan Jones*

The notes on pages 20 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

1. General information

The Margins Project is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales under charity number 1153070. The main activities of the charity is to provide services to relieve need, hardship and distress for people in need as a result of social and / or economic circumstances. The registered office is 19b Compton Terrace, Islington, London N1 2UN.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Margins Project meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charitable incorporated organisation has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charitable incorporated organisation to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charitable incorporated organisation's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charitable incorporated organisation; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings	-	25% Straight Line
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2.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charitable incorporated organisation anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.9 Financial instruments

The charitable incorporated organisation only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable incorporated organisation and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Restricted 2023 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Core			
February Foundation	3,000	-	3,000
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	12,500	-	12,500
Waitrose	-	166	166
St Luke	-	500	500
Charitable Aids Foundation (CAF)	-	20,000	20,000
Fishmonger Company	-	1,500	1,500
The Morris Charity	-	3,720	3,720
Slaughter and May	-	5,000	5,000
St Mary Islington	-	1,400	1,400
Richard Cloudsley Charitable Trust	-	1,991	1,991
UCM Donations	-	924	924
Total	15,500	32,501	48,001
Crisis Services			
Inner London Magistrates Court's Poor Box Charity	5,000	-	5,000
Drapers Charitable Trust Foundation	12,000	-	12,000
The 29th May 1961 Chartable Trust	3,000	-	3,000
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	6,250	-	6,250
Richard Cloudsley Charitable Trust	4,375	-	4,375
Lindbury Trust	5,000	-	5,000
Slaughter and May	9,500	-	9,500
Total	42,125	-	42,125
Margins Manager			
LB of islington	15,000	-	15,000
Total	15,000	-	15,000
Supported Employment Services			
The 29th May 1961 Chartable Trust	3,000	-	3,000
London Housing Foundation	7,500	-	7,500
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	6,250	-	6,250
Pret Foundation	10,000	-	10,000
Richard Cloudsley Charitable Trust	13,125	-	13,125
Lindbury Trust	5,000	-	5,000
Slaughter and May	7,000	-	7,000
Total	51,875	-	51,875
Other Donations	-	-	-
Various other donations	-	10,392	10,392
Total	-	10,392	10,392
Total income from donations and legacies	127,500	45,593	173,093

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

3 Income from donations and legacies (continued)

	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations	-	5,793	5,793
Grants	5,168	71,550	76,718
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>5,168</u>	<u>77,343</u>	<u>82,511</u>

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from charitable activities - Supported Employment Programme	49,947	49,947

	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Income from charitable activities - Supported Employment Programme	95,072	8,230	103,302

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising	-

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Fundraising	100	100

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	83	83

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Investment income	25	25

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Supported Employment Programme	82,896	12,249	95,145
Crisis service	59,740	42,053	101,793
Core	15,500	-	15,500
Margins manager	-	49,029	49,029
	158,136	103,331	261,467

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Supported Employment Programme	40,041	8,101	48,142
Crisis service	10,468	93,713	104,181
	50,509	101,814	152,323

8. Analysis of expenditure by type

	Crisis Services 2023 £	Supported employment programme 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Direct costs			
Employment costs	42,527	60,153	102,680
Cost of sales	31,880	22,743	54,623
Computer costs	833	-	833
	75,240	82,896	158,136

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

	<i>Crisis Services 2023 £</i>	<i>Supported employment programme 2023 £</i>	<i>Margin manager 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Support costs				
Employment costs	24,834	7,438	49,029	81,301
Consultancy	1,494	255	-	1,749
Travel	236	67	-	303
Insurance	1,863	532	-	2,395
General expenses	652	186	-	838
Postage	164	58	-	222
Depreciation	2,033	581	-	2,614
Cleaning	1,015	290	-	1,305
Bank fees	649	185	-	834
Accountancy fees	2,750	786	-	3,536
Advertising	922	263	-	1,185
Telephone	748	214	-	962
Subscriptions	279	80	-	359
Repairs and renewals	1,459	417	-	1,876
Rent	525	150	-	675
Computer costs	963	275	-	1,238
Light and heat	1,508	431	-	1,939
	<u>42,094</u>	<u>12,208</u>	<u>49,029</u>	<u>103,331</u>

9. Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £2,500 (2022 - £1,075).

10. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	180,212	154,952
Social security costs	16,393	13,257
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	4,206	2,971
	<u>200,811</u>	<u>171,180</u>

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

10. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the charitable incorporated organisation during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Total employees	11	9

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £83,541 (2022:£71,015).

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, no Trustees expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2022	16,170
Additions	730
At 31 March 2023	16,900
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2022	11,407
Charge for the year	2,905
At 31 March 2023	14,312

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Fixtures and fittings £
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	2,588
<i>At 31 March 2022</i>	4,763

13. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	1,269	18,353
Amounts owed by group undertakings	23,471	19,154
Other debtors	2,643	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	<u>27,383</u>	<u>37,507</u>

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	4,799	-
Amounts owed to group undertakings	143,554	93,609
Other taxation and social security	6,595	5,311
Other creditors	6,937	-
Accruals and deferred income	2,500	3,837
	<u>164,385</u>	<u>102,757</u>

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	61,261	95,623	(111,142)	(42,729)	3,014
Restricted funds					
Core	-	15,500	(15,500)	-	-
Margin Manager	-	15,000	(49,029)	34,029	-
Supported Employment	-	51,875	(60,575)	8,700	-
Crisis service project	-	45,125	(45,125)	-	-
	-	127,500	(170,229)	42,729	-
Total of funds	61,261	223,123	(281,371)	-	3,014

Purposes of restricted funds

Crisis Services

Grants and donations in kind received towards the running of the Drop In services and Winternight shelter.

Supported Employment Programme

Grants received towards the running of the supported employment programme

Fundraising

Grants and donations in kind received towards fundraising activity.

Margins Manager

Grants and donations received relating to funding management of The Margins Project

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

Statement of funds - prior year

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	2,588	2,588
Current assets	-	164,811	164,811
Creditors due within one year	-	(164,385)	(164,385)
Total	-	3,014	3,014

THE MARGINS PROJECT
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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

16. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	4,763	4,763
Current assets	159,255	159,255
Creditors due within one year	(102,757)	(102,757)
Total	61,261	61,261

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

17. Pension commitments

The Margins Project operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £460 payable (2022 - £435) to the fund at the balance sheet date and included in creditors."

THE MARGINS PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1153070

Accounts

Charity number: 1153070

**The Margins Project
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Report and Financial Statements
31 March 2022**

The Margins Project
Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Pages
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2. Principal Aims, Objectives and Activities	2
3. Achievements and Performance	4-6
4. Plans for the Future	7
5. Financial Review	8
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Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	14
Balance Sheet	15
Notes to the financial statements	16-22

1. CIO's Details and Advisors

Charity number	1153070
Registered office and operational address	Union Chapel 19b Compton Terrace Islington London N1 2UN
Trustees	Trustees who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows: Jean Appleyard Kathryn Dixon Vaughan Jones Tom Linton-Smith
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Highbury Corner Branch 2 Highbury Corner London N5 1RE
Solicitors	Bates, Wells and Braithwaite London LLP 2-6 Cannon Street London EC1 6YH
Independent Examiner	Goldwins Chartered Accountants 75 Maygrove Road London NW6 2EG

2. Principle Aims and Objectives

The Margins Project was established in 1992 by Union Chapel to help those experiencing marginalisation, crisis, and particularly those who experience homelessness. It primarily helps those in the London Borough of Islington and surrounding boroughs.

In 2013 it was registered as a CIO. Its object is to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty, by providing a range of services.

Values statement

1. Inclusion: we strive to support people whom other agencies do not.
2. Personal: we tailor our work to the individuals we work with, providing in-depth support that has a meaningful impact for them.
3. Empowerment: we provide people with the time, tools and opportunities to realise their potential and succeed in their own right.
4. Quality: we are a team of specialists who aim high, because people facing homelessness have a right to be supported by experts.

Vision statement

We are here for people facing homelessness. We believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to flourish and realise their potential, and find a place of dignity in society.

Mission statement

People facing homelessness will achieve significant improvements in their employment prospects, wellbeing, and/or housing situation. They will achieve this through an in-depth programme of supported employment, personal development, and housing support; tailored to the individual.

We aim to support our service users to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased quality of life through better shelter, food, hygiene and safety, access to temporary, permanent accommodation and prevention of eviction;
- Improved physical and/or mental health and well-being;
- Improved economic circumstances through access to benefits and employment;
- Improved life skills and employability skills;
- Improved confidence and self-esteem.

We do this by providing the following services.

- A Crisis Drop-in, twice a week offering food, showers, laundry and clothing, hardship support, and emergency packs. Newcomers receive an initial assessment so that we can work on each individual case;
- A Housing and Benefits Advice service during the Drop-ins and remotely outside its hours with referrals to specialist agencies including health services, debt management advice, immigration advice and domestic violence support;
- Well-being support and mentoring;

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

- An intensive Supported Employment Programme in the Margins Cafe with ancillary support such as job club, therapy and ESOL.

Public Benefit

- In shaping the objectives and planning activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.
- In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.
- The trustees ensure that all activities are in accordance with the equal opportunities policy of UCP and give careful consideration to the accessibility of the services to those on low/no income, by offering all services and activities without charge.

3. Achievements and Performance

"There comes a point when we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in."

Desmond Tutu.

Crisis Support

In 2021-22, we began slowly to reopen The Margins Drop In in full, after a substantial change in the delivery of the service during the previous year (20-21) due to lockdown during the pandemic. Due to the pandemic the Drop in service changed to a takeaway only service, serving food outside to adhere to PHE social distancing guidelines; and the Advice Service also became remote and where possible the advisor contacted all registered individuals at The Margins' Project and completed outcomes accordingly.

At this time the service was an outdoor service only meaning comparative figures are not based on a like for like service delivery model, neither for the advice service nor the drop in. as such, we've also compared with pre-pandemic numbers in 19-20, to give a better overview of long term statistical differences occurring over this period.

The Margins Project has fully reopened this year (21-22) and numbers continue to increase, quite substantially in some areas.

Margins Drop-in

- In 21-22, we saw an average of 57 guests each drop in. This is compared to an average 27 guests attended each drop in pre-pandemic (19-20) and an average of 50 guests attended each drop in during 20-21, outdoor take away food only and remote advice service.¹
- This therefore shows a substantial 111% increase in attendance over three years from 19-20, and a 13% increase on 20-21's figures.

This significant increase may be for several reasons, including

- a general increase in those requiring our service post pandemic due to external factors including the cost of living crisis & more people transitioning from legacy benefits onto Universal Credit.

¹ The average attendance for 20-21 is a best estimate as the service took place outdoors due to Covid.

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

- an increase in awareness of The Margins Project as we were one of the few services that remained open consistently during the lockdown.

We can only speculate as to why the service is more than twice as busy than three years ago but figures this year (21-22) have sustained and show no sign of lessening.



Advice Service

Those attending the Advice service usually arrive with multiple issues requiring different levels of intervention over a sustained period.

81 Unique attendees accessed face to face 560 face to face appointments resulting in 344 outcomes between April 21-March 22.

The average Advice Client attended 7 separate appointments resulting in 4 positive outcomes each.

A detailed comparison on the previous year 20-21 does not show a like for like comparison due to very different methods of working during the lockdown.

We can however compare outcomes over the last three years

- 198 Outcomes (19-20) pre-pandemic face to face appointments.
- 388 Outcomes (20-21) during the pandemic: remote telephone working, shorter appointments. (182 people were contacted remotely throughout 20-21, however significantly different working methods were in place during the pandemic, with limited face to face - & therefore does not compare like for like.
- 344 Outcomes (21-22) post-pandemic hybrid working both face to face and remotely.

Comparing 19-20 there has been a substantial 73% increase in positive outcomes over this period.

Advice Service outcomes 21-22

The key areas we have seen increase in demand and subsequent outcomes are around Universal Credit support; Food bank referrals and food vouchers; and housing/landlord issues; and broader advice and advocacy.

Outcome area	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Percentage change in 2-3 years
Universal Credit Support	n/a	15	41	180% increase (2.8 times)
Advocacy	31	32	94	203% increase (3 times)
Food bank referrals	19	32	24	26% increase (1.3 times)
Food vouchers		10	31	210% increase
Housing Issues, disrepair, landlord issues	6	16	21	250% increase

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

Benefit Queries	34	69	27	20% decrease (though a 102% increase in 20-21)
Welfare checks	n/a	42	8	80% decrease

There has been a substantial increase in demand and need, with outcomes in all areas at least doubling apart from benefit queries and welfare checks. Some potential explanations

- An increase in Universal Credit support may be due to more people claiming UC during the pandemic.
- The threefold increase in outcomes around advocacy, a broad term covering many aspects of our service including helping find information, discussing options, helping with calls, attending appointments together, encouraging & empowering guests to become more self-reliant.
- Food bank referrals and food vouchers (£5 Sainsbury's vouchers) likely to be a direct impact of the gradual increase in the cost of living which noticeably began affecting those on lower incomes before the additional increase in the cost of utility bills.
- Benefit Queries and welfare checks actually decreased between 20-21 and 21-22; however, demand for both surged during the pandemic, with understandable increases due to enquiries during lockdown and lessons learned showing the importance of carrying these checks out.

In 22/23, the Benefit Advisor's hours increased to full-time, which will allow to begin group work for guests to upskill and empower those in need of basic IT skills and to help guests clarify processes & their understanding around UC to help them better navigate the system independently.

Night Shelter

The night shelter, which operated every winter up until the outbreak of covid in March 2020, remained halted due to ongoing concerns around social distancing in dormitory accommodation during the pandemic.

Supported Employment Programme

Due to the ongoing impact of Covid on events and catering, the supported employment programme was delayed in getting started due to the impact on events and catering.

However, recruitment got underway in autumn, and by spring 2022 we had two trainees successfully participating. Despite the complexity of their situation, both trainees are thriving and creating helpful network of support.

Margins food is proving to be popular, but we need to do more in promoting and making all people appreciate the core purpose and value behind running the Supported Employment Programme.

Catering & events

In 2021-22, Union Chapel returned to hosting a number of high profile and popular events. Whilst bar and catering activity was disrupted, impacting on the Margins Café catering, we were able to restart our catering offer for a number of events.

Union Chapel was particularly proud to host the London Homelessness Awards for the first time in October 2021, celebrating the vital work of homeless services across London. Margins also provided the catering for the event, which was acclaimed by many who attended.

Case study - LM

LM has been attending The Margins Project for some time, he has several health issues, cannot read, or write and took a long time before finally engaging with our Advice and Engagement Worker. He

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

was technically homeless living in temporary accommodation; despite of all his health issues, LM has worked for Islington council for the last 10 years.

After reviewing LM's licence agreement, Islington council cancelled his temporary accommodation. He was evicted at short notice leaving him street homeless. The eviction was based on homeless assessment carried by the council, finding him "not to have priority need"; therefore, the council could not be of further help and would not be providing him with accommodation on a temporary or permanent basis in the future.

When LM returned home, he found the locks had been changed by the Agents. He was informed that months earlier that the council had written to him, and it had decided that he was not vulnerable, and not of Priority Need, therefore ineligible for his temporary accommodation. He spent the weekend on the streets and that is when he confided on us.

Although working since he has been accommodated, LM's health had changed significantly. He had been awarded Personal Independent Payments (PIP) at an Enhanced Rate for Daily Living and a Standard Rate for Mobility. Due to his inability to read, LM was not aware of the council's decision to evict and did not know how to inform them of the results of his PIP award, which to us are clear signs that he needed significant help to manage daily activities. He could not travel to unknown places without support and was indeed vulnerable.

After LM approached our service that first Monday, Our Advice and Engagement Worker contacted the Temporary Accommodation team and spoke to LM's housing officer about the situation; forwarded all relevant documentation around LM's mental health, physical health, PIP award and Dyslexia report explaining LM's vulnerability and how, due to his dyslexia and learning difficulties that he had been unable to read any communications.

To our pleasant surprise, LM was offered further temporary accommodation on the same day. As LM couldn't go alone, our Advice and Engagement Worker attended the initial viewing with LM. However due to some historical issues with the proprietor (which LM denied), they refused him access. Our Advice and Engagement Worker contacted the council again, and LM was offered a second temporary accommodation, a one bed flat in a much more suitable area, which LM happily accepted.

Margins also helped him with purchase of few essential items from the Cloudlsey fund, leaving him comfortable in his new accommodation.

This was a surprisingly quick successful and smooth positive outcome. As LM was known to the council and had been in temporary accommodation for some time, the review process of the council's original decision and the new homelessness application, which can take time, was fast tracked due to his unique circumstances, and certainly too because of the positive relationship Margins has cultivated with the council. LM continues to attend The Margins Project as well as continues to receive ongoing support from our Advice and Engagement Work around various pertinent issues.

This case study shows how our welcome atmosphere, positive relationship with guests, and availability for quick intervention can yield such a positive outcome, with such a surprise to us all.

4. Plans for the Future

During the current year 2022 we have continued our drop-in and crisis support service, the demand for which is clearly growing. We have also been working closely with Islington Council and local partners on the Islington Food Partnership, to tackle food poverty and waste across the borough.

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

We will continue to rebuild our Supported Employment Programme, as we bring on more people onto the training programme, and as more regular events and catering opportunities return to Union Chapel.

In addition, we will continue to consider how we develop Margins to support more people from the community and address the social justice issues that are both symptoms and causes of issues around homelessness, crisis and discrimination.

Other priorities include:

- Continuing to review the Margins service, relaunch a supported employment programme for the community, and develop more advocacy, outreach and partnership approaches to link to the UCP community programme
- Further exploring our model of support, inspiration and empowerment for target groups, piloted in 2020 and 2021, ahead of the Sunday School programme, exploring how we better engage and empower:
 - Homeless/at risk
 - Young people
 - Vulnerable families
 - LGBT community
 - Migrants/asylum seekers
- Greater community engagement and representation in Union Chapel programmes, staffing and decisions, through Community Leaders, Community Working Group, and trainee opportunities.
- Hosting more social justice based events and activities through the year, in partnerships e.g. with Islington Food Partnership
- Concluding the Margins and UCP structure and governance review

5. Financial Review

This financial year has included a level of investment for the organisation, including investment in staff. This has been funded by unrestricted reserves that have accumulated over the past few financial years.

In summary:

- Total income decreased by 27% to £185,938 (2021: £254,677)
- Total expenditure increased by 2.5% to £234,640 (2021: £244,864), resulting in
- Net deficit of £48,703 (2021: a surplus of £ 25,857).

Income

Income for the period was £185,938, of which £77,343 (42%) was from donations, £103,302 (55%) was from charitable activities and £5,293 (3%) from other trading activities.

Expenditure

A breakdown of the £228,820 expenditure for the year, includes £104,182 (44%) for Crisis Services, £48,141 (20%) for the Supported Employment Programme and £82,317(35%) towards Fundraising costs.

Reserves Policy

UCM's reserve policy reflects the organisation's wish to strike a balance between two financial objectives. Firstly the need for financial stability and secondly the want to expand the range services offered.

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

As at 31 March 2022, the level of Reserves was £61,260 of which Restricted Funds was £Nil and Unrestricted General Funds was £61,260. The trustees have examined the requirements and the nature of the charity's work and agree that of the unrestricted funds:

- £4,762 Invested in Tangible Fixed Assets
- £30,000 Free reserves equivalent to 12 weeks' general fund expenditure
- The remaining £26,498 will support the general growth of the organisation in the coming years.

This, the trustees believe, will provide flexibility to maintain financial stability on an on-going basis in the event of a shortfall in income or unexpected operational cost.

6. Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

UCM is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (Charity Registration no 1153070), registered on 25 July 2013. It is governed by a constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable organisation.

Structure, governance and management

UCM is one of three organisations operating under the Union Chapel Project group in Islington; the other two being:

- Union Chapel Project (UCP) (Charity no 1010166, Company number 2583801)
- Union Chapel Directions (UCD) (Company No: 030472557)

UCP is the sole member of UCM. The board of trustees of UCM is currently drawn from trustees of UCP and through this governance relationship UCM works within the aims and objectives of UCP. Prior to being registered as a CIO, UCM had operated for nearly 20 years as part of UCP, governed by UCP's board of directors.

Objectives and activities

The object of the CIO is to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty, through a range of services including providing a safe space where they are encouraged to explore and develop their potential and feel empowered to progress towards their recovery.

The Margins Project offers an in-depth programme of supported employment, personal development, and housing support; tailored to the individual. This includes paid employment in our commercial kitchen, personalised housing and benefits advice, as well as food, shelter, and other essentials. Working together with Margins, people facing homelessness achieve significant improvements in their employment prospects, wellbeing, and housing situation.

The trustees will review the aims, objectives and activities of the CIO each year. This report looks at what the CIO has achieved and the outcomes of its work within the last 12 months. The trustees report the success and any areas of concern, for each key activity and the benefits the CIO has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the CIO's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the CIO's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The major risks to which the CIO is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

Organisation

The business of the charity is supervised by the Board of Trustees which meets six times each year, or more frequently if required. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic objectives of the organisation and to review the charity's annual budget and operational plan.

Employees

Day to day management and operations of the CIO are delegated to its paid staff with specific responsibility for activities within the building. In 2021-22, Margins has two full time and four part time staff, as well as two trainees on the supported employment programme. The staff are supported by a pool of approx. 20 volunteers.

UCM strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less than favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Selection criteria and procedures are reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. Equal opportunities data is collected to review and ensure recruitment processes are engaging with diverse applicants, and particularly applicants with protected characteristics or underrepresented in the organisation or sector, and to inform the shortlisting process to ensure applicants at interview stage represent the diversity of applicants received. Diversity reviews are undertaken to ensure Union Chapel is improving our representation of our local communities across the organisation; retaining staff, casuals, volunteers and trustees/directors from diverse backgrounds; and always improving our procedures, culture, engagement, development and approach around diversity, equality and representation.

Salaries are reviewed on an annual basis by a Finance & Remuneration Sub-Committee. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation.

Appointment of Trustees

As stated in the constitution there should be between four (min) and nine (max) trustees. The Board of Trustees of Margins is drawn from trustees of Union Chapel Project (UCP) for the financial year 2021-22 (for 2022-23 this has changed to include trustees independent of UCP). When considering new trustees, the Board has regard both to the organisation's need for any specialist skills and to the diversity of the Board's membership.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the CIO. Any expenses reclaimed from the CIO are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustees undergo an orientation day to meet key staff and other trustees. An information pack is provided that includes the Charity's Constitution, recent audited and management accounts, the business plan and organisational chart and the Charity Commission's information on Responsibilities of Trustees.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events, where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risk management strategy for the organisation. A comprehensive review of risks and opportunities is carried out annually by the trustees and the staff are responsible for overseeing and mitigating risks throughout the year.

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

Currently, the key risks facing the CIO are staff capacity, safeguarding, and financial activity.

- As a community charity, Margins has a responsibility to achieve the maximum possible impact with finite resources. Staff capacity is therefore kept under constant review and contingency/succession planning is built into the business plan.
- Margins' client group includes people who are at risk of harm or abuse. As such, the CIO has robust adult and child safeguarding policies, and a training plan is in place to ensure all staff and volunteers have the necessary understanding to recognize and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Following the pandemic and going into a cost of living crisis, Margins is aware that demand for our support services will sustain and most likely rise. Margins has plans in place and a realistic maximum capacity for the service
- As with any charity that relies on grants and donations to fund its activity, the UCM board in conjunction with the management and Development Team fundraiser keeps close track of grants awarded, to ensure financial stability.
- In addition the board aims to set aside as free reserves equivalent to 12 weeks general funds expenditure.
- Therefore the trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate risks identified.

7. Fundraising Approach

Margins' approach to fundraising is to be clear, transparent and friendly. We use internal personnel on an employed or self-employed basis with a clear remit and line management. We do not engage with third party fundraisers or commercial operators except for online providers such as justgiving.com. We fundraise for activities and services within Margins' aims and objectives. We fundraise through formal applications to Trust and Foundations, Corporate Supporters and Statutory bodies.

We also receive donations from individuals, mainly generated through our website, or through ticket sales and donations at particular fundraising events. At no point is anyone pressurised into donating and we respect anonymity when requested.

The internal fundraiser is responsible for managing all donated funds and reporting on income and expenditure. The Board of Trustees reviews fundraising income, expenditure and procedures on a quarterly basis and the fundraising strategy is reviewed annually

Margins is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abides by its Code of Practice. Margins' has reviewed its procedures in light of GDPR. Margins' has not failed to comply with the schemes or standards mentioned above.

Margins has received no complaints about its' fundraising activities done by itself or by someone on its behalf. Margins does not consider its fundraising activities as intrusive into a person's privacy and does not carry out unreasonably persistent approaches or create undue pressure to give. However, to ensure that vulnerable people are protected it has adopted guidance from the Institute of Fundraising's *Treating Donors Fairly – Fundraising with People in Vulnerable Circumstances* guide.

8. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 30th January 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Vaughan Jones

Chair

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Margins Project For the year ended 31 March 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Margins Project for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

The Margins Project
Statement of financial activities
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Income from:					
Donations & Grants	3	£77,343	5,168	82,511	96,529
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Crisis Services	4		46,672	46,672	117,963
Supported Employment Programme		8,230	48,400	56,630	8,005
<i>Other Trading activities:</i>	5				
Fundraising Activities		100		100	32,136
Investment Income		25		25	44
Total income		85,697	100,240	185,938	254,677
Expenditure on:	6				
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Crisis Services			104,182	104,182	124,265
Supported Employment Programme			48,141	48,141	70,308
Support Groups			-	-	-
<i>Other activities:</i>					
Fundraising Activities		82,316	-	82,316	34,246
Total expenditure		82,316	152,323	234,640	228,820
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		3,381	- 52,083	- 48,702	25,857
Net gains / (losses) on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	3,381	- 52,083	- 48,702	25,857
Transfers between funds		- 25,502	25,502	-	-
Net movement in funds		- 22,121	- 26,581	- 48,702	25,857
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		83,381	26,581	109,962	84,106
Total funds carried forward		61,260	-	61,260	109,963

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.
The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

The Margins Project
Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	10		<u>4,762</u>		<u>5,994</u>
			4,762		5,994
Current assets:					
Debtors	11	37,507		2,694	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>121,748</u>		<u>174,353</u>	
		159,255		177,047	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(102,757)</u>		<u>(73,079)</u>	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			<u>56,498</u>		<u>103,968</u>
Total net assets / (liabilities)	13		<u>61,260</u>		<u>109,963</u>
Funds	14				
Restricted funds			-		26,581
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds		<u>61,260</u>		<u>83,381</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>61,260</u>		<u>83,381</u>
Total funds			<u>61,260</u>		<u>109,963</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 - effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b) Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was required.

c) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

d) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

e) Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when received or receivable which ever is earlier.

Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions the incoming resource is deferred.

f) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

g) Training café income is received and is recognised in the period when earned.

h) Costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.

i) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

j) Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure and have been allocated based on staff time.

Crisis Services	70%
Supported Employment Programme	20%
Fundraising	10%

k) Assets costing in excess of £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is charged on these assets at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

Fixtures & Fittings	25% per annum based on cost
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The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

2 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	2022 Unrestricted £	2022 Restricted £	2022 Total £
Income from:			
Donations	77,343		77,343
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Crisis Services		46,672	46,672
Supported Employment Programme	8,230	48,400	56,630
<i>Other Trading activities:</i>			
Fundraising Activities	100		100
Furlough		5,168	5,168
Investment income	25		25
Total income	<u>85,697</u>	<u>100,240</u>	<u>185,938</u>
Expenditure on:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Crisis Services		104,182	104,182
Supported Employment		48,141	48,141
Support Groups			-
<i>Other Trading activities:</i>			
Fundraising Activities	82,316		82,316
Total expenditure	<u>82,316</u>	<u>152,323</u>	<u>234,640</u>
Net income / expenditure before gains / (losses) on investments	3,381	(52,083)	-48,702
Net gains / (losses) on investments	-	-	-
Net income / expenditure	<u>3,381</u>	<u>(52,083)</u>	<u>-48,702</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	3,381	(52,083)	-48,702
	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>3,381</u>	<u>(52,083)</u>	<u>-48,702</u>
Total funds brought forward			-
Total funds carried forward	<u>3,381</u>	<u>- 52,083</u>	<u>-48,702</u>

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations	£6,488	-	£6,488	23,029
Grants:				
Inner London Magistrates Court	£5,000	-	£5,000	5,000
London Community Foundation Grant	£0	-	£0	-
Mrs Smith & Mount Grant	£0	-	£0	-
StreetSmart	£0	-	£0	-
The Allan Charitable Trust	£1,500	-	£1,500	2,000
The Grace Trust	£0	-	£0	-
Anonymous Grant	£705	-	£705	15,000
Marsh Christian Trust	£700	-	£700	-
MVM Charitable Trust	£0	-	£0	-
The Albert Hunt Trust	£5,000	-	£5,000	5,000
Fishmongers Trust	£0	-	£0	3,000
Homeless Link	£0	-	£0	20,000
Charities Aid Foundation	£7,500	-	£7,500	8,000
The Lund Trust	£0	-	£0	2,500
The Leslie Aldridge Trust	£0	-	£0	10,000
Streets of London	£0	-	£0	3,000
CJRS Fund	£0	5,168	£5,168	32,136
Carpenters Rose Estate Donation	£15,000	-	£15,000	-
Orbis Investments (Buchanan Programme)	£4,200	-	£4,200	-
The 29th May Charitable Trust	£6,000	-	£6,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	£20,000	-	£20,000	-
Community grant - Ben James (Brewin Dolphin Ltd)	£250	-	£250	-
The Grocers Charity	£5,000	-	£5,000	-
	<u>70,855</u>	<u>5,168</u>	<u>76,023</u>	<u>128,665</u>

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

4 Income from charitable activities

			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Crisis Services				
London Catalyst Grant	-	-	-	-
Cloudesley – Welfare Grants Programme	-	46,672	46,672	3,303
LB of Islington – Local Initiative Fund	-	-	-	600
Pret Foundation Trust	-	-	-	10,000
The Slaughter and May Charitable Trust	-	-	-	21,995
Crisis Covid-19 Emergency Grant	-	-	-	5,000
London Funders - Wave 1	-	-	-	5,000
Arsenal Foundation	-	-	-	2,200
London Funders - Wave 4	-	-	-	4,000
London Community Response	-	-	-	9,725
CAF Covid Fund	-	-	-	37,390
Richard Cloudsley Fund	-	-	-	15,000
VCS Partnership	-	-	-	3,750
Total	-	46,672	46,672	117,963
Supported Employment Programme				
The London Housing Foundation	-	7,500	7,500	-
The Margins Project - Café	8,230	-	8,230	-
Pret Foundation Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-
Supported Employment Programme	-	-	-	-
The Slaughter and May Charitable Trust	-	14,500	14,500	8,005
ST Marys Islington	-	1,400	1,400	-
VCS Partnership Grants Programme	-	15,000	15,000	-
Total	8,230	48,400	56,630	8,005
Total income from charitable activities	<u>8,230</u>	<u>95,072</u>	<u>103,302</u>	<u>125,968</u>

5 Income from other activities

			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising activities	100	-	100	-
Miscellaneous income	25	-	25	44
	<u>125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>44</u>

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	1,232	1,524
Independent Examination	1,075	1,250

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	154,952	147,329
Social security costs	13,258	11,078
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,971	2,702
	171,181	161,109

No employee earned £60,000 or more (2020: Nil).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £71,015 (2021: £25,963).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the Trust in the year (2022: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	5.0	3.0
Raising funds	2.0	1.0
Support	2.0	2.0
	9.0	6.0

All but one staff work on a part time basis.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At the start of the year	16,169	16,169
Additions in year	-	-
Disposals in year	-	-
At the end of the year	16,169	16,169
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	10,175	10,175
Charge for the year	1,232	1,232
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At the end of the year	11,407	11,407

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Net book value		
At the end of the year	<u>4,762</u>	<u>4,762</u>
At the start of the year	<u>4,762</u>	<u>4,762</u>

11 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	18,353	-
Prepayments & Accrued income	-	2,694
Amount owed by Parent Group	19,154	-
	<u>37,507</u>	<u>2,694</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors		-
Taxation and social security	5,311	338
Accruals	3,837	7,165
Amount owed to Parent Group	93,609	65,576
	<u>102,757</u>	<u>73,079</u>

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	4,762			4,762
Net current assets	56,498			56,498
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>61,260</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,260</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	5,994	-	-	5,994
Net current assets	77,387	-	26,581	103,968
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>83,381</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,581</u>	<u>109,963</u>

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

14 Movements in funds	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Crisis Services	26,581	46,672	104,182	25,243	- 5,686
Supported Employment Programme	-	48,400	48,141	259	518
Support Groups	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	-	5,168	-	-	5,168
Total restricted funds	26,581	100,240	152,323	25,502	-
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	83,382	85,697	82,316	- 25,502	61,260
Total unrestricted funds	83,382	85,697	82,316	- 25,502	61,260
Total funds	109,963	185,937	234,640	-	61,260
Movements in funds (prior year)					
	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Crisis Services	21,750	117,963	113,132	-	26,581
Supported Employment Programme	12,250	8,005	20,255	-	-
Support Groups	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	34,000	125,968	133,387	-	26,581
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	50,106	128,709	95,433	-	83,382
Total unrestricted funds	50,106	128,709	95,433	-	83,382
Total funds	84,106	254,677	228,820	-	109,963

Purposes of restricted funds

Crisis Services

Grants and donations in kind received towards the running of the Drop In services and Winternight shelter.

Supported Employment Programme

Grants received towards the running of the supported employment programme

Fundraising

Grants and donations in kind received towards fundraising activity.

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered on 25 July 2013. Previously the organisation was part of the parent charity Union Chapel Project (Company no 2583801, Charity no 1010166).

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions.

THE MARGINS PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1153070

Accounts

Charity number: 1153070

The Margins Project
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Report and Financial Statements
31 March 2021

The Margins Project
Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

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1. CIO's Details and Advisors

Charity number 1153070

Registered office Union Chapel
and operational 19b Compton Terrace
address Islington
 London
 N1 2UN

Trustees Trustees who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Tom Linton-Smith
Kathryn Dixon
Jean Appleyard
Vaughan Jones

Bankers Barclays Bank Plc
 Highbury Corner Branch

 2 Highbury Corner
 London
 N5 1RE

Solicitors Bates, Wells and Braithwaite London LLP
 2-6 Cannon Street
 London
 EC1 6YH

Independent Goldwins
Examiner Chartered Accountants
 75 Maygrove Road
 London
 NW6 2EG

2. Principal aims, objectives and activities

The Margins Project was established in 1992 by Union Chapel to help those experiencing marginalisation, crisis, and homelessness. It primarily helps those in the London Borough of Islington and surrounding boroughs.

In 2013 it was registered as a CIO. Its object is to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty, by providing a range of services.

Our Values:

1. Inclusion: we strive to support people whom other agencies do not.
2. Personal: we tailor our work to the individuals we work with, providing in-depth support that has a meaningful impact for them.
3. Empowerment: we provide people with the time, tools and opportunities to realise their potential and succeed in their own right
4. Quality: we are a team of specialists who aim high, because people facing homelessness have a right to be supported by experts.

Vision statement:

We are here for people facing homelessness. We believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to flourish and realise their potential, and find a place of dignity in society.

Mission statement:

People facing homelessness will achieve significant improvements in their employment prospects, wellbeing, and/or housing situation. They will achieve this through an in-depth programme of supported employment, personal development, and housing support; tailored to the individual.

We aim to support our service users to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased quality of life through better shelter, food, hygiene and safety, access to temporary, permanent accommodation and prevention of eviction;
- Improved physical and/or mental health and well-being;
- Improved economic circumstances through access to benefits and employment;
- Improved life skills and employability skills;
- Improved confidence and self-esteem.

We do this by providing the following services.

- A Crisis Drop-in, twice a week offering food, showers, laundry and clothing, hardship support, and emergency packs. Newcomers receive an initial assessment so that we can work on each individual case;
- A Housing and Benefits Advice service during the Drop-ins and remotely outside its hours with referrals to specialist agencies including health services, debt management advice, immigration advice and domestic violence support;
- Well-being support and mentoring;
- An intensive Supported Employment Programme in the Margins Cafe with ancillary support such as job club, therapy and ESOL.
- In addition we run a Winter Night Shelter as part of the 7 venue CARIS night shelter network.

Public Benefit

In shaping the objectives and planning activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The trustees ensure that all activities are in accordance with the equal opportunities policy of UCP and give careful consideration to the accessibility of the services to those on low/no income, by offering all services and activities without charge.

3. Achievements and Performance

A Year of COVID-19

2020-21 was a hugely challenging year, not only for Margins but for other organisations across all sectors, our local communities and the general population. On March 18 2020 lockdown regulations meant that Union Chapel, where we are based, had to close as a venue, resulting in a major loss of income, reduced staffing and capacity.

This also meant the closure of the Margins Café, which served its audiences and the loss of significant income that supports the work of Margins. Lockdown and the closure of the café also meant that we could not run our Supported Employment Programme, which has a long and successful history of providing training and employment to people who experience homelessness. This flagship programme has a proven record of engaging trainees and equipping them for employment beyond their 4 months at Margins with the majority achieving excellent job retention in both hospitality and other sectors.

We were fortunate to be able to run our night shelter until the end of March 2020. We then worked hard, with our staff directly working with Islington Council to find places for 13 rough sleepers into hotel and similar accommodation through the government's 'Everyone In' Scheme. However the January to March 2021 Shelter did not open due to dormitory accommodation being unsuitable for social distancing regulations

That was a brief summary of what was unable to happen. But what did occur was a testimony to the dedication, resilience and agility of both the Margin's Project and Union Chapel Project, working with drastically reduced teams, constantly changing COVID-19 regulations and periods of furlough.

Union Chapel Project pivoted its remaining resources and along with Margins, Islington Council, the Museum of Homelessness, Streets Kitchen, The Outside Project, Simon Community and other partners established Islington's Homeless Task Force (the UK's first Covid19 Homeless Task Force). Union Chapel Project turned its Sunday School Hall into a donation centre and Margins Crisis Co-ordinator managed a team of volunteers sorting and distributing, food, clothing and essential goods. Margins reached out to 691 individuals and households.

Together with Union Chapel Project and the Church we:

- worked with Help on Your Doorstep to support the most vulnerable across Islington, through phone advice and bringing goods to over 70 vulnerable people's doors, including those self-isolating;
- supported Islington Council and Streets Kitchen with outreach foodbanks
- Maintained telephone support for vulnerable residents who attended in Union Chapel's vital Culture Cafe, before the venue closure.

Crisis and Support Services

At first Margins was able to continue operating its Crisis Drop-in with food provision, access to showers, laundry and 1 to 1 Housing and Benefits advice. But as the Pandemic worsened and lock down rules tightened, we switched our energies to an outdoors service, with Iraj, our chef / trainer producing a hot food takeaway which could be collected from the door without the need to enter the building. Wherever possible advice was giving remotely through mobile phone or telephone and if not, socially distanced on a park bench. As Daniela our Crisis Coordinator remarked:

"Anyone can come and see us but we have predominantly worked with those facing homelessness, benefit issues and social isolation. We rely on face to face contact thus had to rethink how we can engage with people on a regular basis with social distancing and all the Health & Safety measures in place for all alike at this time. We have reopened a food-takeaway only for people in need."

"We established safe ways of working with a small crew, and have been greatly humbled by the willingness of our volunteers to continue to work during this difficult time. We have turned the Sunday School Hall into a little hub for our donations and redistribution efforts in addition to the food takeaway."

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

With greater anxiety and confusion over lockdown rules, the need for our Advice Service became ever greater. When other staff were furloughed we kept this going. Nick, our Advisor said:

"Those I have been thinking about most during all this are the people that have not made it into hotel accommodation or have been evicted during this time or don't have any ways to communicate with loved ones and vital services remotely because they don't have phones or access to emails and internet because everything is shut including libraries. Most of us may take this for granted and yet access to internet and a simple device are vital to be able to conduct any amount of activities/business these days."

"We have over two hundred people registered with our service and since adapting to this new way of working - engaging with individuals over the phone and via email - I have never been busier"

He added:

"The majority of service users who were street homeless have now been placed into hotels, however this isn't a permanent solution and issues requiring support around benefits, such as appeals, incorrect deductions, new claims, general queries, all continue, and need addressing with ongoing support."

"It isn't just individuals who are street homeless who are being supported, but also those at risk of homelessness. For example, I spoke with a young lady who lives in temporary accommodation and unfortunately lost her job due to lockdown. Because of this she had a shortfall in her rent and had been threatened with eviction by her landlord. I was able to signpost to the legal team at citizens' advice bureau and the Islington law centre (as it is currently illegal to evict during the covid19 crisis.) I was also able to access the council's Resident Support Scheme and apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment to make up the on-going short fall in her rent. I was also able to send out food vouchers as she was struggling financially and finally I completed benefit calculation to ensure she was receiving all benefits she was eligible for."

Navigating the benefit system can be difficult at the best of times and especially now during the lockdown with other support services closing it is particularly challenging for our service users. With Libraries closed, Benefit offices closed, hugely extended waiting times on DWP telephone helplines, it compounds an already difficult situation. Many of the people we work with have limited IT skills but now most don't even have access to the internet, however so long as I can speak with them on the phone we can overcome this issue and try to address and resolve the problem."

Despite the significant challenges presented by fast changing COVID-19 regulations Margins still managed to directly support 223 individuals over the year through 567 advice sessions, with 140 identifying as male and 83 as female. In addition to the 13 rough sleepers we placed in 'Everyone In' hotel accommodation we helped a further:

2 people into permanent accommodation 7 into temporary accommodation, placed 5 into shelter, referred 18 to Streetlink, made 8 housing applications prevented 2 evictions and dealt with a further existing 18 landlord issues (thus preventing further eviction) made 2 referrals to immigration services and 1 to the EU resettlement scheme . In addition:

We helped with 65 benefit and 14 Universal Credit issues, made 14 benefit applications & 2 successful benefits appeals, made 3 employment referrals, placed 2 into training, referred 10 to debt advice and 5 to legal advice.

42 people, assessed as being particularly vulnerable, received a twice weekly mental health and welfare check-up while a further 8 were referred to mental health services, 3 to drug & alcohol services and 1 to domestic violence support.

What our Services Users said

"I want to thank you for all the help and advice you have given me and much a needed support with accessing advice."

"Thanks for contacting me it means a lot; I haven't spoken to anyone in weeks"

"Thanks so much, I received the vouchers and was able to buy toiletries and top up my mobile!"

"I really appreciate the call; it's really reassuring to know I can get hold of you in future if I have any questions about my upcoming benefit decision."

The Margins Project

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

"It's so nice to hear a familiar voice, thank you for reaching out."

"Thanks for the referral, CAB contacted me yesterday and have taken on my case"

"Will you thank Daniela when you speak to her, the shoes are perfect I picked them up last week."

"When I heard you were closing because of coronavirus I was so upset, I love coming down, it's such a friendly place.... I can't wait for you to reopen, say hi to Daniela, and please let me know when you reopen."

"It's such a massive stress off, knowing you're at the end of the phone, thanks for the call, I'll save your number"

"I really hope you guys open soon, you've always given the best support, always friendly and such lovely staff, I really mean that, I'm going to miss you guys."

"I can't believe we won the appeal, they're backdating it for a year, it's nearly five grand!"

"The council have finally offered me and my daughter a two bedroom flat, I had to come down to tell you face to face, thank you so much for all your help, we're so happy."

Meet a Volunteer

Margins has a wonderful team of caring and dedicated volunteers, without which we would struggle to offer our services.

One such example is Archie who has been with us for nearly 2 years, joining us shortly after the first COVID-19 lockdown. He found us through an Islington Agency that specialises in advertising opportunities for potential volunteers to link up with the Islington Community Sector.

Archie was attracted to Margins for a number of reasons. He said that many years ago he had volunteered for Centrepoint and that currently people who experience homelessness are facing some of the greatest challenges. He also lives locally in Highbury, loves the Union Chapel, where he has seen some of the best gigs and although personally not religious, admires their non-conformist stance. Another big plus was the flexibility of the role, in that he didn't have to commit to strict regular hours, which as busy freelancer suited his work patterns and made it possible to be involved.

At first he just offered himself as unskilled labour making teas and coffees or whatever tasks he was asked to do. He was wary of talking to our guests as he didn't want to cross any boundaries. But through encouragement of staff and other volunteers he soon started chatting away while making a cup of tea and desperate to hear people's stories. Archie remarked that *"As a TV producer and director I have a natural curiosity and empathy for others"*.

What he has learnt and would advise others seeking to volunteer is not to judge people for what they look like or by their circumstances. He said that "just because someone displays mental health issues it doesn't mean that they are not intelligent or creative.

Archie says there were many things he did not know about homelessness and has come away with a greater respect admiration, empathy and stronger focus for people who face these issues. He is also highly complementary about the other volunteers and staff, "they are a great team". Finally he admitted that he had become "emotionally attached to Margins"

We want to thank Archie and all our other volunteers for their invaluable support.

4. Plans for the Future

During the current financial year 2021-22 we have slowly been easing out of lockdown. Although kept our food takeaway and befriending operating from our door we began, with temperature testing measures in place, limited numbers of people back into the building for showers and 1 to 1 advice.

In April 2021 we were delighted to welcome Amanuel Woldesus to our Team as Head of Margins. He is very much part of planning Margins' future direction and mode of operation. Amanuel comes with vast experience and expertise in the fields of Media, Community Development, Refugees and Homelessness.

Union Chapel was able to tentatively re-open as a venue in June 2021 and fully in the Autumn. They have generously allowed us use of the Lower Hall so that in October 2021 we could allow people back into our-drop with greater social distancing space. We provided food inside rather than takeaways for a period; however this reverted to an outdoors service once again as the omicron variant hit London in December. We are still not in a position to re-open our Winter Shelter in January 2022 as dormitory-style night shelters are not permitted.

We re-launched the Margins Café and with it the Supported Employment Programme in November 2021. In time we want to offer more training opportunities throughout the whole of Union Chapel in Sound and Light Technics, Stage Management and Stewarding.

The Omicron variant has spread fresh doubt on the way forward, but whatever the future we will endeavour to put the needs of our service-users at the forefront of what we do.

Daniela Sbrisny decided to move on in April 2021 after years of service at Margins and Union Chapel. We want to thank her for energy and dedication and wish her all the best in her next career.

5. Financial Review

This financial year has included a level of investment for the organisation, including investment in staff. This has been funded by unrestricted reserves that have accumulated over the past few financial years.

In summary:

- Total incoming resources increased by 21% to £254,677 (2020: £209,886)
- Total resources expended decreased by 7% to £244,864 (2020: £244,864), resulting in
- Net funds of £25,857 (2020: £ -34,978)).

Income

Income for the period was £254,677, of which £96,529 (38%) was from donations, £125,968 (49%) was from charitable activities and £32,179 (13%) from other trading activities.

Expenditure

A breakdown of the £228,820 expenditure for the year, includes £124,265 (54%) for Crisis Services, £70,308 (31%) for the Supported Employment Programme and £34,246 (15%) towards Fundraising costs.

Reserves Policy

UCM's reserve policy reflects the organisation's wish to strike a balance between two financial objectives. Firstly the need for financial stability and secondly the want to expand the range services offered.

As at 31 March 2021, the level of Reserves was £109,963 of which Restricted Funds was £26,581 and Unrestricted General Funds was £83,382. The trustees have examined the requirements and the nature of the charity's work and agree that of the unrestricted funds:

- £5,994 Invested in Tangible Fixed Assets
- £30,000 Free reserves equivalent to 12 weeks' general fund expenditure
- The remaining £47,387 will support the general growth of the organisation in the coming years.

This, the trustees believe, will provide flexibility to maintain financial stability on an on-going basis in the event of a shortfall in income or unexpected operational cost.

6. Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

UCM is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (Charity Registration no 1153070), registered on 25 July 2013. It is governed by a constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable organisation.

Structure, governance and management

UCM is one of three organisations operating from Union Chapel in Islington; the other two being:

- Union Chapel Project (UCP) (Charity no 1010166, Company number 2583801)
- Union Chapel Directions (UCD) (Company No: 030472557)

UCP is the sole member of UCM. The board of trustees of UCM is drawn from directors of UCP and from the wider community, and through this governance relationship UCM works within the aims and objectives of UCP. Prior to being registered as a CIO, UCM had operated for nearly 20 years as part of UCP, governed by UCP's board of directors

Objectives and activities

The object of the CIO is to relieve need, hardship and distress of persons who are in need by reason of their social and/or economic circumstances, in particular those who are facing homelessness and poverty, through a range of services including providing a safe space where they are encouraged to explore and develop their potential and feel empowered to progress towards their recovery.

The Margins Project offers an in-depth programme of supported employment, personal development, and housing support; tailored to the individual. This includes paid employment in our commercial kitchen, personalised housing and benefits advice, as well as food, shelter, and other essentials. Working together with Margins, people facing homelessness achieve significant improvements in their employment prospects, wellbeing, and housing situation.

The trustees will review the aims, objectives and activities of the CIO each year. This report looks at what the CIO has achieved and the outcomes of its work within the last 12 months. The trustees report the success and any areas of concern, for each key activity and the benefits the CIO has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the CIO's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the CIO's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The major risks to which the CIO is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Organisation

The business of the charity is supervised by the Board of Trustees which meets six times each year, or more frequently if required. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic objectives of the organisation and to review the charity's annual budget and operational plan.

Employees

Day to day management and operations of the CIO are delegated to its paid staff with specific responsibility for activities within the building. Margins has two full time and nine part time staff, as well as twelve trainees on the supported employment programme. The staff are supported by a pool of approx. 50 volunteers.

UCM strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less than favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Selection criteria and procedures are reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. Salaries are reviewed on an annual basis by a remuneration committee. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation.

Appointment of Trustees

As stated in the constitution there should be between four (min) and nine (max) trustees.

The Board of Trustees of Margins is drawn from Directors of Union Chapel Project (UCP) and from the wider community. When considering new trustees, the Board has regard both to the organisation's need for any specialist skills and to the diversity of the Board's membership.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the CIO. Any expenses reclaimed from the CIO are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustees undergo an orientation day to meet key staff and other trustees. An information pack is provided that includes the Charity's Constitution, recent audited and management accounts, the business plan and organisational chart and the Charity Commission's information on Responsibilities of Trustees.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events, where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risk management strategy for the organisation. A comprehensive review of risks and opportunities is carried out annually by the trustees and the staff are responsible for overseeing and mitigating risks throughout the year.

Currently, the key risks facing the CIO are staff capacity, safeguarding, and financial activity.

- As a community charity, Margins has a responsibility to achieve the maximum possible impact with finite resources. Staff capacity is therefore kept under constant review and contingency/succession planning is built into the business plan.
- Margins' client group includes people who are at risk of harm or abuse. As such, the CIO has robust adult and child safeguarding policies, and a training plan is in place to ensure all staff and volunteers have the necessary understanding to recognize and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- As with any charity that relies on grants and donations to fund its activity, the UCM board in conjunction with the fundraiser keeps close track of grants awarded, to ensure financial stability. In addition £30,000 has been set aside as free reserves equivalent to 12 weeks general funds expenditure.

Therefore the trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate risks identified.

7. Fundraising Approach

Margins' approach to fundraising is to be clear, transparent and friendly. We use internal personnel on an employed or self-employed basis with a clear remit and line management. We do not engage with 3rd party fundraisers or commercial operators except for online providers such as justgiving.com. We fundraise for activities and services within Margins' aims and objectives.

We fundraise through formal applications to Trust and Foundations, Corporate Supporters and Statutory bodies. We also receive donations from individuals, mainly generated through our website, or through ticket sales and donations at particular fundraising events. At no point is anyone pressurised into donating and we respect anonymity when requested.

The internal fundraiser is responsible for managing all donated funds and reporting on income and expenditure. The Board of Trustees reviews fundraising income, expenditure and procedures on a quarterly basis and the fundraising strategy is reviewed annually

Margins is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abides by its Code of Practice. Margins' has reviewed its procedures in light of GDPR. Margins' has not failed to comply with the schemes or standards mentioned above.

Margins has received no complaints about its' fundraising activities done by itself or by someone on its behalf.

Margins does not consider its fundraising activities as intrusive into a person's privacy and does not carry out unreasonably persistent approaches or create undue pressure to give. However, to ensure that vulnerable people are protected it has adopted guidance from the Institute of Fundraising's *Treating Donors Fairly – Fundraising with People in Vulnerable Circumstances* guide.

8. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

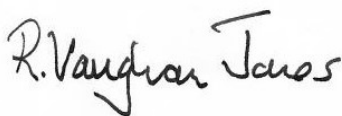
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on date and signed on their behalf by



Vaughan Jones
Chair

28th January 2022

9. Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of The Margins Project for the period ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 13 to 21.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

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 period 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;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking explanations 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 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 examiner's statement

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

- Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anthony Epton
Goldwins

75 Maygrove Road, London. NW6 2EG

Date 28th January 2022

The Margins Project

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	2020
	Note	£	£	Total	Total
				£	£
Income from:					
Donations & Grants	3	96,529	-	96,529	80,052
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Crisis Services	4	-	117,963	117,963	35,255
Supported Employment Programme		-	8,005	8,005	94,415
		-	-		
<i>Other Trading activities:</i>	5	32,136	-	32,136	
Investment Income		44	-	44	164
Total income		128,709	125,968	254,677	209,886
Expenditure on:	6				
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Crisis Services		11,134	113,132	124,265	75,021
Supported Employment Programme		50,053	20,255	70,308	137,363
Support Groups		-	-	-	4,098
<i>Other activities:</i>					
Fundraising Activities		34,246	-	34,246	28,382
Total expenditure		95,433	133,387	228,820	244,864
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		33,275	(7,419)	25,857	(34,978)
Net gains / (losses) on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	33,275	(7,419)	25,857	(34,978)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		33,275	(7,419)	25,857	(34,978)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		50,106	34,000	84,106	119,084
Total funds carried forward		83,381	26,581	109,963	84,106

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

The Margins Project
Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	10		<u>5,994</u>		<u>2,369</u>
			5,994		2,369
Current assets:					
Debtors	11	2,694		7,496	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>174,353</u>		<u>80,406</u>	
		177,047		87,902	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(73,079)</u>		<u>(6,165)</u>	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			<u>103,968</u>		<u>81,737</u>
Total net assets / (liabilities)	13		<u>109,963</u>		<u>84,106</u>
Funds	14				
Restricted funds			26,581		34,000
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds		<u>83,381</u>		<u>50,106</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>83,381</u>		<u>50,106</u>
Total funds			<u>109,963</u>		<u>84,106</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Vaughan Jones
Chair

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 - effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b) Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was required.

c) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

d) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

e) Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier.

Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions the incoming resource is deferred.

f) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

g) Training café income is received and is recognised in the period when earned.

h) Costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.

i) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

j) Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure and have been allocated based on staff time.

Crisis Services	70%
Supported Employment Programme	20%
Fundraising	10%

k) Assets costing in excess of £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

Depreciation is charged on these assets at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

Fixtures & Fittings	25% per annum based on cost
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The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

2 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £
Income from:			
Donations	76032	4020	80,052
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Crisis Services	-	35,255	35,255
Supported Employment Programme	65,915	28,500	94,415
<i>Other Trading activities:</i>			
Fundraising Activities	-	-	-
Investment income	164	-	164
Total income	142,111	67,775	209,886
Expenditure on:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Crisis Services	49,636	25,385	75,021
Supported Employment	96,738	40,625	137,363
Support Groups	3,643	455	4,098
<i>Other Trading activities:</i>			
Fundraising Activities	28,382	-	28,382
Total expenditure	178,399	66,465	244,864
Net income / expenditure before gains / (losses) on investments	(36,288)	1,310	(34,978)
Net gains / (losses) on investments	-	-	-
Net income / expenditure	(36,288)	1,310	(34,978)
Transfers between funds	33,673	(33,673)	-
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	(2,615)	(32,363)	(34,978)
Net movement in funds	(2,615)	(32,363)	(34,978)
Total funds brought forward	52,721	66,363	119,084
Total funds carried forward	50,106	34,000	84,106

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Donations	23,029	-	23,029	39,152
Grants:				
Inner London Magistrates Court	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
London Community Foundation Grant	-	-	-	2,500
Mrs Smith & Mount Grant	-	-	-	5,000
StreetSmart	-	-	-	10,000
The Allan Charitable Trust	2,000	-	2,000	1,500
The Grace Trust	-	-	-	1,000
Anonymous Grant	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Marsh Christian Trust	-	-	-	600
MVM Charitable Trust	-	-	-	300
The Albert Hunt Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
Fishmongers Trust	3,000	-	3,000	-
Homeless Link	20,000	-	20,000	-
Charities Aid Foundation	8,000	-	8,000	-
The Lund Trust	2,500	-	2,500	-
The Leslie Aldridge Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-
Streets of London	3,000	-	3,000	-
	96,529	-	96,529	80,052

The Margins Project

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Crisis Services				
London Catalyst Grant	-	-	-	1,000
Cloudesley – Welfare Grants Programme	-	3,303	3,303	-
LB of Islington – Local Initiative Fund	-	600	600	2,255
Pret Foundation Trust	-	10,000	10,000	12,000
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
The Slaughter and May Charitable Trust	-	21,995	21,995	15,000
Crisis Covid-19 Emergency Grant	-	5,000	5,000	-
London Funders - Wave 1	-	5,000	5,000	-
Arsenal Foundation	-	2,200	2,200	-
London Funders - Wave 4	-	4,000	4,000	-
London Community Response	-	9,725	9,725	-
CAF Covid Fund	-	37,390	37,390	-
Richard Cloudsley Fund	-	15,000	15,000	-
VCS Partnership	-	3,750	3,750	-
Total	-	117,963	117,963	35,255
Supported Employment Programme				
The London Housing Foundation	-	-	-	7,500
The Margins Project - Café	-	-	-	65,915
Pret Foundation Trust	-	-	-	6,000
The Slaughter and May Charitable Trust	-	8,005	8,005	15,000
Streetsmart	-	-	-	-
Total	-	8,005	8,005	94,415
Total income from charitable activities	-	125,968	125,968	129,670

5 Income from other activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising activities	-	-	-	-
CJRS Fund	32,136	-	32,136	-
Miscellaneous income	44	-	44	164
	32,179	-	32,179	164

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

6 Analysis of expenditure

	Basis of allocation	Charitable activities			Cost of Generating Funds		2021 Total £	2020 Total £
		Crisis Services	Supported Employment Programme	Support Groups	Fundraising Activities	Support costs		
		£	£	£	£	£		
Staff costs	Direct	42,727	51,925	-	25,234	41,223	161,109	178,209
Crisis Services	Direct	18,453	-	-	-	-	18,453	9,226
Supported Employment Programme	Direct	-	359	-	-	-	359	30,409
Support Groups	Direct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	Direct	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,864
Support costs	Staff time	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training & Recruitment		-	-	-	-	7,200	7,200	1,106
Building Maintenance		-	-	-	-	7,645	7,645	1,155
Office Expenses		-	-	-	-	4,055	4,055	1,009
Independent Examination		-	-	-	-	1,250	1,250	1,250
Consultancy		-	-	-	-	1,045	1,045	2,992
Depreciation		-	-	-	-	1,524	1,524	1,121
Bank Interest & Charges		-	-	-	-	248	248	568
Office Rent		-	-	-	-	3,822	3,822	-
Insurance		-	-	-	-	10,187	10,187	-
Heat & Light		-	-	-	-	5,097	5,097	-
Marketing		-	-	-	-	4,967	4,967	-
Sundry Expenses		-	-	-	-	1,858	1,858	1,955
		61,180	52,284	-	25,234	90,121	228,820	244,864
Support costs		62,210	17,774	-	8,887	-	-	-
Governance costs		875	250	-	125	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2021		124,265	70,308	-	34,246	-	228,820	-
Total expenditure 2020		75,021	137,363	4,098	28,382	-	-	244,864

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation	1,524	1,121
Independent Examination	1,250	1,250

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages	147,329	164,075
Social security costs	11,078	11,484
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,702	2,650
Redundancy and termination costs	-	-
	161,109	178,209

No employee earned £60,000 or more (2020: Nil).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £25,963 (2020: £46,166).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the Trust in the year (2020: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2020: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	3.0	7.5
Raising funds	1.0	1.0
Support	2.0	2.0
	6.0	10.5

All but one staff work on a part time basis.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

The Margins Project
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At the start of the year	11,020	11,020
Additions in year	5,149	5,149
Disposals in year	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>16,169</u>	<u>16,169</u>
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	8,651	8,651
Charge for the year	1,524	1,524
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>10,175</u>	<u>10,175</u>
Net book value		
At the end of the year	<u>5,994</u>	<u>5,994</u>
At the start of the year	<u>2,369</u>	<u>2,369</u>

11 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	-	480
Prepayments & Accrued income	2,694	2,644
Amount owed by Parent Group	-	4,372
	<u>2,694</u>	<u>7,496</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	-	771
Taxation and social security	338	3,932
Accruals	7,165	1,463
Amount owed to Parent Group	<u>65,576</u>	-
	<u>73,079</u>	<u>6,165</u>

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	5,994	-	-	5,994
Net current assets	77,387	-	26,581	103,968
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>83,381</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,581</u>	<u>109,963</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	2,369	-	-	2,369
Net current assets	47,737	-	34,000	81,737
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>50,106</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,000</u>	<u>84,106</u>

The Margins Project

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

14 Movements in funds	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Crisis Services	21,750	117,963	113,132	-	26,581
Supported Employment Programme	12,250	8,005	20,255	-	-
Support Groups	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	34,000	125,968	133,387	-	26,581
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	50,106	128,709	95,433	-	83,381
Total unrestricted funds	50,106	128,709	95,433	-	83,381
Total funds	84,106	254,677	228,820	-	109,963

Movements in funds (prior year)

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Crisis Services	14,753	39,275	25,385	- 6,894	21,750
Supported Employment Programme	43,652	28,500	40,625	- 19,277	12,250
Support Groups	7,317	-	455	- 6,862	-
Fundraising Activities	641	-	-	- 641	-
Total restricted funds	66,363	67,775	66,465	- 33,673	34,000
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	52,721	142,111	178,399	33,673	50,106
Total unrestricted funds	52,721	142,111	178,399	33,673	50,106
Total funds	119,083	209,886	244,864	-	84,106

Purposes of restricted funds

Crisis Services

Grants and donations in kind received towards the running of the Drop In services and Winternight shelter.

Supported Employment Programme

Grants received towards the running of the supported employment programme

Fundraising

Grants and donations in kind received towards fundraising activity.

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered on 25 July 2013. Previously the organisation was part of the parent charity Union Chapel Project (Company no 2583801, Charity no 1010166).

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions.

Thank you!

- Albert Hunt Trust
- Alchemy Foundation
- Allan Charitable Trust
- Arsenal Foundation (include Logo)
- Belle Epoque
- Budgens
- Canonbury Primary School
- CARIS
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Cloudesley Foundation
- Crisis
- Edward Gostling Foundation
- Grace Trust
- Inner London Magistrates' Courts' Poor Box Charity and Feeder Charity
- Islington Council
- Leslie Aldridge Trust
- London Catalyst
- London Community Foundation
- London Funders
- London Housing Foundation
- Lund Trust
- Marsh Christian Trust
- Ministry of Communities Housing and Local Government
- Orbis Investments
- Pret Foundation
- Slaughter and May Charitable Trust
- St Mary's Church Mission Giving Committee
- Streets of London
- Tesco's
- Trussell Trust
- Liz Walker
- Union Chapel Choir
- Union Chapel Project
- Waitrose Community Matters
- Worshipful Company of Fishmongers

Our sincere thanks to all the individuals and organisations (some preferring to remain anonymous) who have given so generously through donations. To all our amazing volunteers who give their time to Union Chapel for all their support.