

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1153700

Details

Other names	THE RIVER
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-09-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	3 Pepperhill Road Manchester M16 7PD
Phone	07824399255
Email	therivermanchester@gmail.com
Website	www.therivermanchester.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF AND SUPPORT OF PERSONS, WHO HAVE SUFFERED OR ARE IN DANGER OF SUFFERING SEX-RELATED VIOLENCE OR ABUSE, THEIR CHILDREN AND DEPENDANTS BY THE PROVISION OF FOOD, CLOTHING, FURNITURE, FRIENDSHIP, TRAINING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

Activities: The provision of food, clothing,furniture, friendship, training and other assistance.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bury
- Manchester City
- Oldham
- Salford City
- Tameside
- Trafford

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£209,640	£152,955	-	-
2024-03-31	£156,589	£159,434	-	-
2023-03-31	£183,638	£170,941	-	-
2022-03-31	£138,330	£104,371	-	-
2021-03-31	£133,055	£81,339	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Deborah Anderton		2024-12-07
Deborah Nyarai Fuller		2018-08-08
Dr Ernest Edem Edifor		2023-12-09
Sefadzi Kofi Amesu		2016-05-09

Accounts

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(CHARITY No. 1153700)
Annual Report & Accounts
For the year ending MARCH 2025

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Registered Name

Charity Incorporated Organisation
The River Manchester
Registration no. 1153700

Trustees

Deborah Fuller, Chair
Sefadzi Kofi Amesu, Treasurer
Ernest Edifor
Deborah Anderton

Registered Office

3 Pepperhill Road
Moss Side
Manchester M16 7PD

Independent Examiners

Rana & Co
P O Box 145
Manchester M19 1UY

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank
Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

Charity Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission on 6 September 2013.

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the independently examined financial statements of The River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report, together with the charity's professional advisers, are listed on the accompanying Information Page.

Structure, Governance and Management

The management and administration of the charity is carried out by the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Lydia Chan, who reports to the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis. She is supported in the day-to-day running of the charity by a core staff member, the Project Co-ordinator (Donna Barber), a part-time driver, accounts staff, and a committed team of 10 regular volunteers.

Volunteers receive daily briefings to keep them informed of operational updates and health and safety matters. The CEO meets both individually and collectively with staff for supervision and also facilitates team meetings and feedback sessions with volunteers, enabling insights and concerns to be shared openly.

The Board of Trustees meets quarterly, with additional meetings held as required to review progress and plan the future development of the charity. The Trustees are currently seeking to recruit additional trustees to strengthen governance and expertise.

Trustees' Statement – Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that the charity's objectives have been developed in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Throughout the year, the Trustees have reviewed the charity's activities both informally and at official Trustees' meetings and have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at all times.

Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for identifying and managing the risks faced by the charity. Systems and controls are in place to provide reasonable, though not absolute, assurance against material misstatement, loss, or exposure to risk. Risk reviews are undertaken regularly, and policies and procedures are implemented to minimise internal risks.

A significant risk identified during the year related to the lease of the charity's building, as the property owners decided to sell the building at auction in September 2024. This posed a risk of increased rental costs or loss of premises. Following careful consideration, the Trustees resolved to purchase the building using existing reserves, supported by a fundraising strategy and a mortgage. The building was successfully purchased on 17 December 2024, securing the charity's long-term operational base.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

The charity's objectives are:

The relief and support of persons who have suffered, or are in danger of suffering, from social and emotional difficulties, including those fleeing domestic violence or sexual abuse, and their children and dependants, through the provision of food, clothing, furniture, friendship, training, and other assistance.

Activities

Fundamental to the work of The River Manchester is our faith in Jesus Christ. Our Christian faith brings hope and transformation, which we demonstrate in practical ways. We provide a safe and welcoming environment where connections can be made, practical support such as food, clothing, furniture, and training can be accessed.

Activities During the Year

Fundraising and Income Generation

The charity's income strategy is based on three key income streams:

1. Charity shop income
2. Donations from individual and corporate donors
3. Grant funding

The Trustees recognise the risks of over-reliance on a single income source. This was particularly evident in the previous year when grant income declined. Encouragingly, during the year under review, total income increased from £156,589 to £209,640, representing an increase of 33.87%.

Income from all three streams enabled the charity to further develop its intervention programmes, including one-to-one emotional wrap-around support for women and children moving to safety, expanded mental health workshops, and the purchase of the charity's building.

Retail and Café

The charity operates two social enterprises: a charity shop and a café/community food club. These initiatives generate income while also providing training and

empowerment opportunities for women to develop skills and move towards employment.

Participants involved in the food club completed Food Safety Level 2 training to ensure compliance with food hygiene standards. The charity shop continues to play a vital role, enabling the provision of resettlement packages for clients while serving the local East Manchester community.

Removal Service

With a dedicated team of volunteers, supported by volunteer and paid drivers and two assistants, the charity delivered an emergency moving service for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. Funding was secured to provide this service at low or no cost for direct referrals.

Training and Skills Development

The Project Co-ordinator, who is also a specialist domestic abuse worker, delivered one-to-one emotional support and recruited four trainee counsellors. The counselling service continues to grow in reputation, with a current waiting time of approximately six weeks, significantly shorter than statutory services.

All four counsellors are registered members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP). Staff and volunteers also attended training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and trauma-informed practice to enhance support for clients affected by trauma.

Training Courses Delivered

A range of courses were delivered to support mental health and recovery from trauma associated with domestic abuse, including:

- **Living Life to the Full (CBT-based)**

Two six-week courses ran from 12 September to 17 October 2024 (12 participants) and from 10 September to 15 October 2024 (10 participants). The course explored mood, emotions, behaviours, and healthy routines. One participant shared that the course helped her find the confidence to speak openly for the first time in a safe and accepting environment.

- **Domestic Abuse Awareness – Recovery Toolkit**

A six-week programme delivered from 25 September to 13 November 2024, attended by eight participants weekly. Topics included types of abuse, the power and control wheel, leaving the perpetrator, the impact of abuse on mothers and children, and healthy relationships.

- **You and Me, Mum**

A ten-week programme delivered from 14 May to 23 July 2024 with ten participants, focusing on recovery from domestic violence and addressing behavioural challenges in children affected by abuse.

- **Health and Wellbeing Sessions**

Delivered from 31 October to 5 December 2024, incorporating mindfulness, arts and crafts, jewellery making, fascinator making, card making, and doodle art, providing a safe space for relaxation and recovery.

Events Organised During the Year

- Christmas wreath-making workshop (10 participants)
- Christmas dinner for volunteers in recognition of their dedication and commitment
- Two open days for the community

Volunteers

During the year, 61 volunteers were recruited. Volunteers provided coaching, one-to-one support, and confidence-building opportunities, helping individuals gain experience and preparation for the workplace.

The charity prides itself on fostering a strong sense of community and belonging, creating a supportive “family” environment for volunteers who may otherwise feel isolated. Volunteers are encouraged to support one another, and new volunteers are welcomed with enthusiasm. A Volunteer Policy is in place and available upon request.

Impact and Achievements

The charity’s work addressing food, furniture, and financial poverty, alongside supporting survivors of domestic abuse, achieved the following impact:

1. A total of 1,135 referrals across all services, excluding the community food club, which supports approximately 80 individuals.
2. Distribution of 710 emergency food parcels, including weekly deliveries to a refuge in Chorlton supporting seven single women.
3. Counselling hours increased from 135 hours in 2024 to 538 hours in the year under review, reflecting increased demand and positive impact in reducing isolation, suicidal ideation, and mental health challenges.
4. Furniture support valued at over £3,260 was provided through donations from the charity shop.
5. Support for 28 “move to safety” relocations for single mothers and their children into secure tenancies.
6. Additional referrals for domestic abuse workshops, one-to-one support, counselling, advice, and signposting.

Beneficiaries reported feeling safer, more connected, and more confident, with improved mental health, wellbeing, and employment aspirations. Referrals were primarily received from high-risk agencies including Women’s Aid, Independent

Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), Early Help, Children's Services, Social Services, and WAST.

Client Testimony

"The River is my family, providing me with a support network and friends for the first time in my life, as well as a stable home. The courses, counselling, and wellbeing sessions gave me a lifeline. Without this support, I would not be where I am today, returning to employment."

Building Space

The charity operates from a two-shop-floor unit with two rooms upstairs. While the premises enable current service delivery, limited space restricts further growth in staffing, resources, and service capacity. The upstairs area includes a refurbished training room and stock room, with a stairlift providing disability access.

Plans for the Future and Challenges

The charity plans to continue empowering individuals through its services, strengthen partnerships with referral agencies, and recruit additional trainees into its training programmes. Collaboration will continue with Openshaw community organisations, Gorton Hub, Women's Aid, IDVAs, Manchester City Council Social Services, and other agencies.

Key priorities for the coming year include:

1. Increasing income from the food club and charity shop
2. Improving IT systems and digital inclusion
3. Updating the charity's website, strengthening our presence
4. Increase provision for counselling

Financial Review and Reserves Strategy

The auction of the charity's building during the year required the Trustees to convene a series of emergency meetings to carefully assess both the short-term and long-term financial implications of purchasing the property. While the acquisition represented a significant financial commitment, the Trustees concluded that securing ownership of the building was a strategic decision that would protect the charity from future rental uncertainty, provide long-term cost stability, and support sustainable service delivery.

The purchase of the building necessitated the use of a substantial proportion of the charity's reserves and resulted in the deferral of planned capital expenditure, including the purchase of a van. Following completion of the purchase, the charity's free reserves were reduced to approximately **£30,000**, equivalent to around three months of operating expenditure.

In recognition of this temporary reduction in reserves, the Trustees implemented a recovery strategy to strengthen the charity's financial resilience. This included the successful securing of **grant funding and a loan**, alongside the mortgage arrangement for the property, which together have been used to stabilise cash flow, rebuild reserves, and support ongoing operations.

The Trustees operate a reserves strategy that aims to maintain free reserves at a minimum level equivalent to **three months' operating costs**, providing sufficient flexibility to manage income volatility, respond to unforeseen events, and invest selectively in strategic growth. The reserves position and cash flow forecasts are reviewed regularly by the Trustees as part of ongoing financial oversight.

Looking ahead, the Trustees' financial strategy focuses on rebuilding reserves beyond the minimum threshold, strengthening unrestricted income streams through the charity shop and food club, and diversifying funding sources to support service expansion, digital development, and long-term sustainability.

Independent Examiner

Rana & Co was appointed as the Independent Examiner for the year.



Deborah Fuller
Chair of Trustees

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025	2025	2025		2024
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds	Prior Period
		Fund	Fund	Fund	Total funds	Total funds
		£	£		£	£
Income and Endowments from:	3					
Donations and Legacies	3.1	81250	42857	0	124107	81956
Other Trading Activities	3.2	85533	0	0	85533	74634
Total		166783	42857	0	209640	156590
Expenditure On:	4					
Charitable Activities	4.1 & 4.2	116722	35022	0	151744	158438
Other	4.3	1211	0	0	1211	996
Total		117933	35022	0	152955	159434
Net Gains/(losses) on Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Net Income (expenditure)		48850	7835		56685	-2844
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds		48850	7835	0	56685	-2844
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total funds brought forward		113420	11732		125152	
Total Funds carried forward		162270	19567		181837	

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5.1		
Total Fixed Assets		188,965	5710
Currents Assets			
Debtors	5.2	1,340	3,900
Cash at bank and in hand		64,052	120,437
Total Current Assets		<u>65,392</u>	<u>124,337</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	5.3	<u>3,097</u>	<u>4,895</u>
		62,295	119,442
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		251,260	125,152
Total Assets less current liabilities			
Long Term Liability			
Creditors: Amount falling due More than One year			-
Provision for Liabilities	5.4	<u>69,423</u>	
Net Assets		<u>181,837</u>	<u>125,152</u>
The Funds of the Charity	5.4		
Restricted Income funds		19567	11732
Unrestricted Fund		162,270	113,420
Total Charity Funds		<u>181,837</u>	<u>125,152</u>

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with:

* Accounting and reporting by Charities - statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015);

* and with*

--

 accounting standards;
or

--

 Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE);

* and with the Charities Act.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

This set of accounts represent The River Manchester 12th year financial reporting.

2. Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a difference or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of Incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (Sofa) When: * the charity becomes entitled to the resources; * the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and * the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Investment Income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Expenditure and Liabilities Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Governance costs	Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
Support Costs	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
Assets	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least a thousand pounds. They are valued at cost

3. Analysis of Incoming resources

3.1 Voluntary Income	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£
Donation from Sponsors/ individuals	57861	17513
Gift Aid Tax Claimed	3389	7317
Grants Received	62857	57125
	<u>124107</u>	<u>81956</u>
3.2 Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Sponsorship -HMRC 80% Job Retention Grant	-	-
Sales of Donated Goods	85533	74634
	<u>85533</u>	<u>74634</u>
3.3 Investment Income	funds	funds
	£	£
Bank Interest Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3.4 Charitable Activities Income	funds	funds
Van Donation Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	209640	156589

4. Analysis of resources expended

4.1 Cost of Charitable activities	2025	2024
	Total	Total
	£	£
Salaries and wages	92307	78901
PAYE/Employer & Employee NI	17406	14579
Pension Contribution	4059	3804
Staff Training Cost	124	82
Volunteers Training Cost	45	107
Vehicle Repair/Hire Cost	516	1158
Vehicle Petrol Expenses	994	1251
Volunteer/Staff Travel Expenses	350	1110
Volunteer Expenses	1550	2570
Project Cost	5578	6484
Heat & Light	3799	10776
Rent	6885	12992
Business/Water Rates	732	1116
Insurances	2542	2121
Caretaking	2174	660
Repairs & Maintenance	1864	6437
Postage & Stationery/printing	436	346
Phone & Internet	870	632
Publicity Cost/Website	537	1034
IT Cost	1338	210
Equipment Purchased	269	757
Materials Purchased	51	-
Cafeteria /Food Club Purchased	1357	2781
Cafeteria Equipment	1497	320
	<u>147278</u>	<u>150229</u>
4.2 Governance Cost	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Cost	700	6750
Trustee Meeting Expenses	172	101
Bank Charges	822	881
Building Loan Interest Paid	1922	
Fees Paid	850	477
	<u>4465</u>	<u>8209</u>
4.3 Other Resources Cost		
Depreciation Fixture & Fittings	690	345
Depreciation Motor Vehicle	521	651
	<u>1211</u>	<u>996</u>
Gains and Losses		
Asset Write off Van	-	-
Total	<u>152955</u>	<u>159434</u>

5. Notes to accounts Balance Sheet

5.1 Tangible Fixed Assets

	YH63FML			
	Building	Motor Van	Fixture/ Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Building				
Cost 15/10/2024	184466	7200	3450	195116
Depreciation				
Balance b/f		4595	345	4940
Charge for the period		521	690	1211
20% reducing				
	-	5116	1035	6151
Net Book Value				
as at 31 March 2025	184466	2084	2415	188965
As at 31 March 2024		2605	3105	5710

5.2 Debtors

£
Staff Wages advanced
1,340
1,340

5.3 Accruals

£
Accountancy & Audit
150
HMRC- PAYE & NI
1293
Staff Pension Auto Enrolment
676
Repairs & maintenance
673
Utilita
305
3097

5.4 Long Term Liability

Co-Op Bank Loan
70000
Less: Repayment
577
69423

5.4 Charity Funds

	01-Apr-24	Income	Expenditure	31-Mar-25
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	113420	166,783	117933	162,270
Restricted Funds	11732	42857	35022	19567
Total Charity Funds				181,837

Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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:

- (1) 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 Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

Rana & Co



Independent Examiner
190-200 Platt Lane
Manchester
M14 7DE

Accounts

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(CHARITY No. 1153700)
Annual Report & Accounts
For the year ending MARCH 2024

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Registered Name

Charity Incorporated Organisation
The River Manchester
Registration no. 1153700

Trustees

Terence Carthy, Chairman stepped down 9th December 2023
Deborah Fuller, became Chair on 9th December 2023
Sefadzi Kofi Amesu, Treasurer
Ernest Edifor joined 9th December 2023

Registered Office

3 Pepperhill Road
Moss Side
Manchester M16 7PD

Independent Examiners

Rana & Co
P O Box 145
Manchester M19 1UY

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank
Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

**The River Manchester
Trustees Annual Report
YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2023**

Charity Incorporated Organisation registered with The Charity Commission on 6th September 2013.

The Trustees, present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The Trustees throughout the Year and to the date of this report and their advisors are set out on the accompanying Information Page.

Structure, Governance and Management

The management and administration is carried out by the Chief Executive, Mrs Lydia Chan who reports to the board of trustees on a quarterly basis. She is assisted in the day to day operation by 2 core staff members Project Co-ordinator, Donna Barber and Café & Charity Shop Manager, Carol Dalton, the part-time driver and a core of 10 volunteers. The volunteers have a daily briefing to keep them updated with the developments and health and safety matters in the charity. The CEO meets individually and jointly with staff members for supervision as well as team meetings and feedback sessions with volunteers to share insights and concerns.

The board of Trustees meet quarterly, also regularly at other times to review progress, and to plan for the future development of the Charity. At present they are actively seeking to recruit additional trustees.

Trustees Statement - Public benefit

Our objectives, as outlined below, have been designed with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in mind. Throughout this year we have pursued these objectives as we have reviewed our activities both informally and in our official trustees meetings. At all times we have had regard to the Commissions guidance on the public benefit requirement.

Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the charity as they provide controls that provide reasonable although not absolute assurance against material misstatement, loss or exposure to risk. Risk reviews are undertaken regularly to ensure internal risks are minimised through the implementation of policy and procedure. One of the risks presented was the renewal of the lease of the building which could mean a higher rental or the

owners could decide to sell off the building. In respect of this, the trustees have proceeded on getting a development report to apply funding to secure the building at risk.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity has the following objectives which are:

The relief and support of persons who have suffered or are in danger or suffering, from social and emotional difficulties, whether fleeing domestic violence from sex related violence or abuse, their children and dependants by the provision of food, clothing, furniture, friendship, training and other assistance.

Activities

Fundamental to the work of the charity is our faith in Jesus Christ; our Christian faith brings hope and change where we demonstrate our faith in practical ways in being able to offer a safe place for connections to be made, a place where practical provision of food, clothing, furniture and practical training is made available to help people move on in their lives and most importantly prayer is offered.

Activities in the year

Fundraising/Income generation

Our income strategy has 3 strands of income generation which are:

- the charity shop income
- donations from personal donors/corporate donors
- grant applications

We understand the risk on being too dependent from one income stream and this is especially critical this year when there was a drop in grants. The overall income was £156 589 compared to previous year of £183 637, a decrease of 15%. The National Lottery Cost of Living grants played a crucial role as it helped us provide funding to cover the rise in energy cost and living cost suffered by our clients without which we would have to reduce our services. The grants also enabled us to employ short term temporary staff, and we secured paid posts for service users to give them the opportunity to rebuild their confidence and become employable. We continued to sustain 2 part-time staff till the end of May 2023.

The income generated helped us to further develop the charity's intervention programme providing 1-2-1 emotional wrap around support when referrals for moves to safety were made, as well as increase the provision in mental health workshops.

Retail and cafe:

The charity operates two enterprises i.e. the charity shop and a cafe. The café

which included a trial food club was created to generate an income as well as giving the opportunity for training and empowerment for our women to gain skills and employment. The café also helped us provide a warm hub and free meals which were funded by the National Lottery for our clientele. By the end of May 2023, we lost our charity shop manager due to loss of funding and the strategy was to cover these positions with a future budget allocation for 2024/2025. In the meantime, the CEO and Project Co-ordinator with the help of volunteers stepped into this role. Those who were involved in the café underwent Food Safety Level 2 training to provide a safe delivery of food in our café and a warm hub serving 30 clients during the winter months in December 2023-March 2024. It is a concern that it would cost us more in our energy bill to keep our facility warm and cook food for our clients. The charity shop continues to serve our purpose by enabling us to donate a resettlement package to our clients as well as serving the local community in East Manchester.

Removal service

With a dedicated team of volunteers via our volunteer/paid drivers and 2 assistants, we were able to provide an emergency moving service. We were able to secure funding to provide this as a low cost/free service to direct referrals for women and children.

Training and skills

Our project co-ordinator (who is also our specialist domestic abuser worker) was able to deliver 1-2-1 emotional support and recruited 56 trainees to train in our retail areas. The counselling support has grown in reputation as there is a short waiting list of 6 weeks compared to statutory waiting times. Our 3 counsellors are registered with the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy. Staff and volunteers also attended a 6 weeks course on Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) and trauma training to become a trauma informed to support our clients who have suffered trauma.

Training courses

The following courses were delivered to support those with mental health as mental health and trauma is a consequence of domestic abuse:

Several workshops were delivered at The River Manchester:

- **Living life to the full x 2 (cbt) course 6 weeks sessions.** This course helps with mental health and looks at mood, emotions and behaviours and having a healthy routine. Clients were given an option of having an extra session 2 weeks after we had finished to check in and see how they were doing which supported their mental health and reduced feelings of isolation.

- **Domestic abuse awareness in the Recovery tool kit, 2x6 week sessions.** This looks at different types of abuse, the power and control wheel, leaving the perpetrator, the effects of abuse on mother and child and healthy relationships.

Events organised by us during the year:

- The International Women's day celebrating different cultures with collaborative work with the local communities/agencies.
- craft activities, painting, card making sessions over Christmas
- On December 10, we organised in house for the 2nd year a 16 days of action against gender violence themed on "bridges that the River provide" with over 70 persons in attendance to commemorate those who were killed due to domestic abuse.
- We had 2 open days during the month of August 2023; we invited 10 organisations to inform them the services we offer and how to make a referral.
- Winter hub for people struggling by creating a warm hub and meals for 30 clients.

Volunteers

This year 56 volunteers were recruited of which 18 of them managed to find paid work with the nurturing that we provide at the River, the coaching, boosting of self-esteem, and confidence building really helps our volunteers have a good grounding for the real world of work places. We also pride ourselves on providing a family at The River and helping create social networks for people who would be otherwise isolated. The volunteers help each other, as they know how it feels to be new and welcome each person with enthusiasm. We took our volunteers to Blackpool pleasure beach as a treat for all their hard work. This really boosted the morale of the volunteers. We have a volunteers policy which is available on request.

Impact and achievements

The pandemic from March 2020-2021 highlighted the need for our frontline key services and gave a validation for our services. Our objectives to tackle food, furniture and financial poverty and supporting those who have fled domestic abuse had the following impact:

1. Provision of emergency food parcels. In 2023 there was 1435 referrals. Over all referrals including food parcels and all our services is 1,247.
2. We also gifted 993 emergency food parcels to clients, including a refuge with 7 single women in weekly in Chorlton where we drop off the food for them. The food parcels come in through referrals and sometimes walk-ins off the street.
3. Counselling hours overall were 135 hours.
4. We were able to tackle furniture poverty by gifting over £5140 worth of

furniture from our charity shop.

5. Move to safety –supporting 43 moves for single mothers and their children to move on to a safe place of tenancy.
6. There were also 490 referrals for other services which include domestic abuse workshops, 121 support, emotional counselling, advice, and signposting.

We continue to have an impact supporting people to recover from their wounds into people who are safe, connected, and confident to become independent people who can realise their dreams, move into jobs, feel secure and improved well-being. Beneficiaries felt connected, found 1-2-1 support, were confident, happier and found their own voice and improved outcomes in mental health and job aspirations. Our referrals are mainly from high-risk beneficiaries referred from Women's Aid, Independent Domestic Advisors, Early Help, Children's Services, Social Services and WAST.

Testimonies from clients:

"I find myself struggling to find the right words to express the depth of my gratitude for everything you have done for me. During one of the darkest and most challenging periods of my life, battling anxiety and depression amidst family struggles, domestic violence, and the aftermath of a terrible car accident. You were the light that guided me back to hope and healing. Through your unwavering support, encouragement and kindness, you helped me rebuild not just my confidence but my ability to connect with the world around me. The sense of community you offered gave me the strength to step out of my comfort zone and develop the communication skills I thought I had lost forever.

Your belief in me reminded me of my own inner strength and for that, I am eternally grateful. You didn't just help me recovery you empowered me to rediscover the joy and possibility in life. Thank you for being such an integral part of my journey, for standing by me when I felt lost, and for showing me that I was never alone. With all my heart thank you."

"The River are like a family to me, they helped me build my confidence to have a voice, helped me with my inner voice to stop over thinking they taught me that I am not alone in a world and to deal with situations I would normally hide away from I am truly grateful."

"The River has helped me with domestic violence. Bringing back hope in my life and you are the only ones that seem to have really listened and understood me" you are my family".

Building space:

The charity operates from a 2 shop floor unit with 2 rooms upstairs. The limited space confines our ability to grow in terms of having more staff, resources and capacity to grow our services. During the year, we managed to refurbish the building's lights to energy saving lights to cut the high cost of energy and we changed the old, tattered flooring with grants and support from the corporate sector.

Plans for the future and challenges

The charity's plan is to continue empowering people through its services and build stronger relationships with other referral agencies and recruit more trainees to participate in our training programme. We continue working and collaboration with Openshaw Community Organisations, Gorton Hub, Women's Aid, IDVAs, Manchester City Council social services and other agencies for referrals and signposting. The charity continues to operate from a limited space and would like to refurbish the upstairs stock room and training room.

Key areas of focus for year will be to generate more income from the food club and shop, improve overall IT and Digital Inclusion for The River, update info on website, improve marketing and promotional needs with the support from our trustee, Edem Edifor.

Financial review

We are as with many charities, dependent on income from voluntary donations and our charity shop, so we remain dependent on the generosity of our donors and grant givers to continue in operation. Any reduction in donation income will impact on our ability to maintain operations and in the worst-case scenario, could result in us ceasing to operate. The charity currently has been able to build a 6 months reserve (£60,000) to cover 6 months operating costs, objectives and risks that The Charity may face as well as plans for growth and expansion. The charity has also set aside £20,000 for plans to purchase a van through the carbon emission strategy implementation in the city of Manchester. Our current fundraising strategies and reserves policy provide adequate protection against this eventuality. We are now exploring the possibility of purchasing the building we are occupying, and a valuation and development plan has been undertaken to proceed with this.

Independent Examiner

Rana & Co has been appointed as independent examiner for the year.



Deborah Fuller
Chair of Trustees

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
(CHARITY No. 1153700)

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

for the year ending 31/03/2024

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2024	2024	2024		2023
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds	Prior Period
		Fund	Fund	Fund	Total funds	Total funds
		£	£		£	£
Income and Endowments from:	3					
Donations and Legacies	3.1	26030	55925	0	81955	121561
Other Trading Activities	3.2	74634	0	0	74634	62076
Total		100664	55925	0	156589	183637
Expenditure On:	4					
Charitable Activities	4.1 & 4.2	85301	73137	0	158438	170127
Other	4.3	996	0	0	996	814
Total		86297	73137	0	159434	170941
Net Gains/(losses) on Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Net Income (expenditure)		14368	-17212		-2844	12697
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds		14368	-17212	0	-2844	12697
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total funds brought forward		99052	28944		127996	
Total Funds carried forward		113420	11732		125152	

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 Total	2023 Total
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5.1	5,710	3,256
Total Fixed Assets		<u>5,710</u>	<u>3256</u>
Currents Assets			
Debtors	5.2	3,900	2,600
Cash at bank and in hand		120,437	126,122
Total Current Assets		<u>124,337</u>	<u>128,722</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amount falling due	5.3	4,895	3,982
within one year			
Net Current Asset/(liabilities)		<u>119,441</u>	<u>124,740</u>
Total Net Assets or Liabilities		<u>125,152</u>	<u>127,996</u>
The Funds of the Charity	5.4		
Restricted Income funds		11,732	28,944
Unrestricted Fund		113,420	99,052
Total Funds		<u>125,152</u>	<u>127,996</u>

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with:

* Accounting and reporting by Charities - statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015);

* and with*

--

 accounting standards;
or

--

 Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE);

* and with the Charities Act.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

This set of accounts represent The River Manchester 11th year financial reporting.

2. Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a difference or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of Incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (Sofa) When: * the charity becomes entitled to the resources; * the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and * the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Investment Income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Expenditure and Liabilities Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Governance costs	Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
Support Costs	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
Assets	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least a thousand pounds. They are valued at cost

3. Analysis of Incoming resources

3.1 Voluntary Income	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Donation from Sponsors/ individuals	17513	6313
Gift Aid Tax Claimed	7317	-
Grants Received	57125	115248
	<u>81956</u>	<u>121561</u>
3.2 Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Sponsorship -HMRC 80% Job Retention Grant	-	-
Sales of Donated Goods	74634	62076
	<u>74634</u>	<u>62076</u>
3.3 Investment Income	funds	funds
	£	£
Bank Interest Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3.4 Charitable Activities Income	funds	funds
Van Donation Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

4. Analysis of resources expended

4.1 Cost of Charitable activities	2024	2023
	Total	Total
	£	£
Salaries and wages	78901	90486
PAYE/Employer & Employee NI	14579	21046
Pension Contribution	3804	5358
Staff Training Cost	82	663
Volunteers Training Cost	107	1369
Vehicle Repair/Hire Cost	1158	834
Vehicle Petrol Expenses	1251	1309
Volunteer Travel Expenses	1110	2000
Volunteer Expenses	2570	1657
Project Cost	6484	4571
Heat & Light	10776	8991
Rent	12992	12840
Business/Water Rates	1116	970
Insurances	2121	1999
Caretaking	660	654
Repairs & Maintenance	6437	1250
Postage & Stationery/printing	346	849
Phone & Internet	632	799
Publicity Cost/Website	1034	-
IT Cost	210	678
Equipment Purchase	757	845
Cafeteria Purchase	2781	1666
Cafeteria Equipment	320	1022
	150229	161858
4.2 Governance Cost	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Cost	6750	6150
Trustee Meeting Expenses	101	112
Bank Charges	881	997
Fees Paid	477	1010
	8209	8269
4.3 Other Resources Cost		
Depreciation Fixture & Fittings	345	-
Depreciation Motor Vehicle	651	814
	996	814
Gains and Losses		
Asset Write off Van	-	-
Total	159434	170941

5. Notes to accounts Balance Sheet

5.1 Tangible Fixed Assets

	YH63FML		
	Motor Van	Fixture/ Fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost	7200		7200
Cost-Stairlift (19/10/2023)		3,450	3450
Depreciation			
Balance b/f	3944		3944
Charge for the period	651	345	996
20% reducing			
	4595	345	4940
Net Book Value			
as at 31 March 2024	2605	3,105	5710
As at 31 March 2023	3256	-	3256

5.2 Debtors

	£
Rent Prepayment	2,600
Staff Wages advanced	1,300
	3,900

5.3 Accruals

	£
Accountancy & Audit	1150
HMRC- PAYE & NI	1679
Staff Pension Auto Enrolment	637
Repairs & maintenance	1200
IT Cost	230
	4895

5.4 Charity Funds

	01-Apr-23	Income	Expenditure	31-Mar-24
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	99052	100,664	86297	113,420
Restricted Funds	28944	55925	73137	11732
Total Charity Funds				125,152

Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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:

- (1) 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 Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

Rana & Co



Independent Examiner
190- 200 Platt Lane
Manchester
M14 7DE

Accounts

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(CHARITY No. 1153700)
Annual Report & Accounts
For the year ending MARCH 2023

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Registered Name
Charity Incorporated Organisation
The River Manchester
Registration no. 1153700

Trustees
Terence Carthy, Chairman
Sefadzi Kofi Amesu, Treasurer
Deborah Fuller, Secretary

Registered Office
3 Pepperhill Road
Moss Side
Manchester M16 7PD

Independent Examiners
Rana & Co
P O Box 145
Manchester M19 1UY

Bankers
The Co-operative Bank
Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

**The River Manchester
Trustees Annual Report
YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2023**

Charity Incorporated Organisation registered with The Charity Commission on 6th September 2013.

The Trustees, present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The Trustees throughout the Year and to the date of this report and their advisors are set out on the accompanying Information Page.

Structure, Governance and Management

The management and administration is carried out by the Chief Executive, Mrs Lydia Chan who reports to the board of trustees on a quarterly basis. She is assisted in the day to day operation by 2 core staff members Project Co-ordinator, Donna Barber and Café & Charity Shop Manager, Carol Dalton and a core of 10 volunteers.

The board of Trustees meet quarterly, also regularly at other times to review progress, and to plan for the future development of the Charity. At present they are actively seeking to recruit additional trustees. The volunteers and trustees are incredible, we could not have achieved what we have done over the year without our volunteers.

Trustees Statement - Public benefit

Our objectives, as outlined below, have been designed with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in mind. Throughout this year we have pursued these objectives as we have reviewed our activities both informally and in our official trustees meetings. At all times we have had regard to the Commissions guidance on the public benefit requirement.

Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the charity as they provide controls that provide reasonable although not absolute assurance against material misstatement, loss or exposure to risk. Risk reviews are undertaken regularly to ensure internal risks are minimised through the implementation of policy and procedure.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity has the following objectives which are:

The relief and support of persons who have suffered or are in danger or suffering, from social and emotional difficulties, whether fleeing domestic violence from sex related violence or abuse, their children and dependants by the provision of food, clothing, furniture, friendship, training and other assistance.

Activities

Fundamental to the work of the charity is our faith in Jesus Christ; our Christian faith brings hope and change where we demonstrate our faith in practical ways in being able to offer a safe place for connections to be made, a place where practical provision of food, clothing, furniture and practical training is made available to help people move on in their lives and most importantly prayer is offered.

Activities in the year

Fundraising

We see a financial growth secured by voluntary donations and grants giving an increase in our revenue by 33% from £138,330 to £183,638. The new income levels are single grants and not repeat grants. The grants helped us provide emergency food parcels, helped move 53 families to safety and to grow our team to fund 8 short term temporary employees from our beneficiaries to build their confidence to become employable.

The income helped us develop further the charity's intervention programme providing 1-2-1 emotional wrap around support when referrals for moves to safety were made and increased the provision in mental health workshops.

Retail and cafe:

The charity operates two enterprises i.e. the charity shop and a cafe. With the café opening, this offered opportunity for training and empowerment for our women to gain skills and employment. In May 2022, we received funding from SSE to employ a café and charity shop manager to improve the services in this area. We managed to source a supplier for new single mattresses and linked with the local recycler to obtain sources of furniture for our clients and widen our support for the local community.

Removal service

With a relatively dedicated team of volunteers via our volunteer/paid drivers and 2 assistants, we were able to provide an emergency moving service. We were able to secure funding to provide this as a low cost/free service to 53 direct referrals for women and children.

Training and skills

Our project co-ordinator who is also our specialist domestic abuser worker was able to deliver 1-2-1 emotional support and recruited 67 trainees to train in our retail areas. They were offered pre-employment course, help with their c.v.s and mentoring on a 1-2-1 to assist them back to work. We ran training in Living Life to the full, which is a cognitive behaviour therapy to help our clients who suffer with their mental health improve their mood and coping skills. We also delivered two five weeks courses on mindfulness and doodle art workshops with significant improvement in client's mental health.

We ran the following events:

- The International Women's day with celebrating different cultures,
- craft activities, painting, card making
- On December 10, a 16 days of action against gender violence themed on "fleeing with shoes" with over 70 persons in attendance to commemorate those who were killed due to domestic abuse.
- We also created 6 part-time jobs in our café and shop to enable our client to progress further to work and empower them.
- Winter hub for people struggling by creating a warm hub and meals for 30 clients

Impact and achievements

The pandemic from March 2020-2021 highlighted the need for our frontline key services and gave a validation for our services. Our objectives to tackle food, furniture and financial poverty and supporting those who have fled domestic abuse had the following impact:

1. provision of emergency food parcels. In 2022, we had 1700 referrals, in 2023 there was 1435 referrals.
2. furniture and collections and deliveries of furniture and starter packs for electrical items i.e. washing machines, beds, clothing. We were able to tackle furniture poverty by gifting over £8380 worth of furniture from our charity shop.
3. work experience and training and a safe place to connect –We took on 10 young people from 14-18 years old doing work experience who had been through domestic abuse to give them a safe place to be empowered. In addition, we took on 67 trainees and 18 moved on into jobs!
4. Move to safety –supporting 53 moves for single mothers and their children to move on to a safe place of tenancy.
5. There were also 490 referrals for other services which include domestic abuse workshops, 121 support, emotional counselling, advice and signposting.

We continue to have an impact supporting people to recover from their wounds into people who are safe, connected and confident to become independent people who can realise their dreams, move into jobs, feel secure and improved well-being. Beneficiaries felt connected, found 1-2-1 support, were confident, happier and found their own voice and improved outcomes in mental health and job aspirations. Our referrals are mainly from high risk beneficiaries referred from Women's Aid, Independent Domestic Advisors, Early Help, Children's Services, Social Services and WAST.

Testimony S: "I left school after my GCSEs and got married. My husband didn't let me have a job. After many years of abuse, I escaped with my children. Being at The River, gave me hope. They helped me move into my new place, provided food parcels as I was struggling without benefits and later on, they took me on as a volunteer and then created a temporary job for me. It helped me mentally to believe that I am capable and not the lies my ex-husband said that no one would want me. I believe that my children and I am in a much better place because of the River. Thank you so much for having faith in me."

Plans for the future and challenges

The charity's plan is to continue empowering people through its services and build stronger relationships with other referral agencies and recruit more trainees to participate in our training programme. The charity continues to operate from a limited space and would like to refurbish the shop floor in the following year. The plan for the next year will be to improve our level of services and to engage with agencies, churches, the corporate sector and local communities.

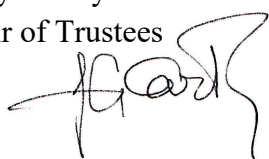
Financial review

We are as with many charities, derive our income from voluntary donations and our charity shop, so we remain greatly dependent on the generosity of our donors and grant givers to continue in operation. Any reduction in donation income will impact on our ability to maintain operations and in the worst case scenario, could result in us ceasing to be a going concern. The charity currently has been able to build a 6 months reserve (£60,000) to cover 6 months operating costs, objectives and risks that it might face as well as plans for growth and expansion. The charity has also set aside £20,000 for plans to get a van with the carbon emission strategy implementation in the city of Manchester. Our current fundraising strategies and reserves policy provide adequate protection against this eventuality.

Independent Examiner

Rana & Co has been appointed as independent examiner for the year.

Terry Carthy
Chair of Trustees



THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
(CHARITY No. 1153700)

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

for the year ending 31/03/2023

Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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

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to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

Rana & Co



Independent Examiner
PO Box 145,
Manchester
M19 1UY.

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted Fund £	2023 Restricted Fund £	Total £	2022 Unrestricted Fund £	2022 Restricted Fund £	Total £
Incoming Resources							
Incoming resources from generated fun	3						
Voluntary Income	3.1	12943	108618	121561	25228	63609	88837
Activities in generating Incom	3.2	62076		62076	49493		49493
Investment Income	3.3	-	-		-	-	
Incoming Resources from charitable activities			-			-	
Total Incoming Resources		75020	108618	183638	74721	63609	138330
Resources Expended							
Cost of generating Funds	4						
Charitable Activities	4.1	55675	114452	170127	57763	45589	103353
Other Resources expended		814	-	814	1018	-	1018
Gains/Losses Asset-Loss on Disposal		-			-		
Total Resource Expended		56489	114452	170941	58781	45589	104371
Net Movements in Funds		18531	-5834	12697	15940	18020	33959
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total funds brought forward from previous year		80522	34778	115299	64582	16758	81340
Total Funds carried forward		99052	28944	127996	80522	34778	115299

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	2023	2023		2022	2022	
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
Fixed Assets	3,256	-	3,256	4,070	-	4,070
Currents Assets						
Debtors	2,600	-	2,600	2,600	-	2,600
Bank Current Account	98,033	27,949	125,981	79,336	34,447	113,783
Cash in hand	140	-	140	23	-	23
	100,773	27,949	128,722	81,959	34,447	116,406
Current Liabilities						
Accrual	3,982		3,982	5,097	80	5,177
Net Current Asset	96,791	27,949	124,740	76,862	34,367	111,229
Total Net Asset	100,047	27,949	127,996	80,932	34,367	115,299
less current liabilities						
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted Fund	100,047	-	100,047	80,522	-	80,522
Restricted Fund		27,949	27,949		34,778	34,778
Total Funds	100,047	27,949	127,996	80,522	34,778	115,299

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

* Accounting and reporting by Charities - statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015);

* and with*

--

 accounting standards;
or

--

 Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE);

* and with the Charities Act.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

This set of accounts represent The River Manchester second year financial reporting.

2. Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a difference or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of Incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (Sofa) When: * the charity becomes entitled to the resources; * the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and * the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Investment Income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Expenditure and Liabilities Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Governance costs	Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
Support Costs	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
Assets Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	Van YH63FML Depreciated £814 for 12 months to 31 March 2023.

3. Analysis of Incoming resources

3.1 Voluntary Income	2023 Total	2022 Total
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Donation from Sponsors/ individuals	6313	22690
Gift Aid Tax Claimed	-	3828
Grants	<u>115248</u>	<u>62319</u>
	<u>121561</u>	<u>88837</u>
3.2 Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Sponsorship -HMRC 80% Job Retention Grant	-	770
Sales of Donated Goods	<u>62076</u>	<u>48723</u>
	<u>62076</u>	<u>49493</u>
3.3 Investment Income	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Bank Interest Received	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3.4 Charitable Activities Income		
Van Donation Received	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

4. Analysis of resources expended

4.1 Cost of Charitable activities	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	£	£
Fundraising cost	-	-
Salaries and wages	90486	47587
PAYE/Employer & Employee NI	21046	11493
Pension Contribution	5358	2509
Staff Training Cost	663	27
Volunteers Training Cost	1369	805
Vehicle Repair/Hire Cost	834	973
Vehicle Petrol Expenses	1309	1314
Volunteer Travel Expenses	2000	1787
Volunteer Expenses	1657	2303
Project Cost	4571	4056
Heat & Light	8991	3945
Rent	12840	15908
Business/Water Rates	970	471
Insurances	1999	1031
Caretaking	654	533
Repairs & Maintenance	1250	881
Postage & Stationery/printing	849	510
Phone & Internet	799	772
Publicity Cost	-	162
IT Cost	678	-
Equipment Purchase	845	734
Materials Cost	-	-
Cafeteria Purchase	1666	192
Cafeteria Equipment	1022	296
	<u>161858</u>	<u>98289</u>
4.2 Governance Cost	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Cost	6150	3750
Trustee Meeting Expenses	112	
Bank Charges	997	600
Fees Paid	1010	714
	<u>8269</u>	<u>5064</u>
Other Resources Cost		
Depreciation Motor Vehicle	<u>814</u>	<u>1018</u>
Gains and Losses		
Asset Write off Van	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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:

(1) 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 Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

Rana & Co



Independent Examiner
PO Box 145,
Manchester
M19 1UY.

Accounts

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(CHARITY No. 1153700)
Annual Report & Accounts
For the year ending MARCH 2022

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Registered Name
Charity Incorporated
Organisation The River
Manchester

Registration no. 1153700

Trustees
Terry Carthy, Chairman
Sefadzi Kofi Amesu
Lesley Wiseman (stepped down on 11/2/2022)
Deborah Fuller

Registered Office
3 Pepperhill Road
Moss Side
Manchester M16 7PD

Independent Examiners
Rana & Co
P O Box 145
Manchester M19 1UY

Bankers
The Co-operative Bank
Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

The River Manchester Trustees Annual Report YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2022

Charity Incorporated Organisation registered with The Charity Commission on 6th September 2013.

The Trustees, present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The Trustees throughout the Year and to the date of this report and their advisors are set out on the accompanying Information Page.

Structure, Governance and Management

The management and administration is carried out by the Chief Executive, Mrs Lydia Chan who reports to the board of trustees. She is assisted in the day to day operation by 2 staff members Project Co-ordinator Janet Wong and Food Development cum Driver Andre Gordon-Ollivierre and a core of 10 volunteers. Andre's funded position ended in March 2021 and Janet Wong resigned in July 2021. Donna Barber joined us in September 2021 as Project Coordinator.

The board of Trustees meet quarterly, also regularly at other times to review progress, and to plan for the future development of the Charity. Lesley Wiseman stepped down as trustee due to health reasons on 1/2/22.

Trustees Statement - Public benefit

Our objectives, as outlined below, have been designed with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in mind. Throughout this year we have pursued these objectives as we have reviewed our activities both informally and in our official trustees meetings. At all times we have had regard to the Commission's guidance on the public benefit requirement.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity has the following objectives which are:

The relief and support of persons who have suffered or are in danger or suffering, from social and emotional difficulties, whether fleeing domestic violence from sex related violence or abuse, their children and dependants by the provision of food, clothing, furniture, friendship, training and other assistance.

Activities

Fundamental to the work of the charity is our faith in Jesus Christ; our Christian faith brings hope and change, where faith and action can bring freedom to those who are captives and victims of domestic abuse. We demonstrate our faith in practical ways where we are able to offer a safe place for connections to be made, a place where practical provision of food, clothing, furniture and practical training is made available to help people move on in their lives and most importantly in prayer.

The covid-19 pandemic affected us in late March 2020 where we had to observe government guidelines in closing our retail shop, our cafe, training in house, outreaches in refugees and external activities. With much uncertainty with the government guidelines, the shop could only start operating from July 2021 onwards. As many charities faced a dire situation of not being operational, we chose to keep our frontline key services open to meet the emergencies which meant that our services escalated in referrals. Our frontline services were kept opened 2 days a week to cater for the need of providing the following: food parcels, move to safety and collection/deliveries for essential furniture whilst office staff worked from home. The following services took place:

1. provision of emergency food parcels. We saw a slight decline of food parcels from 2026 referrals (2021) to 1700 referrals (2022) for women, children and men.

2. furniture and collections and deliveries of furniture and starter packs for electrical items i.e. washing machines. We continued with collection for beds, washers, etc as there was a growth in demand due to charity shops not being open during the pandemic and clients' were being rehoused escalated.
3. work experience and training and a safe place to connect – we moved away from digital online activity back to face to face with when things were back to normal on a weekly basis and began a series of training in mental health workshops.
4. Move to safety-supporting 80 moves for single mothers and their children.
5. Cooking in refugees: this was discontinued due to social distancing.
6. Painting project: due to social distancing, we could not provide this service as it was dependent on volunteers' time.

Activities in the year

With the covid pandemic in the last 2 years, the charity received emergency grants to deliver covid-19 support, increasing our revenue by 50%. This new income level was

maintained in 2022 even though these covid grants were not repeated. The grants helped us provide 1700 emergency food parcels, helped move 80 families to safety, funded a staff's position and covered costs for staff on furlough.

We also began to strategise developing the charity's intervention programme where we started providing 1-2-1 emotional support and mental health workshops.

Retail and cafe:

The charity operates two enterprises i.e. the charity shop and a cafe. With the lockdown over, the charity shop resumed services but the cafe remained closed until we managed to refurbish the cafe area in December 2021. We managed to fundraise £1,100 to help lay the flooring and repaint the area and purchase some new furniture. There were also increased online sales activities on ebay to sell high and unusual products donated to the charity. We managed to source a supplier for new single mattresses and new furniture that helped increase our sales income.

Removal service

With a relatively small and dedicated team of volunteers, we were able to provide an emergency moving service. This service increased in demand and we were able to secure funding to provide this as a low cost/free service to 80 referrals for women and children. This service is provided via our volunteer drivers and 2 assistants throughout the week.

We attempted to increase getting our charity known by getting the charity's logo on our van. This did pose problems as it could jeopardise our moves by disclosing the nature of our business whilst moving clients onwards. The logo was then removed.

Training and skills

With Donna's new post funded, she was able to deliver 1-2-1 emotional support and recruited 45 volunteers/trainees to train in our retail areas. They were offered pre-employment courses, job clubs and mentoring on a 1-2-1 to assist them back to work. We ran training in Living Life to the full, a cognitive behaviour therapy to help our clients who suffer with their mental health improve their mood and coping skills. We also had two five weeks courses on mindfulness with significant improvement in client's mental health.

We ran the following events:

- The International Women's day with celebrating different cultures, craft activities,
- On December 10, a 16 days of action against gender violence themed on an exhibition running away in their shoes which was well attended to commemorate those who were killed due to domestic abuse.
- We took 28 people to attend a pantomime.
- We also created a part-time job to enable our client to progress further to work and empower them.

Impact and achievements

We continue to have an impact in releasing people to recover from their wounds into people who are safe, connected and confident to become independent people who can realise their dreams, move into jobs, feel secure and improved well-being. Beneficiaries felt connected, found 1-2-1 support, were confident, happier and found their own voice and improved outcomes in mental health and job aspirations. Our referrals are mainly from high risk beneficiaries referred from Women's Aid, Independent Domestic Advisors, Early Help, Children's Services, Social Services and WAST.

Testimony: "This place has given me hope again after my trauma of being abused. I felt cared for, nurtured and skills to cope with my mental health. Nobody has cared for me like this place and I want to be here every day."

Plans for the future and challenges

The charity's plan is to continue empowering people through its services and build stronger relationships with other referral agencies to work with these beneficiaries and recruit more trainees to participate in our training programme. We will also attempt to create part-time funded jobs to empower people back to work. The charity continues to operate from a limited space and would like to refurbish the shop floor in the following year.

Financial review

During the initial period 2021-22, The River Manchester's income was affected by the closure of the shop. We diversified our income stream through grants to continue providing emergency help to our beneficiaries. The same corporate funder enabled us to continue to help families flee from their perpetrators and rebuild a new life elsewhere for the 2nd year in succession.

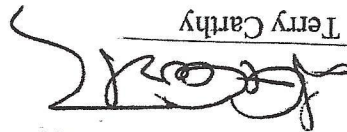
The charity currently has been able to build a 6 months reserve (£60,000) to cover 6 months operating costs, objectives and risks that it might face as well as plans for growth and expansion.

The plan for the next year will be to improve our level of services and to engage with more agencies, local businesses and further presentations to garner support from churches, schools and local communities.

Independent Examiner

Rana & Co has been appointed as independent examiner for the year.

Terry Carthy
Chair of Trustees



Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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:

(1) 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 Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

Rana & Co

 13/9/2022

Independent Examiner
PO Box 145,
Manchester
M19 1UY.

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022	2022	Total	2021	2021	Total
		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	
Incoming Resources							
Incoming resources from generated fun	3						
Voluntary Income	3.1	25228	63609	88837	22696	71943	94639
Activities in generating Incom	3.2	49493		49493	32102	6314	38416
Investment Income	3.3	-	-		-	-	
Incoming Resources from charitable activities			-			-	
Total Incoming Resources		74721	63609	138330	54798	78258	133055
Resources Expended							
Cost of generating Funds	4						
Charitable Activities	4.1	57763	45589	103353	21428	62225	83653
Other Resources expended		1018	-	1018	1272	-	1272
Gains/Losses Asset-Loss on Disposal		-			-		
Total Resource Expended		58781	45589	104371	22700	62225	84925
Net Movements in Funds		15940	18020	33959	32097	16033	48130
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total funds brought forward from previous year		64582	16758	81340	32484	725	33209
Total Funds carried forward		80522	34778	115299	64581	16758	81339

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2022

	2022	2022		2021	2021	
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
Fixed Assets	4,070	-	4,070	5,088	-	5,088
Currents Assets						
Debtors	2,600	-	2,600	2,600	1,000	3,600
Bank Current Account	79,336	34,447	113,783	60,779	17,158	77,937
Cash in hand	23	-	23	159	-	159
	81,959	34,447	116,406	63,538	18,158	81,696
Current Liabilities						
Accrual	5,097	80	5,177	4,044	1,400	5,444
Net Current Asset	76,862	34,367	111,229	59,494	16,758	76,252
Total Net Asset	80,932	34,367	115,299	64,582	16,758	81,340
less current liabilities						
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted Fund	80,522	-	80,522	64,582	-	64,582
Restricted Fund		34,778	34,778		16,758	16,758
Total Funds	80,522	34,778	115,299	64,582	16,758	81,340

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

* Accounting and reporting by Charities - statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015);

* and with*

 accounting standards;
or

 Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE);

* and with the Charities Act.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

This set of accounts represent The River Manchester second year financial reporting.

2. Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a difference or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of Incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (Sofa) When: * the charity becomes entitled to the resources; * the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and * the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Investment Income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Expenditure and Liabilities Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Governance costs	Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
Support Costs	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
Assets Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	Van YH63FML Depreciated £1,018 for 12 months to 31 March 2022.

4. Analysis of resources expended

4.1 Cost of Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	Total	Total
	£	£
Fundraising cost	-	584
Salaries and wages	47587	38317
PAYE/Employee NI	11493	7340
Pension Contribution	2509	2076
Staff Training Cost	27	55
Volunteers Training Cost	805	59
Vehicle Repair/Hire Cost	973	829
Van Petrol Expenses	1314	2031
Volunteer Travel Expenses	1787	1365
Volunteer Expenses	2303	646
Project Cost	4056	4263
Heat & Light	3945	1547
Rent	15908	13481
Business/Water Rates	471	313
Insurances	1031	1878
Caretaking	533	339
Repairs & Maintenance	881	390
Postage & Stationery/printing	510	201
Phone & Internet	772	2061
Publicity Cost	162	400
IT Cost	-	262
Equipment Purchase	734	511
Materials Cost	-	-
Cafeteria Purchase	192	-
Cafeteria Equipment	296	-
	<u>98289</u>	<u>78950</u>

4.2 Governance Cost

	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Cost	3750	3750
Bank Charges	600	459
Fees Paid	714	494
	<u>5064</u>	<u>4703</u>
Other Resources Cost		
Depreciation Motor Vehicle	<u>1018</u>	<u>1272</u>
Gains and Losses		
Asset Write off Van	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Analysis of Incoming resources

3.1 Voluntary Income	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Donation from individuals	22690	16096
Gift Aid Tax Claimed	3828	-
Grants	62319	78543
	<u>88837</u>	<u>94639</u>
3.2 Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Sponsorship -HMRC 80% Job Retention Grant	770	6314
Sales of Donated Goods	48723	32102
	<u>49493</u>	<u>38416</u>
3.3 Investment Income	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Bank Interest Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3.4 Charitable Activities Income		
Van Donation Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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.

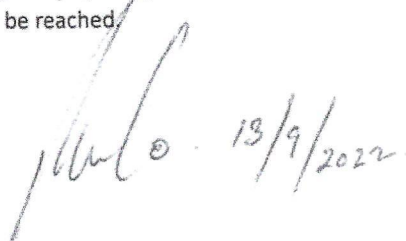
Independent examiner's statement

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to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached

Rana & Co



Independent Examiner
PO Box 145,
Manchester
M19 1UY.

Accounts

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(CHARITY No. 1153700)
Annual Report & Accounts
For the year ending MARCH 2021

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Registered Name
Charity Incorporated
Organisation The River
Manchester

Registration no. 1153700

Trustees
Terry Carthy, Chairman (stepped down and re-appointed as Chair in December 2020)
Sefa Amesu
Lesley Wiseman
Deborah Fuller

Registered Office
3 Pepperhill Road
Moss Side
Manchester M16 7PD

Independent Examiners
Rana & Co
P O Box 145
Manchester M19 1UY

Bankers
The Co-operative Bank
Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

**The River Manchester
Trustees Annual Report
YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2021**

Charity Incorporated Organisation registered with The Charity Commission on 6th September 2013.

The Trustees, present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The Trustees throughout the Year and to the date of this report and their advisors are set out on the accompanying Information Page.

Structure, Governance and Management

The management and administration is carried out by the Chief Executive, Mrs Lydia Chan who reports to the board of trustees. She is assisted in the day to day operation by 2 staff members Project Co-ordinator Janet Wong and Food Development cum Driver Andre Gordon-Ollivierre and a core of 14 volunteers.

The board of Trustees meet quarterly, also regularly at other times to review progress, and to plan for the future development of the Charity.

Trustees Statement - Public benefit

Our objectives, as outlined below, have been designed with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in mind. Throughout this year we have pursued these objectives as we have reviewed our activities both informally and in our official trustees meetings. At all times we have had regard to the Commissions guidance on the public benefit requirement.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity has the following objectives which are:

The relief and support of persons who have suffered or are in danger or suffering sexrelated violence or abuse, their children and dependants by the provision of food, clothing, furniture, friendship, training and other assistance.

Activities

Fundamental to the work of the charity is our faith in Jesus Christ; our Christian faith brings hope and change, where faith and action can bring freedom to those who are captives and victims of domestic abuse. We demonstrate our faith in practical ways where we are able to offer a safe place for connections to be

made, a place where practical provision of food, clothing, furniture and practical training is made available to help people move on in their lives and most importantly in prayer. The charity exercises prayer opportunities to pray for their clients and have seen reports of how prayer has healed them.

During the year with the covid-19 pandemic, in late March 2021 we had to observe government guidelines in closing our retail shop, our cafe, training in house, outreaches in refuges and external activities. As many charities faced a dire situation of not being operational, we chose to keep our frontline key services open to meet the emergencies which meant that our services escalated in referrals. Our frontline services were kept opened 2 days a week to cater for the need of providing the following: food parcels, move to safety and collection/deliveries for essential furniture whilst office staff worked from home. The following services took place:

1. provision of emergency food parcels. The number for this grew from a weekly 20 food parcels to 90 food parcels. Over the year, we supported over 2026 food parcels for women and children and some men with children.
2. furniture and collections and deliveries of furniture and starter packs for electrical items i.e. washing machines. We continued with collection for beds, washers, etc as there was a growth in demand due to charity shops not being open during the pandemic and clients' were being rehoused escalated.
3. work experience and training and a safe place to connect - moving from face to face activity, this became an online activity with digital credits given to beneficiaries for zoom sessions to take place on a weekly basis.
4. Move to safety -supporting 120 moves for single mothers and their children.
5. Cooking in refuges: our outreach came to a standstill.
6. Painting project: due to social distancing, we could not provide this service as it was dependent on volunteers' time.

Activities in the year

Exploring uncharted territory due to the pandemic, with funding being affected as the charity shop was closed, this event brought the best of our trustees in place bringing their different skills and strengths. The trustees supported the Chief Executive for the next phase of the charity especially the Chair, providing weekly health operational checks and encouragement and a more hands on approach to ensure the sustainability and vision of the charity.

Volunteers and staff faced a down time where staff had to be placed on furlough and

vulnerable volunteers were required to stay away.

Operational challenges:

With Covid 19 risk assessments in place, we had to reduce the number of volunteers attending the premises of the charity. At the same time, one staff was put on furlough and the charity operated with the most minimal of staff and volunteers. As the lockdown entered the second time, the Chief Executive was put on part-time furlough. As the need increased for food parcels and moves to help our clients resettle, we were able to get funding for a 6 month Food Development Worker, Andre Gordon Ollivierre, who was also a part time driver to help in our moves funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The charity resumed full operations in July once restrictions were removed and all staff were back from furlough.

Recruitment of volunteers and trainees. With the current volunteers out of action due to Covid 19 restrictions who had health vulnerabilities, we managed to recruit 5 new volunteers who were on furlough to carry out deliveries to those who were in isolation.

We were not able to host any open days due to restrictions. We started a newsletter to contact our supporters to keep them posted.

Retail and cafe:

The charity operates two enterprises i.e. the charity shop and a cafe. However with the Covid19 pandemic and lockdown 1, 2 and 3, we have had to close the retail outlet for most parts of the year and a permanent closure on the cafe. The closure of the charity shop had an impact on our finances. With the increase in the number of food parcels, these food stock took up most of the space in the cafe. We also had to have a quarantine area for collection of goods and merchandising of goods took place on the internet platform.

Removal service

With a relatively small and dedicated team of volunteers, we were able to provide an emergency moving service. This service increased in demand and we were able to secure funding to provide this as a free service to 120 referrals for women and children. This service is provided via our volunteer drivers and 2 assistants throughout the week.

Training and skills

When the pandemic started, there was a loss of services from other charities and we were getting more referrals from Black Asian Minority Ethnic groups, in particular from Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST). We supported 30 persons in a 8 weeks programme to help them assimilate to life in UK and improving their mental wellbeing. There were walks led by our volunteers as well as zoom meetings took place online which helped these women stay connected and reduced their isolation. A number of workshops took place ranging from nutrition, health and wellbeing, cooking, arts and craft.

Impact and achievements

We continue to have an impact in releasing people to recover from their wounds into people who are safe, connected and confident to become independent people who can realise their dreams, move into jobs, feel secure and improved well-being. Beneficiaries felt connected, found new online support, were confident, happier and found their own voice and identities. Our referrals are mainly from high risk beneficiaries referred from Women's Aid, Independent Domestic Advisors, Early Help, Children's Services, Social Services and WAST.

Testimony:

"I looked forward to the walks and zoom meeting. I had no family here except my daughter. The walks and zoom meeting kept my sanity during the pandemic, otherwise I would be alone with just my daughter. This sense of belonging is very important to me. Since I've joined the group, my feelings of loneliness and anxiety have reduced significantly. Overall it has a positive effect on my mental health and well-being."

Plans for the future and challenges

The charity's sustainability to continue empowering people through its services and build stronger relationships with other referral agencies to work with these beneficiaries.

Financial review

During the initial period 2020-21, The River Manchester's income was affected by the closure of the shop. We were solely reliant on generating our own income and had to diversify to apply to grants and Government's funding through the furlough and covid-19 business grants. We were also helped with a corporate sponsorship that enabled us to continue providing services to help families flee from their perpetrators and rebuild a new life elsewhere.

The charity currently has been able to build a 6 months reserve (£42,000) to cover 5 months operating costs, objectives and risks that it might face as well as plans for growth and expansion.

The plan for the next year will be to improve our level of services and to engage with more agencies, local businesses and further presentations to garner support from churches, schools and local communities.

Independent Examiner

Rana & Co has been appointed as independent examiner for the year.



Terry Carthy
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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

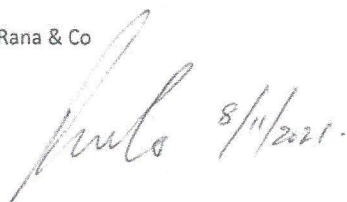
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) 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 Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

Rana & Co



Independent Examiner
PO Box 145,
Manchester
M19 1UY.

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted Fund £	2021 Restricted Fund £	Total £	2020 Unrestricted Fund £	2020 Restricted Fund £	Total £
Incoming Resources							
Incoming resources from generated funds:	3						
Voluntary Income	3.1	22696	71943	94639	17679	4200	21879
Activities in generating Income	3.2	32102	6314	38416	53881	[540]	53341
Investment Income	3.3	-	-		-	-	0
Incoming Resources from charitable activities			-			-	
Total Incoming Resources		54798	78258	133055	71560	3660	75220
Resources Expended							
Cost of generating Funds	4						
Charitable Activities	4.1	16785	62165	78950	63713	3779	67492
Governance Costs	4.2	4644	60	4703	2205	-	2205
Other Resources expended		1272	-	1272	1132	-	1132
Gains/Losses Asset-Loss on Disposal		-			1408		1408
Total Resource Expended		22700	62225	84925	68458	3779	72238
Net Movements in Funds		32097	16033	48130	3102	[119]	2982
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total funds brought forward from previous year		32484	725	33209	29382	844	30226
Total Funds carried forward		64581	16758	81339	32484	725	33208

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	2021	2021		2020	2020	
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
Fixed Assets	5,088	-	5,088	6,360	-	6,360
Currents Assets						
Debtors	2,600	1,000	3,600	2,600	-	2,600
Bank Current Account	60,779	17,158	77,937	25,638	725	26,363
Cash in hand	159	-	159	38	-	38
	63,538	18,158	81,696	28,276	725	29,001
Current Liabilities						
Accrual	4,044	1,400	5,444	2,152	-	2,152
Net Current Asset	59,494	16,758	76,252	26,124	18,158	44,282
Total Net Asset	64,582	16,758	81,340	32,484	725	33,209
less current liabilities						
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted Fund	64,582	-	64,582	32,484	-	32,484
Restricted Fund		16,758	16,758		725	725
Total Funds	64,582	16,758	81,340	32,484	725	33,209

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

* Accounting and reporting by Charities - statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015);

* and with*

--

 accounting standards;
or

* and with the Charities Act.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

This set of accounts represent The River Manchester sEVERN year financial reporting.

2. Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a difference or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of Incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (Sofa) When: * the charity becomes entitled to the resources; * the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and * the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Investment Income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Expenditure and Liabilities Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Governance costs	Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
Support Costs	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
Assets Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	Van YH63FML Depreciated £1,272 for 12 months to 31 March 2021.

3. Analysis of Incoming resources

3.1 Voluntary Income	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£
Donation from individuals	16096	10041
Gift Aid Tax Claimed	-	3220
Grants	78543	8618
	<u>94639</u>	<u>21879</u>
3.2 Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Sponsorship -HMRC 80% Job Retention Grant	6314	
Sales of Donated Goods	32102	53341
	<u>38416</u>	<u>53341</u>
3.3 Investment Income	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Bank Interest Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3.4 Charitable Activities Income		
Van Donation Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

4. Analysis of resources expended

4.1 Cost of Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	Total	Total
	£	£
Fundraising cost	584	-
Salaries and wages	38317	31928
PAYE/Employee NI	7340	5668
Pension Contribution	2076	1828
Staff Training Cost	55	20
Volunteers Training Cost	59	7
Vehicle Repair/Hire Cost	829	1594
Van Petrol Expenses	2031	2174
Volunteer Travel Expenses	1365	638
Volunteer Expenses	646	541
Project Cost	4263	1344
Heat & Light	1547	2303
Rent	13481	15808
Business/Water Rates	313	-971
Insurances	1878	2073
Caretaking	339	595
Repairs & Maintenance	390	150
Postage & Stationery/printing	201	254
Phone & Internet	2061	717
Publicity Cost	400	19
IT Cost	262	-
Equipment Purchase	511	127
Materials Cost	-	-
Cafeteria Purchase	-	675
Cafeteria Equipment	-	-
	<u>78950</u>	<u>67492</u>

4.2 Governance Cost

	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Cost	3750	1499
Bank Charges	459	387
Fees Paid	494	319
	<u>4703</u>	<u>2205</u>
Other Resources Cost		
Depreciation Motor Vehicle	<u>1272</u>	<u>1132</u>
Gains and Losses		
Asset Write off Van	<u>-</u>	<u>1,408</u>