

FREE LEGAL ADVICE GROUP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FLAG DV)

England & Wales · Charity number 1154070

Details

Other names	FLAG DV, FREE LEGAL ADVICE GROUP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-10-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Flag Dv Broadway House 4-8 The Broadway Newbury RG14 1BA
Phone	01635 015854
Email	hello@flagdv.org.uk
Website	www.flagdv.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR DOMESTIC ABUSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD LEGAL ADVICE OR REPRESENTATION OR WHERE PUBLIC FUNDING IS NOT AVAILABLE BY THE PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL ADVICE OR REPRESENTATION SERVICES.

Activities: To empower and support those who have experienced domestic abuse by providing them with free, confidential family law legal advice and support. We strive to raise awareness of their legal rights and options so they can make informed choices about escaping the abuse and rebuilding their lives.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bracknell Forest
- Buckinghamshire
- Hampshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- Slough
- West Berkshire
- Windsor And Maidenhead
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£186,533	£171,924	-	-
2024-06-30	£124,126	£150,990	-	-
2023-06-30	£156,544	£122,670	-	-
2022-06-30	£81,689	£90,488	-	-
2021-06-30	£119,134	£77,678	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Cassandra Capel	Chair	2020-05-11
Dexter Bonner		2024-08-08
Irena Skapin Osborne		2016-12-01
Jennifer Adanna Ezechukwu		2026-04-20
Megan Barnes		2024-04-22
Richard Handscombe		2026-01-09
Stephen Craig Clarke FCCA, FloD		2025-12-03
Vienna Best		2025-12-03

FREE LEGAL ADVICE GROUP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FLAG DV)

England & Wales - Charity number 1154070

Accounts



Trustee Annual Report June 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Reference and Administrative Information:

Charity Name: Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence Charity

Registration number: 1154070

Registered Office and operational address:

Broadway House
The Broadway
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14
1BA

Trustees

C. Capel - Chair of Trustees - Appointed 05/2020

R. Handsombe - Treasurer - Appointed 01/2026

I. Skapin Osborne - Appointed 12/2016

I. Summers - Appointed 08/2021

D. Bonner - Appointed 08/2024

M. Barnes - Appointed 04/2024

S. Clarke - Appointed 12/2025

V. Best - Appointed 12/2025

Senior Management Team

Laura Hunter – Chief Executive

Lynne Cumming – Head of Operations

Colline Watts – Finance Officer

Bank: Metro Bank, 64 - 65 Northbrook St, Newbury RG14 1AE

Auditors: EJBC 2, Toomers Wharf, Canal Walk, Newbury RG14 1DY

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

FLAG DV is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a board of trustees who are responsible for the strategic direction, financial oversight, and compliance of the charity.

The trustees meet regularly to review performance, financial position, safeguarding, and risk. Day-to-day operations are delegated to the Chief Executive and senior management team.

During the reporting period, governance arrangements remained consistent. The trustees maintained oversight of financial performance, service delivery, and safeguarding.

Objectives and Activities

The charity exists to relieve the needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse by providing free legal advice and practical support, enabling them to make informed decisions and safely navigate the family court system.

FLAG DV delivers public benefit through:

- Free, confidential family law legal advice delivered by volunteer solicitors
- Practical and emotional support for survivors navigating the Family Court process

The trustees confirm that they have paid regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and activities.

Strategic Overview (Trustee Perspective)

During the reporting period, the charity experienced sustained high demand for its services, alongside increasing complexity in the needs of those supported.

The charity received 936 referrals for legal advice, with 687 clients successfully engaging with the service. Average waiting times for legal advice were 20 days, reflecting ongoing pressure on capacity.

A key development during the year was the establishment of the Family Court Support Service. The charity received 51 referrals to this service, with 33 individuals engaging during the reporting period.

As a newly established, referral-based service, some referrals did not proceed where needs fell outside the scope of family court support, and referral pathways continued to develop during the year. Access to court support is through professional referral, and referral pathways continued to develop during the year.

The trustees recognise that demand consistently placed pressure on available capacity, alongside an increase in higher-risk cases and safeguarding disclosures.

At the end of the reporting period, the charity had established a new area of service delivery while continuing to operate under sustained demand and capacity constraints.

Achievements and Performance

Service Delivery

During the reporting period, the charity delivered:

- 987 total referrals received across all services
- 936 referrals received for legal advice
- 687 clients successfully engaged and received legal advice
- 51 referrals received for court support, with 16 individuals supported during the reporting period

Outcomes

Service data shows that:

- 85% of respondents reported increased understanding of their legal situation
- 64% reported feeling more in control of their situation

The trustees note that these outcomes are particularly significant given the vulnerability of the client group and the complexity of cases supported.

Demographics and Reach

The charity supported a diverse range of beneficiaries during the reporting period.

- 87% of clients identified as female, 8% as male, with 5% identifying as non-binary or not disclosing gender.
- 32% of clients identified as being from ethnic minority backgrounds, a level of representation higher than the national population average.
- 6% of clients required translation support to access services.

The charity delivered services across multiple counties, including Berkshire (51%), Oxfordshire (24%), Buckinghamshire (17%), and Hampshire (8%).

The higher proportion of clients in Berkshire reflects the current scope of service delivery, as the Family Court Support Service was only available in Berkshire during the reporting period, while legal advice was accessible across all areas.

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining equitable access to services and addressing barriers faced by marginalised groups.

Service Development

During the reporting period, the charity's service delivery continued to evolve in response to increasing demand and complexity of cases.

The charity:

- Continued delivery and early development of its Family Court Support Service

- Strengthened safeguarding processes, including undertaking a safeguarding audit and developing standard operating procedures
- Appointed a designated safeguarding trustee to provide additional oversight at board level
- Adapted service delivery in response to an increase in higher-risk cases and safeguarding disclosures

The trustees recognise that the complexity of cases increased during the year, requiring ongoing adjustments to service delivery and oversight.

Towards the end of the reporting period, the trustees identified the need to further strengthen senior operational capacity to support the delivery of services in a higher-risk environment.

Future Plans:

At the end of the reporting period, the trustees identified the need to strengthen the charity's capacity to safely manage increasing demand and case complexity.

The board reviewed the associated operational and safeguarding risks and approved the recruitment of additional senior capacity within the service. This forms part of a planned approach to organisational growth, ensuring that service expansion is supported by appropriate oversight and expertise.

The trustees recognised that this approach would place pressure on reserves in the short term. However, this was considered a proportionate and managed risk, with plans in place to strengthen income and rebuild reserves over time.

Following a strategic review with the board, the charity also identified opportunities to expand its support through structured group-based provision. As a result, the Family Court Survivor Support Programme was developed and proposed to the Police and Crime Commissioner, with a commissioned agreement secured to support its development.

The programme is expected to launch during the 2025–2026 year and is intended to increase reach, provide accessible support to a greater number of survivors, and complement existing one-to-one services.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Performance

The charity reported total incoming resources of £186,533 and total expenditure of £171,924, resulting in a net profit of £14,609 for the year.

Reserves Policy

The charity defines reserves as unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on its charitable purposes. The trustees aim to maintain reserves equivalent to between three and six months of operating expenditure, with an additional contingency to manage unforeseen financial pressures.

At the end of the reporting period, reserves were £33,158, equivalent to approximately 3 months of operating expenditure.

The trustees consider this level of reserves to be in line with the target range set out in the policy.

The trustees recognised the need to strengthen reserves and identified this as a priority at the year end. The trustees will continue to monitor reserve levels closely in line with the charity's financial position and funding outlook.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Future Developments

The Charity will continue to look at diversifying its grant and fundraising efforts. To ensure growth is sustainable.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);

- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Incoming resources	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Total 2024/25 (£)
Donations and grants	-	161,843	161,843
Fundraising income	24,690	-	24,690
Other income	-	-	-
Total income	24,690	161,843	186,533

Expenditure	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Total 2024/25 (£)
Charitable activities	-	171,924	171,924
Raising funds	-	-	-
Governance costs	-	-	-

	Total 2024/25 (£)
Net income / (expenditure)	14,609
Funds brought forward	34,189
Funds carried forward	48,798

Balance Sheet

As of 30 June 2025

Assets	£
Cash at bank and in hand	48,798
Debtors	-
Total current assets	48,798
Liabilities	
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	-
Net assets	48,798
Reserves	
Main Account	15,640
Reserves Account	33,158
Total Funds	48,798

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20th April 2025. and signed on its behalf by:



.....
C Capel - Chair - Trustee



E-mail: info@ejbc.co.uk • Website: www.ejbc.co.uk
2 Toomers Wharf • Canal Walk • Newbury • Berkshire • RG14 1DY
Tel: 01635 46174
Chiltern House • 45 Station Road • Henley-on-Thames • Oxfordshire • RG9 1AT
Tel: 01491 845381

To: The Trustees of FLAGDV

27 February 2026

Re: Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (Charity Number 1154070)

I can confirm that I have completed an independent examination of the financial statements for Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (Charity Number 1154070) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out in line with the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Independent examiner's statement

My examination included a review of the accounting records of FLAGDV and a comparison to the accounts presented and prepared with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and discussions with the Treasurer regarding the accounting records.

The review I have undertaken does not provide all the evidence which would be required for a full audit and as such I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

In connection with my examination and the final balance as listed in the accounts of £48,798, I can confirm that no matter has come to my attention.

- a) Which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the general requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with UK accounting principles have not been met.
- b) Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Thomas', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Emma Thomas
ACA, FCCA, CTA

For E.J. Business Consultants Ltd



FREE LEGAL ADVICE GROUP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FLAG DV)

England & Wales - Charity number 1154070

Accounts



Trustee Annual Report June 2024

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Reference and Administrative Information:

Charity Name: Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence Charity

Registration number: 1154070

Registered Office and operational address:

Broadway House

The Broadway

Newbury

Berkshire

RG14

1BA

Trustees

C. Capel (Chair of Trustees)

I. Skapin Osborne

I. Summers

D. Bonner

M. Barnes

Senior Management Team

Laura Hunter – Chief Executive

Lynne Cumming – Head of Operations

Colline Rufaro – Finance Officer

Bankers: 64 - 65 Northbrook St, Newbury RG14 1AE

Auditors: EJBC 2, Toomers Wharf, Canal Walk, Newbury RG14 1DY

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Our Aims and Objectives

FLAG DV exists to relieve the needs of people experiencing domestic abuse by providing free legal advice and support, empowering them to make informed decisions and safely leave abusive situations. Our mission is to support and empower survivors by offering free, confidential family law legal advice while raising awareness of their legal rights and options. We collaborate with other organisations and government agencies to ensure survivors have access to the resources they need to rebuild their lives.

Ensuring Our Work Delivers Our Aims

We conduct an annual review of our aims, objectives, and activities. This ensures our work remains focused on public benefit and meets the standards outlined by the Charity Commission. We assess:

- The effectiveness of our key activities.
 - The benefits to our beneficiaries.
 - Future planning and improvements based on evolving needs.
-

Our Impact in 2023-24

During the reporting period, FLAG DV has seen significant growth in demand for our services:

- 912 referrals received for legal advice services.
- 1,198 children linked to referrals, facing the immediate risk of exposure to domestic abuse.
- 603 referrals successfully engaged in free legal advice appointments.
- 81% of clients reported feeling better informed about their situation after receiving legal advice.
- 67% of clients indicated the advice directly supported their next steps in moving away from abuse.
- 85% of clients said the service met their immediate needs, while 61% felt more in control after engaging with FLAG DV.

Demographics of Service Users

- Gender breakdown: 90% women, 7% men, 3% gender diverse.
 - 30% from marginalised backgrounds.
-

- 6% required a translator, funded by FLAG DV.
 - 40+ direct referrals made to external partners for mental health and housing support.
-

New Services and Future Growth

In April 2024, we launched our Family Court Support Service, designed to provide 1-2-1 practical and emotional support to survivors navigating the legal system alone.

- 40 survivors referred to the service since launch.
- 54 survivors supported in navigating court procedures, including guidance on hearings and safety measures.

Future Plans:

- Recruit a second Family Court Support caseworker to meet increasing demand.
 - Launch structured group workshops to maximise reach and empower survivors.
 - Develop follow-up tracking to measure long-term impact.
 - Strengthen stakeholder partnerships to streamline referrals.
 - Improve triage processes to prioritise the most vulnerable for 1-2-1 support.
 - Enhance court support training to equip staff for complex cases.
-

Case Study: Natalie's Story

Natalie, a survivor of two years of abuse, endured coercive control and legal intimidation from her ex-partner while balancing full-time work and single parenthood. She struggled financially and emotionally, fearing for her child's safety as she navigated the legal system alone.

Referred by Home Start and Women's Aid, Natalie turned to FLAG DV for legal advice and court support. Throughout her custody battle, FLAG DV provided emotional and legal guidance, ensuring she felt empowered and supported. Their presence in court helped her advocate for herself and manage trauma, particularly during a critical non-molestation hearing.

Though legal proceedings continue, Natalie now feels stronger, more informed, and capable of standing up for her rights. Most importantly, she no longer feels alone in the fight to protect her child.

Natalie now feels stronger, more informed, and capable of standing up for her rights. She states:

"Even an hour of legal advice or court support can be life-changing for a survivor. Funding services like FLAG DV means the difference between isolation and empowerment."

BALANCE SHEET

FLAG DV	Total
YEAR END ACCOUNTS	Funds
2023 - 2024	Year to 30/06/24
<u>Incoming resources</u>	
Donations and grants	£121,047
Fundraising	£3,079
Total incoming resources	£124,126
Resources expensed	
Costs of generating voluntary income	£0
Charitable activities	£150,990
Governance costs	£0
Total resources expensed	£150,990
Net income for the year	-£26,864
Reserves account balance	£41,820
Total funds carried forward	£14,956
<u>Balance sheet</u>	
Fixed Assets	
Tangible Assets	£0
Investments	£0
<u>Current Assets</u>	
Stock	£0
Debtors	£0
Cash at Bank and In Hand	£12,305
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£0
Net current assets	£12,305
Net Assets	£12,305
Total	£12,305
2. Donations and grants	<u>TOTAL</u>
Berks Community (Stevenson Foundation)	£10,000
Berkshire Community Foundation -Spring 24	£5,000
Bicester Council	£3,000
Greenham Trust	£5,752
National Lottery	£17,585

National Lottery: Awards for All	£37,585
PCC Core Funding	£37,625
The Woodward Trust	£3,000
West Berkshire Lottery	£1,500
Total	£121,047
check	
3. Incoming Resources from Activities to further the Charities Objects	
	nil
4. Total Resources Expended	
Costs directly related to activities	
IT & Communications	£15,862
Running Costs	£17,500
	£33,362
5. Net Incoming Resources for the Year	
<i>This is stated after charging:</i>	
Depreciation	
Auditors' remuneration	
Salaries and wages	£117,627
Social security costs	
Total	£150,989
<u>Tangible fixed assets</u>	
Investments	
Current assets	£12,305
Current liabilities	£0
Net assets	£12,305
14. Movements in funds - Main account	
At start of year	£39,616
Incoming resources	£124,126
Outgoing resources	£150,989
At end of year	£12,753
<u>Reserves Account</u>	
Provision of legal advice to victims of domestic advice	
At start of year	£41,697
Incoming resources	£124
Outgoing resources	£0
At end of year	£41,821
Total funds	£54,574

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds for long term investment.

Reserves Policy

In accordance with our reserves policy, we will maintain adequate levels of reserves to cover our operating expenses for a period of at least three to six months. We will also establish a separate reserve fund for future capital expenditures or unexpected contingencies.

We are committed to sound financial management practices, including maintaining appropriate levels of reserves, and we will continue to ensure that our financial practices align with our overall mission and values.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Future Developments

The Charity will continue to look at diversifying its grant and fundraising efforts. To ensure growth is sustainable.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 06/03/2025. and signed on its behalf by:

.....
C Capel - Chair - Trustee



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To: The Trustees of FLAGDV

11 February 2025

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Independent examiner's statement

My examination included a review of the accounting records of FLAGDV and a comparison to the accounts presented and prepared with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and discussions with the Treasurer regarding the accounting records.

The review I have undertaken does not provide all the evidence which would be required for a full audit and as such I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

In connection with my examination and the final balance as listed in the accounts of £54,574, I can confirm that no matter has come to my attention;

- a) Which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the general requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with UK accounting principles have not been met.
- b) Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

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Emma Thomas
ACA, FCCA, CTA

For E.J. Business Consultants Ltd



FLAG DV
YEAR END ACCOUNTS
2023 - 2024

Total
Funds
Year to 30/06/24

Incoming resources

Donations and grants	£121,047
Fundraising	£3,079
Total incoming resources	£124,126

Resources expensed

Costs of generating voluntary income	£0
Charitable activities	£150,990
Governance costs	£0
Total resources expended	£150,990

Net income for the year	-£26,864
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Reserves account balance	£41,820
Total funds carried forward	£14,956

Balance sheet

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets	£0
Investments	£0

Current Assets

Stock	£0
Debtors	£0
Cash at Bank and In Hand	£12,305
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£0

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Total	£12,305
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2. Donations and grants

TOTAL

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Total	£121,047
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check

3. Incoming Resources from Activities to further the Charities Objects
nil

4. Total Resources Expended

Costs directly related to activities

IT & Communications	£15,862
Running Costs	£17,500
	<u>£33,362</u>

5. Net Incoming Resources for the Year

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation

Auditors' remuneration

Salaries and wages £117,627

Social security costs

Total £150,989

Tangible fixed assets

Investments

Current assets £12,305

Current liabilities £0

Net assets £12,305

14. Movements in funds - Main account

At start of year £39,616

Incoming resources £124,126

Outgoing resources £150,989

At end of year £12,753

Reserves Account

Provision of legal advice to victims of domestic advice

At start of year £41,697

Incoming resources £124

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Total funds **£54,574**

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Independent examiner's statement

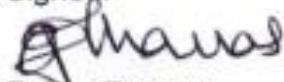
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Emma Thomas
ACA, FCCA, CTA

For E.J. Business Consultants Ltd

FREE LEGAL ADVICE GROUP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FLAG DV)

England & Wales - Charity number 1154070

Accounts



Trustee Annual Report June 2023

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Reference and Administrative Information:

Charity Name: Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence Charity **Registration number:**
1154070

Registered Office and operational address:

Broadway House
The Broadway
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14
1BA

Trustees

C. Capel (Chair of Trustees)

I. Skapin Osborne

S. Burke

I. Summers

Senior Management Team

Laura Hunter – Chief Executive

Lynne Cumming – Head of Operations

Colline Watts – Finance Officer

Bankers: HSBC 6 Northbrook St Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DJ

Auditors: EJBC 2, Toomers Wharf, Canal Walk, Newbury RG14 1DY

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Our Aims and Objectives

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association:
To relieve the needs of people who experience domestic abuse by providing access to free legal advice and support to empower them to make informed to safely leave the abuse.

Our mission is to support and empower those who have experienced domestic abuse by providing them with free, confidential family law legal advice. We strive to raise awareness of their legal rights and options. We endeavour to work in collaboration with other organisations and government agencies to ensure that domestic abuse victims have access to the resources and support they need to make informed choices about escaping abuse and rebuilding their lives.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

Our main objectives for the year continue to be to provide access to free legal advice appointments to those experiencing domestic abuse in Thames Valley and now including Hampshire. The strategies we used to meet these objectives include;

- Establishing a network of trained legal professionals who can provide free, confidential family law advice to those who have experienced domestic abuse.
- Raising awareness among domestic abuse victims of their legal rights and options, and to help them understand the legal process within any family law proceedings.
- Working with local resources and organisations, building community links and strengthening networking relationships, to raise awareness about domestic abuse within those organisations and to build on the support offered to those who have experienced abuse.

- Advocating for policy changes and legal reforms that will improve the rights and protections of domestic abuse victims through our work.

How our activities deliver public benefit

Our charity's mission to provide legal advice and support to domestic abuse victims delivers public benefit by empowering individuals to take control of their lives and break the cycle of abuse. Through our activities, we help victims to access the justice system, obtain protection orders, and secure safe and stable living arrangements for themselves and their children. Our services also raise awareness about domestic abuse and provide the wider public with a better understanding of the resources available to victims, further reducing the stigma associated with this important issue. By delivering these outcomes, our charity makes a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve, promoting a safer and more just society for all.

Activities in the year to June 2023

During the financial year FLAG DV received 916 referrals into the service, there were 1,268 children linked to the client referrals who were at immediate risk of being affected by parental domestic violence/abuse. 603 case referrals successfully engaged with the free legal advice service.

Principal Funding Sources

During the financial year FLAG DV secured further funding from the TVP Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Berkshire Community Foundation, Access to Justice Foundation - HALS, MOJ, Greenham Trust and Basingstoke and Deane Council.

Future Plans

FLAG DV has continued to see up to 40% year on year growth in referrals. Whilst we have seen an increase in demand we have struggled to manage staff burn out with 2 members of staff being signed off for mental health reasons due to work. Over the next year the board have agreed that more considerations and support needs to be in place to support the mental wellbeing of staff. The strain of the cost of living crisis both for people's personal lives and the lives of the individuals that we support can put a strain on people's resiliency.

At the end of the last financial year the board put plans into place to reduce workloads and ensure the charity was in a sustainable position to grow through the recruitment inhouse finance office. In January 2023 the charity welcomed our new finance officer who has supported the charity to improve our financial processes. As a result of this support we have felt in a better position to approach the National Lottery Community fund in an effort to expand the support we are able to provide to clients and allow for more 1-2-1 support for those going through the family court process.

BALANCE SHEET

	Total
	Funds
	Year to 30/6/23
<u>Incoming resources</u>	
Donations and grants	£140,178
Fundraising	£16,365
Total incoming resources	£156,544
Resources expensed	
Costs of generating voluntary income	£0
Charitable activities	£122,670
Governance costs	£0
Total resources expensed	£122,670
Net income for the year	£33,873
Total funds brought forward	£41,697
Total funds carried forward	£75,570
<u>Balance sheet</u>	
Fixed Assets	
Tangible Assets	£0
Investments	£0
<u>Current Assets</u>	
Stock	£0
Debtors	£0
Cash at Bank and In Hand	£39,616
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£0
Net current assets	£39,616
Net Assets	£39,616
Made up of:	
Unrestricted Funds	£39,616
Restricted Funds	£0
Total	£0

2. Donations and grants	<u>TOTAL</u>
Access to Justice Foundation - HALS	£60,000
Basingstoke and Dean	£9,525
Berks Community (Stevenson Foundation)	£10,000
Berkshire Community Foundation -Spring 23	£5,000
Englefield Charitable Trust Grants - (GE)	£2,000
Greenham Trust	£15,138
MoJ - DA/SV Funding	£20,193
PCC Core Funding 22/23	£7,823
PCC Community fund	£5,000
Peter Baker Foundation -GE	£5,000
Local Giving Ltd	£500
London Legal	£1,088
Paypal Giving	£2,575
Transfer from Unrestricted Reserves	£9,423
West Berkshire Lottery	£764
White Horse Lottery	£60
Boardman Hawkins BHO	£500
Easy Fundraising	£815
JAMES PURDEY SONS	£140
PHLN Community Champions	£1,000
Total	£156,544
3. Incoming Resources from Activities to further the Charities Objects	nil
4. Total Resources Expended	
Costs directly related to activities	
IT & Communications	£21,738
Running Costs	£ 9,427
	£31,166
5. Net Incoming Resources for the Year	
This is stated after charging:	
Depreciation	
Auditors' remuneration	
Salaries and wages	£91,505
Social security costs	
Total	£122,670
Tangible fixed assets	
Investments	

Current assets	£39,616
Current liabilities	
Net assets	£39,616
14. Movements in funds - Main account	
At start of year	£5,742
Incoming resources	£156,544
Outgoing resources	£122,670
At end of year	£39,616
<u>Reserves Account</u>	
Provision of legal advice to victims of domestic advice	
At start of year	£50,795
Incoming resources	£5,084
Outgoing resources	£14,181
At end of year	£41,697
Total funds	£81,312

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds for long term investment.

Reserves Policy

In accordance with our reserves policy, we will maintain adequate levels of reserves to cover our operating expenses for a period of at least three to six months. We will also establish a separate reserve fund for future capital expenditures or unexpected contingencies.

We are committed to sound financial management practices, including maintaining appropriate levels of reserves, and we will continue to ensure that our financial practices align with our overall mission and values.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Future Developments

The Charity will continue to look at diversifying its grant and fundraising efforts. To ensure growth is sustainable.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 09/12/2023. and signed on its behalf by:

[Cassandra Capel](#)

.....
C Capel - Chair - Trustee

To: The Trustees of FLAGDV

26 September 2023

Re: Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (Charity Number 1154070)

I can confirm that I have completed an independent examination of the financial statements for Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (Charity Number 1154070) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out in line with the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Independent examiner's statement

My examination included a review of the accounting records of FLAGDV and a comparison to the accounts presented and prepared with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and discussions with the Treasurer regarding the accounting records.

The review I have undertaken does not provide all the evidence which would be required for a full audit and as such I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

In connection with my examination and the final balance as listed in the accounts of £81,312, I can confirm that no matter has come to my attention;

- a) Which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the general requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with UK accounting principles have not been met.
- b) Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Gillian Down
Bsc ACA

For E.J. Business Consultants Ltd

FREE LEGAL ADVICE GROUP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FLAG DV)

England & Wales - Charity number 1154070

Accounts



**TRUSTEE
ANNUAL
REPORT 2022**

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Reference and Administrative Information:

Charity Name: Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence Charity **Registration number:**
1154070

Registered Office and operational address:

Broadway House
The Broadway
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14
1BA

Trustees

C. Capel

I. Skapin Osborne

S. Burke

I. Summers

A. Collins

A Barguss - resigned May 2022

J McIntyre - resigned June 2022

Senior Management Team

Laura Hunter – Chief Executive

Lynne Cumming – Head of Operations

Colline Watts – Finance Officer

Bankers: HSBC 6 Northbrook St Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DJ

Auditors: EJBC 2, Toomers Wharf, Canal Walk, Newbury RG14 1DY

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Our Aims and Objectives

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association:
To relieve the needs of people who experience domestic abuse by providing access to free legal advice and support to empower them to make informed to safely leave the abuse.

Our mission is to support and empower those who have experienced domestic abuse by providing them with free, confidential family law legal advice. We strive to raise awareness of their legal rights and options. We endeavour to work in collaboration with other organisations and government agencies to ensure that domestic abuse victims have access to the resources and support they need to make informed choices about escaping abuse and rebuilding their lives.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

Our main objectives for the year continue to be to provide access to free legal advice appointments to those experiencing domestic abuse in Thames Valley. The strategies we used to meet these objectives include;

- Establishing a network of trained legal professionals who can provide free, confidential family law advice to those who have experienced domestic abuse.
- Raising awareness among domestic abuse victims of their legal rights and options, and to help them understand the legal process within any family law proceedings.
- Working with local resources and organisations, building community links and strengthening networking relationships, to raise awareness about domestic abuse within those organisations and to build on the support offered to those who have experienced abuse.

- Advocating for policy changes and legal reforms that will improve the rights and protections of domestic abuse victims through our work.

How our activities deliver public benefit

Our charity's mission to provide legal advice and support to domestic abuse victims delivers public benefit by empowering individuals to take control of their lives and break the cycle of abuse. Through our activities, we help victims to access the justice system, obtain protection orders, and secure safe and stable living arrangements for themselves and their children. Our services also raise awareness about domestic abuse and provide the wider public with a better understanding of the resources available to victims, further reducing the stigma associated with this important issue. By delivering these outcomes, our charity makes a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve, promoting a safer and more just society for all

Activities in the year to June 2022

In January 2022 the charity took on our CEO, Laura Hunter. Entering the charity into a new phase of management and governance. At the end of the year, June 2022, the charity had three permanent part time staff with an open vacancy.

During the financial year FLAG DV received 687 referrals into the service, there were 1,040 children linked to the client referrals who were at immediate risk of being affected by parental domestic violence/abuse. 511 case referrals successfully engaged with the free legal advice service.

The charity successfully recruited 12 more solicitors to our probono clinics, increasing our service capacity by 48%. Further work into developing our CRM to allow for better collaborative working models has enabled us to sustain the service level increase with our small team, whilst maintaining a low waiting time for an appointment. Average wait for a legal advice appointment was 2 weeks from the receipt of the referral.

Principal Funding Sources

2021 into 2022 FLAG DV secured further funding from the TVP Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Berkshire Community Foundation, National Lottery, Community Fund as well as the Southern Trust.

Future Plans

FLAG DV has seen a 30% growth in referral demand to the service since the pandemic. Over the next year we will be focusing on ensuring growth is sustainable and increasing staff and volunteer capacity. We plan to expand our reach and impact by increasing our outreach efforts in the community and strengthen collaborative working with other organisations to provide a holistic approach to addressing

domestic abuse. We aim to increase our resources and capacity, so that we can meet the growing demand for our services and provide more comprehensive legal advice and representation to those in need.

Additionally, since the beginning of 2020 our staff levels have doubled as did our operational infrastructure with the building of a new CRM system and VoIP service. This has significantly increased the financial admin workload and has put pressure on the newly appointed CEO and taking time away from governance. It has also had an impact for the Head of Operations who has seen a reduction in the time they are able to dedicate to line managing. As such the charity will be focusing on ways to mitigate these issues and allow their attention to be focused on the delivery of the service during this increase in growth and ensure that we focus on quality assurance. As such we the charity will be focused on recruiting an internal Finance Officer.

BALANCE SHEET

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds
	Year to 30/6/22	Year to 30/6/22	Year to 30/6/22
<u>Incoming resources</u>			
Donations and grants	£1,439	£61,606	£63,045
Fundraising	£18,632	£0	£18,632
Investment income	£12	£0	£12
Total incoming resources	£20,083	£61,606	£81,689
Resources expensed			
Costs of generating voluntary income	£0	£0	£0
Charitable activities	£34,569	£55,919	£90,488
Governance costs	£0	£0	£0
Total resources expended	£34,569	£55,919	£90,488
Net income for the year	-£14,486	£5,687	-£8,799
Total funds brought forward	£35,142	£30,194	£65,336
Total funds carried forward	£20,656	£35,881	£56,537
<u>Balance sheet</u>			
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets			£0
Investments			£0
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Stock			£0
Debtors			£0
Cash at Bank and In Hand			£56,537
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			£0
Net current assets			£56,537
Net Assets			£56,537
Made up of:			
Unrestricted Funds			£20,656
Restricted Funds			£35,881

Total			£56,537
2. Donations and grants	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
Boardman & Hawkins	£992		£992
Souter Trust		£4,000	£4,000
Arnold Clark		£1,000	£1,000
BCF - Enhancing Capacity		£4,940	£4,940
MOJ Uplift		£15,608	£15,608
MOJ - Critical Support		£15,608	£15,608
MOJ - MOJ DA Uplift		£5,790	£5,790
National Lottery - Community Fund 22		£9,980	£9,980
National Lottery - Places Called Home		£4,680	£4,680
Thames Valley Police Contract	£15,780		£15,780
Easy Fundraising	£1,034		£1,034
Other Fundraising	£10		£10
Legal Walk	£1,808		£1,808
Other donations (Including Raffle)	£447		£447
Interest	£12		£12
Total	£20,083	£61,606	£81,689
check	£0	£0	£0
3. Incoming Resources from Activities to further the Charities Objects	nil	nil	nil
4. Total Resources Expended			
Costs directly related to activities			
Insurance			£380
Staff			£56,051
Staff related expenses			£3,396
Clinic expenses			£10,173
Fund-raising expenditure			£2,360
Rent, ICT, licence etc at Broadway House			£3,108
Software/Website/Phones/IT support			£9,475
IT, Stationery and office goods			£2,764
Governance			£2,782
			£90,489

5. Net Incoming Resources for the Year			
This is stated after charging:			
Depreciation			
Auditors' remuneration			
Salaries and wages			£56,051
Social security costs			
Total			£32,669
6. The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was as follows:			
Administration and Support - Removed for 20/21			
7. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions			
No trustees received any remuneration during the year.			
No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity.			
8. Taxation			
As a charity FLAGDV is exempt from taxation. No tax charges have arisen.			
9. Tangible fixed assets			£0
10. Investments			£0
11. Debtors			£0
12. Creditors			£0
13. Analysis of net assets between funds			£0
Tangible fixed assets			
Investments			
Current assets	£20,656	£35,881	£56,537
Current liabilities			
Net assets	£20,656	£35,881	£56,537
14. Movements in funds			
Unrestricted funds			
At start of year			£30,739
Incoming resources			£20,083

Outgoing resources			£34,569
At end of year			£16,253
Restricted funds			
Provision of legal advice to victims of domestic advice			
At start of year			£60,909
Incoming resources			£61,606
Outgoing resources			£55,919
At end of year			£66,596
Total funds			£82,849

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds for long term investment.

Reserves Policy

In accordance with our reserves policy, we will maintain adequate levels of reserves to cover our operating expenses for a period of at least three to six months. We will also establish a separate reserve fund for future capital expenditures or unexpected contingencies.

We are committed to sound financial management practices, including maintaining appropriate levels of reserves, and we will continue to ensure that our financial practices align with our overall mission and values.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Future Developments

The Charity will continue to look at diversifying its grant and fundraising efforts. To ensure growth is sustainable.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14/3/2023. and signed on its behalf by:

.....
C Capel - Chair - Trustee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of FLAG DV ('the Company')

I can confirm that I have completed an independent examination of the financial statements for Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (Charity Number 1154070) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out in line with the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission.

Independent examiner's statement

My examination included a review of the accounting records of FLAGDV and a comparison to the accounts presented and prepared with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and discussions with the Treasurer regarding the accounting records.

The review I have undertaken does not provide all the evidence which would be required for a full audit and as such I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

In connection with my examination and the final balance as listed in the accounts of £56,537, I can confirm that no matter has come to my attention;

- a) Which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the general requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with UK accounting principles have not been met.
- b) Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Gillian Down

Bsc ACA

For E.J. Business Consultants Ltd

48 Registered Office: The Rectory

Newbury, RG14 1DY

FREE LEGAL ADVICE GROUP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FLAG DV)

England & Wales - Charity number 1154070

Accounts

Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation) Charity number 1154070

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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- Legal and Administrative Information
- Report of the Management Committee
- Statement of Financial Activities
- Balance Sheet
- Notes forming part of the financial statements

Report of the Management Committee for the year ended 30 June 2021

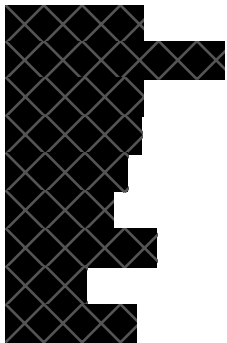
The Trustees presents their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence
Charity registration number: 1154070

Registered Office and operational address: Broadway
House The
Broadway
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14
1BA

Trustees



from 7th January 2019
from 1st April 2019
from 1st January 2019 – resigned May 2020

Resigned November 2020
Resigned October 2020

Bankers HSBC 6 Northbrook St Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DJ

Our Aims and Objectives

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association:

To relieve the needs of people who are victims of domestic violence or domestic abuse who are unable to afford legal advice or representation or where public funding is not available by the provision of free legal advice or representation services

Our main objectives for the year continued to provide high quality, accessible legal advice and/or representation to victims of domestic violence so they are empowered to make choices through knowledge of their legal rights, have access to justice and are afforded by the law its maximum protection for themselves, their children and their property. This delivers public benefit by removing victims and children from risk of harm and reducing the impact of this on the wider community and public services.

We underpin this work with a framework of values:

- Customer service excellence
- Empowerment
- Positive Change
- Integrity
- Respect
- Teamwork
- Supporting Families

The focus of our work

Changes to legal aid made as part of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (2012), meant many victims of domestic abuse would no longer be able to access free legal assistance. It was strongly believed that this change would have a detrimental impact upon the 6000 residents of West Berkshire estimated to experience domestic abuse annually

As a result of these changes, Flag DV began providing free legal advice to victims of domestic violence and abuse in October 2013. We host legal clinics. The clinics are part of the nationwide network of LawWorks (Solicitors pro-bono group) clinics.

Most referrals have come from the specialist Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) based in Children's Social Services and A2Dominion (West Berkshire Domestic Abuse Service) including the A2Dominion domestic abuse helpline covering the West Berkshire area. We also provide services to the Police and Crime Commissioner in the Thames Valley. We received occasional referrals from other sources such as health visitors and the local authority housing team, we also take self-referrals.

Our vision is 'To provide high quality, accessible legal advice and/or representation to victims of domestic violence / abuse so they are empowered to make choices through knowledge of their legal rights, have access to justice and are afforded by the law its maximum protection for themselves, their children and their property.'

How our activities deliver public benefit

Any person experiencing domestic abuse can access our service. To date it has been mostly women who have been referred or who have self-referred and exclusively those in heterosexual relationships. This is in keeping with the demographic for users of other local domestic abuse services.

Activities in the year to June 2021

During this year we have secured further funding from the TVP Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for which we thank them– this has enabled us to expand the reach of Flag DV to the whole of the Thames Valley Police area – effectively Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. We have therefore been able to increase the number of Solicitors available for our free legal advice clinics, for which we thank them for being so generous with their time, this effectively increases the amount of clinics we are able to hold, which, as we have seen a rise of almost 40% in referrals, has enabled us to help more of those subject to domestic abuse.

Principal Funding Sources

2020 into 2021 has been another year of the pandemic and a large amount of our funding in 2021 has come from Government services, significantly the Ministry of Justice and the Police Property Act Fund. Greenham Trust have again this year been very generous to our cause and we have received significant funding from them which we are very grateful for. We have also received significant grants from both the National Lottery and the Postcode Lottery. There are also many independent trusts and organisations who have supported us financially throughout the year and we are very grateful for their generosity.

Future Plans

During the pandemic we have offered only telephone appointments with our volunteer Solicitors, another group of people to whom we offer our thanks, to say that they have stepped up during this time of increased referrals is an understatement and we know that our clients have continued to receive an excellent service.

We have, due to the above funding been able to implement a new integrated Customer Contact System which due to the massive increase in referrals has proven to be right thing at the right time, it is important that we are able to monitor and evaluate our impact in the field and also that our service actually offers what is needed to users of our service, we will continue to upgrade and develop our systems and service to enable us to do that.

We began 2021 with 2 members of staff who of course were, and are, the backbone of our organisation however midway through 2021 we realised that the workload was increasing so much that we needed to recruit more. To that end we have secured funding for more staff and a CEO which will be implemented this year.

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds for long term investment.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have agreed that a minimum of six months running costs should be kept in reserve if possible.

Financial Review

This year we have used our funding to install a new contact system to enable the admin tasks to run more smoothly, we have also engaged an Interpreter service so that we can ensure clients for whom English is not their first language receive the help they need more easily, we have also, for that reason, arranged for our leaflets and other information literature to be available in the most common languages of our clients. Due to the increase in referrals, we also applied for and received funding to increase the hours worked by our office staff and to provide them with IT and phones to enable them to work at home during the pandemic lockdown.

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and commenced on 3 October 2013. The charity trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The trustees are responsible for the preparation financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the management committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (FLAGDV)
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds Year to 30/6/21	Restricted Funds Year to 30/6/21	Total Funds Year to 30/6/21
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>				
<i>Voluntary income:</i>				
Donations and grants		5,421	104,156	109,577
<i>Activities for generating funds:</i>				
Fundraising		9,552		9,552
Investment income		5		5
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Grants & contracts				
Total incoming resources		14,978	104,156	119,134
Resources expended				
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>				
Costs of generating voluntary income		nil		
Charitable activities		-4,306	81,984	77,678
Governance costs		nil		
Total resources expended		-4,306	81,984	77,678
Net income for the year		19,284	22,173	41,457
(Net incoming resources before other recognised gains)				
Other recognised gains		-	-	-
Net movement in funds		19,284	22,173	41,457
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		13,492	10,387	23,879
Total funds carried forward		32,777	32,559	65,336
				Total funds at bank and building society
Balance sheet				
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets				nil
Investments				nil
				nil
Current Assets				
Stock				nil
Debtors				nil
Cash at Bank and In Hand				65,336
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				nil
Net current assets				65,336
Net Assets				65,336
Made up of:				
Unrestricted Funds				32,777
Restricted Funds				32,559
Total				65,336

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Katie Day (Purple Professionals)

Katie Day

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed asset investments at market value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice : Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005.

(b) Fund accounting

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

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity receives those funds into its bank account.

(d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on a receipts and payments basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes including the charity's shop.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

2. Donations and grants

HMRC JRS		871	871
Boardman & Hawkins	613		613
Kiriath Turst	500		500
Roelofs & Rubens	140		140
The Truemark Trust		4,000	4,000
Souter Trust		5,000	5,000
Stepping Forward		1,296	1,296
Bouttell Bequest		2,000	2,000
The Schuster Charity	1,000		1,000
BCF			
Oxfordshire community Foundation		1,700	1,700
MOJ - COVID		22,745	22,745
National Lottery - COVID		9,810	9,810
Greenham Common Trust			
Greenham Common Trust TOP Ups (Good Exchange)		8,566	8,566
Dorris Field		1,000	1,000
Earley COVID		1,400	1,400
Postcode Lottery		13,800	13,800
Greggs Foundation			
Noel Buxton Trust			
Santander			
Waitrose	333		333
The Freemasons			
Berkshire Community Foundation		10,000	10,000
Asda			
West Berks Council - Public Protection Community Fund			
Thames Valley Police - Police Property Act Fund		4,048	4,048
Shanley Foundation			
Newbury Round Table			
Awards for All			
Isla Foundation		2,000	2,000
Matthew Wrightson		1,000	1,000
National Lottery - Community Foundation		9,850	9,850
Didymus		5,000	5,000
Thames Valley Police Contract	5,260		5,260
Easy Fundraising	1,455		1,455
Other Fundraising	750		750
Legal Walk	2,087		2,087
Generate UK	250		250
Other donations	2,585	70	2,655
Interest	5		5
Total	14,978	104,156	119,134

3. Incoming Resources from Activities to further the Charities Objects

nil nil nil

4. Total Resources Expended

Costs directly related to activities

Insurance	257
Staff	32,669
Staff related expenses	1,386
Clinic expenses	829
Fund-raising expenditure	6,171
Publicity	nil
Rent, ICT, licence etc at Broadway House	3,029
Software/Website/Phones/IT support	29,742
IT, Stationery and office goods	1,857
Reference materials	nil
Governance	1,738
	77,678

5. Net Incoming Resources for the Year

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation	
Auditors' remuneration	
Salaries and wages	32,669
Social security costs	
Total	32,669

6. The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was as follows:

Administration and Support - *Removed for 20/21*

7. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

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

8. Taxation

As a charity FLAGDV is exempt from taxation. No tax charges have arisen.

9. Tangible fixed assets

10. Investments

11. Debtors

12. Creditors

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Tangible fixed assets

Investments

Current assets

Current liabilities

Net assets

32,777

32,559

32,777

32,559

NIL

NIL

NIL

NIL

65,336

65,336

14. Movements in funds

Unrestricted funds

At start of year

Incoming resources

Outgoing resources

At end of year

11,455

14,978

-4,306

30,739

Restricted funds

Provision of legal advice to victims of domestic advice

At start of year

Incoming resources

Outgoing resources

At end of year

38,737

104,156

81,984

60,909

Total funds

91,648

Rebecca Davies, ACMA, CGMA
72 Queensway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8LU
07736 043975

Date: 12th December 2021

I can confirm that I have conducted an independent examination of the financial accounts for Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (Charity Number 1154070) for the year ending 30 June 2021.

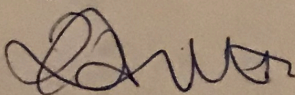
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by FLAGDV and a comparison to the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items and disclosures in the accounts and I sought explanations from the Treasurer concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for a full audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, I can confirm that no matter has come to my attention:

- a) Which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the general requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with UK accounting principles have not been met.
- b) Which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Rebecca Davies