



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 expended	
Costs of generating voluntary income	£0
Charitable activities	£122,670
Governance costs	£0
Total resources expended	£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](#)

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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