



# 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.

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

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# BALANCE SHEET

FLAG DV	Total
YEAR END ACCOUNTS	Funds
2023 - 2024	Year to 30/06/24
<b><u>Incoming resources</u></b>	
Donations and grants	£121,047
Fundraising	£3,079
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>£124,126</b>
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
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>£14,956</b>
<b><u>Balance sheet</u></b>	
Fixed Assets	
Tangible Assets	£0
Investments	£0
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>	
Stock	£0
Debtors	£0
Cash at Bank and In Hand	£12,305
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£0
Net current assets	<b>£12,305</b>
Net Assets	<b>£12,305</b>
Total	<b>£12,305</b>
<b>2. Donations and grants</b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£121,047</b>
check	
3. Incoming Resources from Activities to further the Charities Objects	
	nil
<b>4. Total Resources Expended</b>	
Costs directly related to activities	
IT & Communications	£15,862
Running Costs	£17,500
	<b>£33,362</b>
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
<b><u>Tangible fixed assets</u></b>	
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	<b>£12,753</b>
<b><u>Reserves Account</u></b>	
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	<b>£41,821</b>
Total funds	<b>£54,574</b>

# 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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Tel: 01635 46174  
Chiltern House • 45 Station Road • Henley-on-Thames • Oxfordshire • RG9 1AT  
Tel: 01491 845381

To: The Trustees of FLAGDV

11 February 2025

**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 2024.

**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 £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:

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
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Resources expended

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**Balance sheet**

Fixed Assets

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**4. Total Resources Expended**

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5. Net Incoming Resources for the Year

*This is stated after charging:*

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**Tangible fixed assets**

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Net assets £12,305

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Total funds **£54,574**

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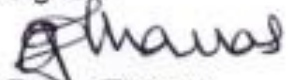
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