

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1156492

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-04-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Nan Tait Centre
Abbey Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 1LG

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Email reception@womenscommunitymatters.org

Website www.womenscommunitymatters.org

Activities

Objects: 1.TO PROMOTE,PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF VULNERABLE WOMEN.2.TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN RELATION TO ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN,INCLUDING(BUT NOT LIMITED TO)WITHIN THE AREAS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE,ADDICTION,DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,FINANCIAL POVERTY AND POVERTY OF OPPORTUNITY.3.TO PREVENT AND RELIEVE SICKNESS,DISEASE OR SUFFERING IN WOMEN IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT(WHETHER EMOTIONAL,MENTAL OR PHYSICAL).4.THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY(OR EXAMPLE):(A)THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE,GENDER,DISABILITY,SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR RELIGION;(B)ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY;(C)PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS;(D)CONDUCTING OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND PUBLISHING THE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC;(E)CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY.5.TO FURTHER SUCH OTHER PURPOSES WHICH MAY BE CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT FROM TIME TO TIME

Activities: One-stop shop for women specific services. Support for girls and boys aged 11-25 years.Appointments for practical & emotion supportCourses to promote self-confidence, self-esteem & to improve life skillsSupport for women who have experienced the criminal justice system; with health & wellbeing; for victims/survivors of domestic violence/abuseActivities to promote social inclusion

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, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, 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

- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,501,575	£1,666,225	£673,525	38
2024-03-31	£1,562,666	£1,618,053	£838,175	37
2023-03-31	£1,239,383	£1,584,645	£893,562	35
2022-03-31	£1,607,531	£1,387,779	£1,238,824	33
2021-03-31	£1,724,255	£946,846	£1,019,072	22

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rhona Teale	Chair	2022-11-23
ANNE BURNS		2013-11-01
Carol Lewis		2025-10-02
David Khan		2021-11-30
Frances Carole Smith		2025-02-24
HELEN KHAN		2021-11-30
Jayne Douglas		2017-09-28
Nicola Brewerton		2025-10-14
Pam Dilks		2016-07-20
Patricia Davey		2019-11-07

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1156492

Accounts

Charity registration number 1156492 (England and Wales)

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	R Teale - Chair	
	A Burns - Vice Chair	
	E Williams	
	M Burrow	
	P Dilks	
	J Douglas	
	P Davey	
	H Khan	
	D Khan	
	C Smith	(Appointed 11 February 2025)
Senior Officer	R Robson	
Charity number	1156492	
Principal address	Nan Tait Centre	
	Abbey Road	
	Barrow-in-Furness	
	LA14 1LG	
Auditor	Melville & Co	
	Unit 17-18, Trinity Enterprise Centre	
	Furness Business Park	
	Ironworks Road	
	Barrow-in-Furness	
	LA14 2PN	

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

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WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The purpose for which the Charity (the "Objects") is established and to which it is specifically restricted are to promote the following purposes for the benefit of women:-

To promote, protect and improve the safety of vulnerable women.

Advancing education in relation to issues affecting women, including (but not limited to) within the areas of criminal justice, addiction, domestic violence, financial poverty and poverty of opportunity.

Preventing or relieving sickness, disease or suffering in women in the area of benefit (whether emotional, mental or physical).

The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by (for example):-

- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion;
- b) Advancing education and raising awareness and equality and diversity;
- c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
- d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public;
- e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

To further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Trustees see fit from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

A summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the Charity's Objects are as follows:-

- **Working with education, training and employment** – we continued to support women and young people to access training and education as well as volunteer opportunities both with us and elsewhere. We developed and began working on our new Volunteer Management Programme
- **Working with domestic violence and sexual abuse** – our *ibelieveyou* project supported women and girls who had or were experiencing domestic/sexual abuse. The project also supported a small number of male victims of domestic/sexual abuse. The Survivors' Network listened to the voices of survivors across the county, shared them with a range of partners, and took feedback from those partner agencies to survivors. The Domestic Abuse Champion's Network offered a regular newsletter, a consistent response to inquiries and social media updates and information. We continued to support victims and survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery using all our learning from the *Light is Always On* project.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- **Working with the Criminal Justice System** – we continued delivering a contract for the Ministry of Justice to support women in the CJS alongside probation services and the other women's centres in Cumbria. We continued to support women who were at risk of becoming involved in the CJS
- **Working with young people** – the ***Pause, for thought*** project supported young women and girls aged 11-19; and the ***Time, for thought*** project supported vulnerable young men and boys aged 11-19
- **Working with older young people** – the ***Anything is Possible*** project supported young women aged 16-25 years with their mental health and wellbeing; and the ***Everything is Possible*** project supported young men with their mental health and wellbeing
- **Working with health & wellbeing** – a range of projects supported a significant number of women with their health & wellbeing throughout the year. The complexity of the support required continues to be high. Much of this support was reduced or ceased in the last quarter of the financial year as less funding became available. Some of this support was reinstated in the first quarter of 2025-26 as additional funding became available
- **Working with poverty** – the ***With Love from Isabel*** project supported families throughout the year; one project provided meals and household goods to families; one project provided support to 600 families at Christmas; and the Clothes Bank provided 21,685 items to 910 different families. ***With Love We Can***, offered a free warm meal twice per week to women and their families. This project also included recycling and upcycling workshops and activities in the first half of the financial year
- **Working for change** – one project continued to develop collaborative working with the other women's centres in Cumbria; one project supported beneficiaries to look at ways we can share our ethos of love, care, compassion and kindness alongside partners to other services; one project continued to grow the outreach service in Kendal; and BarrowFull, Barrow's Creative People and Places Programme, delivered another year of exciting and varied projects to Barrow's communities. Work to develop ***The Barrow Way*** now includes a series of short animations with voice overs explaining the model and these are available on our website (via Youtube) along with all the other research and information. We continued to meet regularly with a range of local charity partners to develop trusting relationships and ensure we can collectively deliver the best possible support for our communities with the collective resources available. ***Praxis***, our internal regular newsletter for staff, volunteers and trustees continues to share learning and best practice alongside making available an ever-growing *learning library* to facilitate continuous learning.

Achievements and performance

In 2024-25 we have seen women, children, young people and families who are greatly affected by the increase in the cost of living, worldwide events, and the continued prevalence of violence against women and girls. This shows up in their mental and physical health and wellbeing, their financial situation, the numbers presenting with experiences of domestic and sexual abuse, and many other aspects of their family life. Following on from the previous year, we continue to see people presenting '*in crisis*' and the room created for this purpose remains continually in use. It was **accessed 647 times by people in distress the equivalent of 2.5 times every day we were open** in 2024-25.

In November 2024, we celebrated our 11-year anniversary. The event was somewhat different this year with two women from our community unveiling their creative ***Paper People*** project at an art exhibition style event. Many of those involved in the project from around the town were able to join in our celebrations. The artwork remains up in the Centre providing both a talking point and a beautiful piece of art to be celebrated and enjoyed.

What remains as important as ever is **how** we deliver our services and not **what** we do. Women, young people, and families tell us this is what they value the most and why the support they receive helps them make long term changes and does not just offer a short-term fix. We deliver our services **with love, with care, with compassion, and with kindness** and are grateful to all our funders, supporters, partner agencies, volunteers, staff and fellow trustees for supporting us to work in this way.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We have continued to work with an array of wonderful partner organisations and local communities and are proud to be part of such a kind, compassionate, caring, and loving community.

2,793 different people were supported by the Charity in 2024-25, **2007 of these were new to the service**. The overall figure of those supported is made up of **2,437** different adult women, **217** different young women/girls, **130** different boys/young/men; and **9** different adult men. These numbers are the equivalent of the Centre supporting **1 in 11 adult women** within the borough (8.7% of 27,961 women aged 16+), **1 in 15 of the young women/girls here** (6.3% of 3,423) and **1 in 28 of the borough's young men/boys** (3.5% of 3,699).
Population figures are from 2020 and available online from Cumbria Observatory

NB: numbers are less than in previous years due to the reduction in service in quarter 4 of the financial year. This followed the organisation making 7 staff redundant as a result of the reduction in funding available for 2025-26 and the increases in costs and Employer National Insurance contributions.

A snapshot of some of the project achievements are as follows:

In 2024-25 the Clothes Bank supported women, men, young people and their families and gave out 21,685 items during the year, equating to 86 items for every day the Centre was open. The scale of this project demonstrates the incredible generosity of the community as all of these items are donated with love by the community to be passed on to others. The generosity of the local community and the kindness this demonstrates to those who benefit cannot be underestimated. It means so much more when items come from those who care. A very big thank you to everyone who has supported the Clothes Bank.

As always, the organisation would not be here without the generous gift of time from the amazing volunteer team. They gave **4,086 hours** of their time during the year. This takes their running total of time they have gifted (since September 2013) to **77,346.5 hours**. At today's minimum wage of £12.21 per hour, this is a gift to the organisation amounting to **£944,400.77**. They are truly wonderful, and the organisation simply wouldn't be here without them. As well as their time, volunteers bring a warmth and care that money can never buy. A very big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers.

1,444 different women accessed support for domestic/sexual abuse, with **782 of these being new to the service**. A reduction in funding meant there was a reduction in this area of our work towards the end of the financial year resulting in us directing a number of victims to other services.

Cumbria Lived Experience Network worked alongside **30 survivors of domestic abuse from around the county** listening to their voices and sharing them with a range of partner agencies. They hosted a learning and celebration event in 2024 which was well received by partners and members of the community. The group worked on developing knowledge and learning around dentistry for survivors; the prevalence of brain injuries amongst victims and the likelihood of diagnosis; and gave their thoughts and feedback on a police initiative, Operation Titanium which looked at the issuing of firearms licences and the domestic abuse context. The feedback from survivors within the network is positive with many reporting further improvements in their own wellbeing as a result of being enabled to make positive changes for others.

96 different women were supported via our outreach provision in Kendal which moved to Stricklandgate House during the year whilst further works were carried out at Kendal Town Hall. We were very lucky to have the support of council staff who found us alternative premises and assisted with the move.

233 women in the criminal justice system were supported via our Ministry of Justice contract (56 WCM in Barrow; 21 by WCM in Kendal; 93 by sub-contractor G4W in the West ; 63 by sub-contractor G4W in the North).

42 women accessed the Petals Programme and **14 women** completed their court ordered unpaid work at the Centre

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The ican programme supported **1,250 different women** whose primary reason for accessing the service was their health and wellbeing. Many of these women accessed one to one support enabling them to identify the things in their lives they wanted to change and a plan for how they wanted to do that with support from staff, volunteers and peers. A range of activities, groups and activities provided opportunities to address different challenges and vulnerabilities. The activities available included *Knit & Natter*, *Chinwaggers*, *Mindfulness*, *Walk & Talk*, *Games & Talk*, *Clothes Bank Crafters*, *Maths*, and *Art Group*. The courses/groups on offer included *Beautiful Women*, *Beautiful Me*, *Community Connections*, *Grounding Techniques*, and *Talking Minds*.

With Love We Can project offers a warm meal and space to socialise, keep warm (or cool) and charge electronic devices. In the first half of the year it also provided additional groups and activities, **With Love We Craft**, focusing on recycling and upcycling.

162 young women and girls (aged 11-19) reported improvements across many areas of their lives as a result of support from the Pause, for thought programme.

96 young men/boys (aged 11-19) engaged with the Time, for thought programme, many of whom demonstrated real improvement in their lives and continue to tell us they feel safer and more confident to talk about their worries and fears.

55 young adult women (aged 16-25) accessed the **Anything is Possible** programme, and **34** young adult (aged 16-25) men accessed the **Everything is Possible** programme. Beneficiaries reported improvements in a number of areas of their lives.

Love Barrow Together & The Barrow Way – we continued to work alongside a variety of statutory and third sector partners and the wider community during the year, to further develop our collaborative way of working. Our website now features a series of short animations with Barrovian voice overs explaining **The Barrow Way** along with all the other research and information.

In order to enable those who access the service to see how far they have come on their journey; we use an evaluation tool called *Look at Life*. This set of questions (34 for adults and 33 for young people) helps clients understand where they are at in their lives at both the start of their time with us and on leaving the service. It helps to inform action plans we develop together and to think about what we can do together to make the changes people might want to make in their own lives. When looking at the progress of groups of clients this evaluation tool (alongside a range of other measures) can be used to measure the impact of our work, to find gaps in our offer, and to inform our learning and future development.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In 2024-25 the *Look at Life* provided a wealth of data. A snapshot is as follows:

Young People

- At the start of their time with us **23% of young people** answered positively to the question *I feel good about my overall health*. At the end of the support **82% felt good about their overall health**.
- At the start of their support **28% of young people** had enough friends. At the end of their time with us **84% felt they had enough friends**.
- On entry to the service **32% of young people** reported they felt safe all of the time. On exiting the service **84% of young people felt safe all of the time**.
- On entry to the service **17% of young people** could identify someone they could turn to when they were upset. On exiting the service **78% felt able to identify people they could turn to when feeling upset**.

Adults

- At the start of their time with us **28% of women accessing support for domestic abuse** felt free to live the kind of life they wanted. At the end of their time with us **75% of women felt free to live the kind of life they wanted**.
- At the start of their support **56% of women accessing the Centre due to their involvement with the Criminal Justice System** felt connected to their community. At the end of their time with the service **76% of women felt connected to their community**.
- On entry to the service **64% of women who had experienced domestic abuse** felt able to give their child/children the kind of life they wanted them to have. By the end of their support **90% of women who had experienced domestic abuse felt able to give their children the kind of life they wanted them to have**.
- On entry to the service **40% of women** accessing support for their health and wellbeing responded positively to the question, *Overall I like my life*. On leaving the service **85% of women accessing support for their health and wellbeing reported that overall, they liked their life**.

The cost of our service last year was £1,093,484. Having worked with 2,793 different people, that makes our **cost per person per annum, £391.50**. Our budgeted cost per person is £450 which demonstrates the continued additional work offered by staff and volunteers to ensure no-one is left without the care and support they need.

NB total expenditure in 2024-25 exceeds the amount above as our total expenditure includes the BarrowFull Programme spend and a MOJ grant of which two thirds were passed to the other women's centres in Cumbria.

BarrowFull (formerly Barra Culture) is Barrow's Arts Council England funded Creative People and Places Programme. Women's Community Matters is the lead partner and accountable body for the programme working alongside 4 other consortium members. WCM employs the programme staff, and the budget is included in our overall accounts presented here. In 2024-25 **BarrowFull achieved 36,256 creative engagements across more than 422 events**, most of which were in-person but also included online events, films and other digital participation, all of which featured a wide variety of artistic, creative and cultural offers.

Financial review

The charity's income level for the year has decreased by £61,091 (4%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,501,575. Of this £1,498,156 relates to restricted funds, a decrease of £58,082 (4%) and £3,419 to unrestricted funds, a decrease of £3,009 (47%).

Expenditure has increased by £48,172 (3%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,666,225. All of this relates to restricted funds.

The total funds balance at the end of the year is £673,525 a decrease of £164,650, of which £513,796 relates to restricted funds and £159,729 to unrestricted funds.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The organisation's policy states, in line with sector best practice, that we aim to have 6 month's running costs in reserves. A 10-year plan is in place to help the organisation develop the reserves to this level. At the end of year 2024-25 we remain below our target to achieve this with the lasting impacts of the pandemic and other worldwide changes continuing to affect our ability to grow reserves. Focus remains very much on raising sufficient funds to deliver face to face work. An assessment was carried out by our Treasurer in 2022 and 2024 to afford reassurance to trustees that the current level of reserves are sufficient to 'close down the business' should the need arise, and to ensure they present no financial risk to the organisation.

In 2024-25 trustees developed an **Investment Policy** to provide the framework to seek additional routes to increasing the Charity's reserves. In quarter 1 of 2025-26 the Charity implemented a new 10-year plan to grow reserves to industry best practice levels.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

R Teale - Chair

A Burns - Vice Chair

T Irwin - Treasurer

(Resigned 11 June 2025)

E Williams

M Burrow

P Dilks

J Douglas

P Davey

L Piechura

(Resigned 26 July 2024)

H Khan

D Khan

C Smith

(Appointed 11 February 2025)

The trustees are people with considerable interest and experience in the objectives of the charity and are able to draw on their experience at a senior level to assist in achieving those objectives. New Trustees are elected at the AGM.

Whilst key decisions are made by the trustees, the day to day operation of the charity is entrusted to the Senior Officer.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

RL Teale

[RL Teale \(Oct 28, 2025 11:13:20 GMT\)](#)

R Teale - Chair

Trustee

Date: 28/10/2025

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Community Matters (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was capable of identifying irregularities, including fraud

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the trustees and other management, and from inspection of the charity's records. We discussed with the trustees and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance during the audit.

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related charities legislation), pensions legislation, taxation legislation and further laws and regulations that could indirectly affect the financial statements, comprising environmental, health and safety and employment legislation and safeguarding. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These procedures did not identify any potentially material actual or suspected non-compliance.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud we considered the opportunities and incentives and pressures that may exist within the charity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included: enquiry of trustees and other management to understand the high level policies and procedures in place to prevent and detect fraud, reading Board minutes and considering performance targets and incentive schemes in place for management. We remained alert to any indications of fraud during the audit.

As a result of these procedures we identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

- income recognition and in particular the risk that income is recognised in the wrong reporting period or that restricted income is incorrectly recognised as unrestricted income.

These risks may arise due to a potential desire to present weaker results due to an incentive to obtain further funding.

As required by auditing standards we also identified and addressed the risk of management override of controls.

We performed the following procedures to address the risks of fraud identified:

- identifying and testing high risk journal entries through vouching the entries to supporting documentation; and
- testing the recognition of income and in particular that it was appropriately recognised or deferred.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Other matters

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

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Melville & Co

Melville & Co (Nov 11, 2025 10:14:47 GMT)

For and on behalf of Melville & Co, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Unit 17-18, Trinity Enterprise Centre

Furness Business Park

Ironworks Road

Barrow-in-Furness

LA14 2PN

Date: 11/11/2025.....

Melville & Co is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	3,419	1,158,644	1,162,063	6,428	1,392,005	1,398,433
Charitable activities	3	-	339,512	339,512	-	164,233	164,233
Total income		3,419	1,498,156	1,501,575	6,428	1,556,238	1,562,666
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	-	1,666,225	1,666,225	-	1,618,053	1,618,053
Total expenditure		-	1,666,225	1,666,225	-	1,618,053	1,618,053
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		3,419	(168,069)	(164,650)	6,428	(61,815)	(55,387)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		156,310	681,865	838,175	149,882	743,680	893,562
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		159,729	513,796	673,525	156,310	681,865	838,175

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	9	38,922		14,728	
Cash at bank and in hand		639,943		832,148	
		<u>678,865</u>		<u>846,876</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(5,340)		(8,701)	
Net current assets			673,525		838,175
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15	513,796		681,865	
Unrestricted funds		159,729		156,310	
	14	<u>673,525</u>		<u>838,175</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 28/10/2025

R L Teale
[R L Teale \(Oct 28, 2025 11:13:20 GMT\)](#)
 R Teale - Chair
 Trustee

A. Burns
[A. Burns \(Nov 11, 2025 10:10:52 GMT\)](#)
 A Burns - Vice Chair
 Trustee

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	17	(192,205)		(8,256)	
Net cash generated from investing activities		-		-	
Net cash generated from financing activities		-		-	
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(192,205)		(8,256)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		832,148		840,404	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		639,943		832,148	

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Women's Community Matters is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Company Number CE001200; Charity Registration Number 1156492.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from government and other grants are recognised where the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for gross and when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the cost of all activities carried out, with the exception of costs incurred for governance purposes.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Voluntary income - grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Donations and gifts	3,419	332,686	336,105	6,428	72,395	78,823
Grants	-	825,958	825,958	-	1,319,610	1,319,610
	<u>3,419</u>	<u>1,158,644</u>	<u>1,162,063</u>	<u>6,428</u>	<u>1,392,005</u>	<u>1,398,433</u>
Donations and gifts						
Other	3,419	332,686	336,105	6,428	72,395	78,823
	<u>3,419</u>	<u>332,686</u>	<u>336,105</u>	<u>6,428</u>	<u>72,395</u>	<u>78,823</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
BarrowFull	-	335,500	335,500	-	409,350	409,350
Building Fund	-	178,228	178,228	-	150,253	150,253
ibelieveyou	-	33,000	33,000	-	183,617	183,617
Love Barrow Together	-	38,272	38,272	-	100,000	100,000
Pause, for thought	-	61,117	61,117	-	60,407	60,407
Time, for thought	-	46,460	46,460	-	50,119	50,119
ican	-	37,500	37,500	-	105,268	105,268
Furness For You	-	32,602	32,602	-	23,767	23,767
The National Lottery Community Fund Know Your Neighbour	-	22,500	22,500	-	24,500	24,500
With Love We Can	-	15,419	15,419	-	13,997	13,997
Other	-	25,360	25,360	-	198,332	198,332
	<u>-</u>	<u>825,958</u>	<u>825,958</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,319,610</u>	<u>1,319,610</u>

3 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Contracts for services	311,900	138,730
Other income	27,612	25,503
	<u>339,512</u>	<u>164,233</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	958,229	857,897
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Support	702,787	754,888
Governance	5,209	5,268
	<u>1,666,225</u>	<u>1,618,053</u>
Analysis by fund		
Restricted funds	<u>1,666,225</u>	<u>1,618,053</u>

5 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2025 Support costs £	Governance costs £	2024 £
Rent and rates	47,929	-	47,929	-	38,898
Premises costs	7,898	-	7,898	-	20,524
Insurance	5,496	-	5,496	-	4,203
Sub-contract costs	182,260	-	182,260	-	50,261
Telephone and IT	40,563	-	40,563	-	38,735
Postage and stationery	4,042	-	4,042	-	10,833
Client expenses	8,090	-	8,090	-	12,731
Activities expenses and equipment	300,849	-	300,849	-	373,001
Sundries	38,583	-	38,583	-	47,298
Professional fees	67,077	-	67,077	-	158,404
Accountancy	-	5,209	5,209	-	5,268
	<u>702,787</u>	<u>5,209</u>	<u>707,996</u>	<u>5,268</u>	<u>760,156</u>
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>702,787</u>	<u>5,209</u>	<u>707,996</u>	<u>5,268</u>	<u>760,156</u>

Sub-contractor costs is in respect of the provision of services by other women's centres in Cumbria.

Professional fees in 2024 includes £92,000 share of core costs grant passed on to other women's centres in Cumbria.

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,671 (2024- £2,634) for audit fees.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Governance	1	1
Charitable activities	37	36
Total	38	37

Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	868,546	772,386
Social security costs	52,816	56,679
Redundancy costs	4,748	-
Other pension costs	32,119	28,832
	958,229	857,897

Redundancy and termination were made in the reporting period. These were fully funded in the period in question and accounted for in the period in which they became payable..

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	67,026	65,115

8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	26,402	13,623
Accrued income	12,520	1,105
	<u>38,922</u>	<u>14,728</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	-	433
Trade creditors	-	3,000
Accruals and deferred income	5,340	5,268
	<u>5,340</u>	<u>8,701</u>

11 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	32,119	28,832
	<u>32,119</u>	<u>28,832</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

12 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
	681,865	1,498,156	(1,666,225)	513,796
	<u>681,865</u>	<u>1,498,156</u>	<u>(1,666,225)</u>	<u>513,796</u>
Previous year:				
	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
	743,680	1,556,238	(1,618,053)	681,865
	<u>743,680</u>	<u>1,556,238</u>	<u>(1,618,053)</u>	<u>681,865</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	156,310	3,419	159,729
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	149,882	6,428	156,310
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	159,729	513,796	673,525	156,310	681,865	838,175
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	159,729	513,796	673,525	156,310	681,865	838,175
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Movements in restricted funds

	Fund balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Fund balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Love Barrow Together	89,894	43,550	(67,430)	(5,000)	61,014
BarrowFull	142,595	399,058	(475,259)	(49,276)	17,118
Pause, for thought	28,643	68,276	(56,733)	(9,960)	30,226
WCM BarrowFull	3,750	-	(34,711)	33,710	2,749
Time, for thought	18,927	53,081	(39,928)	(9,960)	22,120
#ican	78,210	37,545	(85,186)	(15,120)	15,449
#ibelieveyou	74,761	239,871	(234,234)	(17,370)	63,028
DA Champion's' Network	3,102	1,880	-	-	4,982
Building Fund	72,816	265,614	(292,810)	88,926	134,546
Kendal Women's Centres	806	45,249	(43,920)	(1,050)	1,085
WCM Sustainability	32,877	9,147	(135)	-	41,889
With Love We Can	11,295	15,738	(20,823)	-	6,210
With Love from Isabel	2,517	30	(407)	-	2,140
Project 23	70	-	-	-	70
Project 22	7,207	-	-	-	7,207
AOCC	8,230	-	(8,737)	507	-
Communities Can	33,681	-	-	-	33,681
SE Project	14,125	33,000	(12,379)	(34,746)	-
DA Victims/Survivors Network	405	19,551	(18,812)	(810)	334
Women First	-	144,978	(140,052)	(4,910)	16
Anything is Possible	36,401	14,053	(39,854)	(1,410)	9,190
Project 32	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Project 34	4,000	-	(400)	-	3,600
Everything is Possible	6,321	12,254	(12,209)	-	6,366
The National Lottery Community Fund Know Your Neighbour	6,232	22,500	(28,732)	-	-
Petals	-	25,082	(19,642)	(4,815)	625
Furness for YOur	-	32,612	(28,832)	(3,780)	-
Homes with Love	-	15,087	-	35,064	50,151
	<u>681,865</u>	<u>1,498,156</u>	<u>(1,666,225)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>513,796</u>

16 Related party transactions

T Irwin and L Piechura were trustees of the charity and directors of TI Accountancy Limited. The charity purchased services of £1,244 (2024 - £2,894) from TI Accountancy Limited in the year.

The spouse of the Senior Officer provided services to the charity of £nil (2024 - £15,628) in the year.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17	Cash absorbed by operations	2025 £	2024 £
	Deficit for the year	(164,650)	(55,387)
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(24,194)	44,177
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(3,361)	2,954
	Cash absorbed by operations	<u>(192,205)</u>	<u>(8,256)</u>

18 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1156492

Accounts

Charity registration number 1156492

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

R Teale - Chair
A Burns - Vice Chair
T Irwin - Treasurer
E Williams
M Burrow
P Dilks
J Douglas
P Davey
L Piechura
H Khan
D Khan

Senior Officer

R Robson

Charity number

1156492

Principal address

Nan Tait Centre
Abbey Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 1LG

Auditor

Melville & Co
Unit 17-18, Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

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WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The purpose for which the Charity (the "Objects") is established and to which it is specifically restricted are to promote the following purposes for the benefit of women:-

To promote, protect and improve the safety of vulnerable women.

Advancing education in relation to issues affecting women, including (but not limited to) within the areas of criminal justice, addiction, domestic violence, financial poverty and poverty of opportunity.

Preventing or relieving sickness, disease or suffering in women in the area of benefit (whether emotional, mental or physical).

The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by (for example):-

- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion;
- b) Advancing education and raising awareness and equality and diversity;
- c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
- d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public;
- e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

To further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Trustees see fit from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

A summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the Charity's Objects are as follows:-

- **Working with education, training and employment** – we continued to support women and young people to access training and education as well as volunteer opportunities both with us and elsewhere
- **Working with domestic violence and sexual abuse** – our *ibelieveyou* project supported women and girls who had or were experiencing domestic/sexual abuse. The project also supported a small number of male victims of domestic/sexual abuse. The Domestic Abuse Champion's Network offered regular updates, information, and newsletters, alongside Champion's Training across the county. The Survivor's Network listened to the voices of survivors across the county, shared them with a range of partners, and took feedback from those partner agencies to survivors. Our *The Light is Always On* project supported victims and survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery. We partnered with Churches Together Cumbria and The Clewer Initiative to develop a strategic partnership and a training network for Cumbria focused on Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking and Exploitation

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- **Working with the Criminal Justice System** – we continued delivering a contract for the Ministry of Justice to support women in the CJS alongside probation services and the other women's centres in Cumbria. We continued to support women who were at risk of becoming involved in the CJS
- **Working with young people** – the *Pause, for thought* project supported young women and girls aged 11-19; and the *Time, for thought* project supported vulnerable young men and boys aged 11-19
- **Working with older young people** – the *Anything is Possible* project supported young women aged 16-25 years with their mental health and wellbeing; and the *Everything is Possible* project supported young men with their mental health and wellbeing
- **Working with health & wellbeing** – a range of projects supported a significant number of women with their health & wellbeing throughout the year. The complexity of the support required increased significantly for the fourth year running during this financial year. A further increase in the frequency and variety of groups complimented the one-to-one support available
- **Working with poverty** – the *With Love from Isabel* supported families; one project supported families with school uniform; one project provided meals and household goods to families; one project provided support with Christmas, birthdays & funerals; and the Clothes Bank provided 22,980 items to 1,043 different families. The project started during the pandemic, *With Love We Can*, offered a free warm meal twice per week to women and their families. In 2023 this project was expanded and extended to include recycling and upcycling workshops and activities
- **Working for change** – one project continued to develop collaborative working with the other women's centres in Cumbria; one project supported beneficiaries to look at ways we can share our ethos of love, care, compassion and kindness alongside partners to other services; one project continued to grow the outreach service from Kendal Town Hall; and BarrowFull, Barrow's Creative People and Places Programme, delivered another year of exciting and varied projects to Barrow's communities. We worked with a wide range of partners and community members to complete *The Barrow Way*: Barrow's new service delivery model.

Achievements and performance

In 2023-24 we have continued to see women, children, young people and families who are still living with the effects of the pandemic. This is in terms of their mental and physical health and wellbeing, their financial situation, and many other aspects of their family life. We have seen an increase in the number of people presenting 'in crisis' and now have a room for this purpose. It was accessed by people in distress the equivalent of two or three times every day we were open in 2023-24.

Significantly for the charity in November 2023, we celebrated our 10-year anniversary. The event was a celebration of each of the 10 years with props, laughter and stories. We reflected on the Centre as a place full of hope. It is a place full of love, full of care, full of compassion and full of kindness and women, men, and children tell us they can feel it in the air when they come. We looked back at what we thought and said on the day the Centre opened, and what we saw was how full of hope we all were. The feeling is still the same today. We are full of hope for the future. And we continue to believe that with love, with care, with compassion and with kindness, we can **ALL TOGETHER**, change the world.

What remains as important as ever is **how** we deliver our services and not *what* we do. Women, young people, and families tell us this is what they value the most and why the support they receive helps them make long term changes and does not just offer a short-term fix. We deliver our services **with love, with care, with compassion, and with kindness** and are grateful to all our funders, supporters, partner agencies, volunteers, staff and fellow trustees for supporting us to work in this way.

We have continued to work with an array of wonderful partner organisations and local communities and are proud to be part of such a kind, compassionate, caring, and loving community.

3,129 different people were supported by the Charity in 2023-24. This figure is made up of **2,858** different adult women, **130** different young women/girls, and **124** different boys/young men; and **17** different adult men. These numbers are the equivalent of the Centre supporting **1 in 10 adult women** within the borough (10.2% of 27,961 women aged 16+), **1 in 25 of the young women/girls here** (3.8% of 3,423) and **almost 1 in 25 of the borough's young men/boys** (3.4% of 3,699).

Population figures are from 2020 and available online from Cumbria Observatory

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

A snapshot of some of the project achievements are as follows:

In 2023-24 the Clothes Bank supported women, men, young people and their families and gave out 22,980 items during the year, equating to 93 items for every day the Centre was open. The scale of this project demonstrates the incredible generosity of the community as all of these items are donated with love by the community to be passed on to others. The generosity of the local community and the kindness this demonstrates to those who benefit cannot be underestimated. It means so much more when items come from those who care. A very big thank you to everyone who has supported the Clothes Bank.

As always, the organisation would not be here without the generous gift of time from the amazing volunteer team. They gave 4,437 hours of their time during the year. This takes their running total of time they have gifted (since September 2013) to 73,257.5 hours. At today's minimum wage of £11.44 per hour, this is a gift to the organisation amounting to £838,065.80. They are truly wonderful, and the organisation simply wouldn't be here without them. As well as their time, volunteers bring a warmth and care that money can never buy. A very big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers.

1,224 different women accessed support for domestic/sexual abuse, with 565 of these being new to the service.

Our Domestic Abuse Champions' Network delivered training to 500+ people around the county including to hundreds of people working for North Cumbria Integrated Care as part of their '*how safe do you feel campaign*'. The network published monthly newsletters circulating them to more than 700 recipients; and regularly engaged with people on our social media platforms sharing news articles, campaigns, opportunities to take part in research, and survivor stories to give hope to those who are yet to start their own journey of recovery.

The Domestic Abuse Survivors' Network worked alongside 25 survivors from around the county listening to their voices and sharing them with a range of partner agencies. They plan to share all their learning to date at an event in the summer of 2024.

The Light is Always On project supported 25 different women and young people who have experiences of sexual or criminal exploitation. The project also offered ongoing regular support to 13 family members.

89 different women were supported via our outreach provision in Kendal using a number of newly refurbished rooms in Kendal Town Hall.

228 women in the criminal justice system were supported via our Ministry of Justice contract (68 WCM; 80 by sub-contractor G4W West; 80 by sub-contractor G4W North).

The ican programme supported 1,156 different women whose primary reason for accessing the service was their health and wellbeing. 80% of these women (930) accessed one to one support enabling them to identify the things in their lives they wanted to change and a plan for how they wanted to do that with support from staff, volunteers and peers. A range of activities, groups and activities provided opportunities to address different challenges and vulnerabilities. The activities available included:

Knit & Natter, Chinwaggers, Mindfulness, Walk & Talk, Clothes Bank Crafters and Art Group.

The courses/groups on offer included:

Beautiful Women, Beautiful Me, Community Connections, and Grounding Techniques, and Talking Minds.

The **With Love We Can** project offers a warm meal and space to socialise, keep warm (or cool) and charge electronic devices. This expanded in 2023 to provide additional groups and activities, **With Love We Craft**, focusing on recycling and upcycling.

130 young women and girls reported improvements across many areas of their lives as a result of support from the Pause, for thought programme.

124 young boys/men engaged with the Time, for thought programme, many of whom demonstrated real improvement in their lives and continue to tell us they feel safer and more confident to talk about their worries and fears.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

36 young adult women accessed the *Anything is Possible* programme, and **12** young adult men accessed the *Everything is Possible* programme. Beneficiaries reported improvements in a number of areas of their lives.

Love Barrow Together & The Barrow Way – we continued to work alongside a variety of statutory and third sector partners and the wider community during the year, to further develop our collaborative way of working. This has resulted in a number of successful collaborative projects across the area.

Over the 12-month period we continued to see an increase in the complexity of mental health vulnerabilities women and young people accessing the service were facing. This is a national trend, and we are working with partners both locally and nationally to ensure we collectively use our limited resources as well as we can.

The cost of our service last year was £949,140. Having worked with 3,129 different people, that makes our **cost per person per annum, £303.34**. Our budgeted cost per person is £380 which demonstrates the continued additional work offered by staff to ensure no-one is left without the care and support they need.

NB total expenditure in 2023-24 exceeds the amount above as our total expenditure includes the BarrowFull Programme spend and a MOJ grant of which two thirds were passed to the other women's centres in Cumbria.

BarrowFull (formerly Barra Culture) is Barrow's Arts Council England funded Creative People and Places Programme. Women's Community Matters is the lead partner and accountable body for the programme working alongside 4 other consortium members. WCM employs the programme staff, and the budget is included in our overall accounts presented here. In 2023-24 BarrowFull achieved 8,940 creative engagements across more than 97 in person events, 1 online event, and 1 radio broadcast event featuring a wide variety of artistic and cultural offers.

Financial review

The charity's income level for the year has increased by £323,283 (26%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,562,666. Of this £1,556,238 relates to restricted funds, an increase of £319,356 (26%) and £6,428 to unrestricted funds, an increase of £3,927 (157%).

Expenditure has increased by £33,408 (2%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,618,053. All of this relates to restricted funds.

The total funds balance at the end of the year is £838,175, a decrease of £55,387, of which £681,865 relates to restricted funds and £156,310 to unrestricted funds.

The organisation's policy states, in line with sector best practice, that we aim to have 6 month's running costs in reserves. A 10-year plan is in place to help the organisation develop the reserves to this level. At the end of year 7 of this plan we are below our target to achieve this. Donations and fundraising were impacted by the pandemic and the focus continues to be on raising sufficient funds to deliver face to face work. Additional work was carried out by our Treasurer in 2022 to afford reassurance to trustees that the current level of reserves are sufficient to 'close down the business' should the need arise, and to ensure they present no financial risk to the organisation. The Treasurer has revisited the figures in 2024 and is assured this continues to remain the case.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

R Teale - Chair
A Burns - Vice Chair
T Irwin - Treasurer
E Williams
M Burrow
P Dilks
J Douglas
P Davey
L Piechura
H Khan
D Khan

The trustees are people with considerable interest and experience in the objectives of the charity and are able to draw on their experience at a senior level to assist in achieving those objectives. New Trustees are elected at the AGM.

Whilst key decisions are made by the trustees, the day to day operation of the charity is entrusted to the Senior Officer.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

R. L Teale

[R. L Teale \(Sep 5, 2024 18:17 GMT+1\)](#)

R Teale - Chair

Trustee

Date: Sep 5, 2024

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Community Matters (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was capable of identifying irregularities, including fraud

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the trustees and other management, and from inspection of the charity's records. We discussed with the trustees and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance during the audit.

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related charities legislation), pensions legislation, taxation legislation and further laws and regulations that could indirectly affect the financial statements, comprising environmental, health and safety and employment legislation and safeguarding. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These procedures did not identify any potentially material actual or suspected non-compliance.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud we considered the opportunities and incentives and pressures that may exist within the charity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included: enquiry of trustees and other management to understand the high level policies and procedures in place to prevent and detect fraud, reading Board minutes and considering performance targets and incentive schemes in place for management. We remained alert to any indications of fraud during the audit.

As a result of these procedures we identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

- income recognition and in particular the risk that income is recognised in the wrong reporting period or that restricted income is incorrectly recognised as unrestricted income.

These risks may arise due to a potential desire to present weaker results due to an incentive to obtain further funding.

As required by auditing standards we also identified and addressed the risk of management override of controls.

We performed the following procedures to address the risks of fraud identified:

- identifying and testing high risk journal entries through vouching the entries to supporting documentation; and
- testing the recognition of income and in particular that it was appropriately recognised or deferred.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Other matters

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

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Melville & Co
Melville & Co (Sep 6, 2024 09:15 GMT+1)

Melville & Co

Sep 6, 2024
.....

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Unit 17-18, Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Melville & Co is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	6,428	1,392,005	1,398,433	2,501	1,223,090	1,225,591
Charitable activities	3	-	164,233	164,233	-	13,792	13,792
Total income		6,428	1,556,238	1,562,666	2,501	1,236,882	1,239,383
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	-	1,618,053	1,618,053	-	1,584,645	1,584,645
Total expenditure		-	1,618,053	1,618,053	-	1,584,645	1,584,645
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		6,428	(61,815)	(55,387)	2,501	(347,763)	(345,262)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		149,882	743,680	893,562	147,381	1,091,443	1,238,824
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		156,310	681,865	838,175	149,882	743,680	893,562

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	9	14,728		58,905	
Cash at bank and in hand		832,148		840,404	
		<u>846,876</u>		<u>899,309</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(8,701)</u>		<u>(5,747)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>838,175</u>		<u>893,562</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15	681,865		743,680	
Unrestricted funds		156,310		149,882	
	14		<u>838,175</u>		<u>893,562</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on Sep 5, 2024

R. L Teale
[R. L Teale \(Sep 5, 2024 18:17 GMT+1\)](#)
R Teale - Chair
Trustee

T. Irwin
[Tracy Irwin \(Sep 5, 2024 13:12 GMT+2\)](#)
T Irwin - Treasurer
Trustee

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	17		(8,256)		(311,314)
Net cash used in investing activities			-		-
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(8,256)		(311,314)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			840,404		1,151,718
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			832,148		840,404

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Women's Community Matters is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Company Number CE001200; Charity Registration Number 1156492.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from government and other grants are recognised where the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for gross and when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the cost of all activities carried out, with the exception of costs incurred for governance purposes.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Voluntary income - grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £
Donations and gifts	6,428	72,395	78,823	2,501	83,423	85,924
Grants	-	1,319,610	1,319,610	-	1,139,667	1,139,667
	<u>6,428</u>	<u>1,392,005</u>	<u>1,398,433</u>	<u>2,501</u>	<u>1,223,090</u>	<u>1,225,591</u>
Donations and gifts						
Other	6,428	72,395	78,823	2,501	83,423	85,924
	<u>6,428</u>	<u>72,395</u>	<u>78,823</u>	<u>2,501</u>	<u>83,423</u>	<u>85,924</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
BarrowFull	-	409,350	409,350	-	433,278	433,278
Women First	-	-	-	-	125,000	125,000
ibelieveyou	-	183,617	183,617	-	162,923	162,923
Love Barrow Together	-	100,000	100,000	-	56,150	56,150
Pause, for thought	-	60,407	60,407	-	43,447	43,447
Time, for thought	-	50,119	50,119	-	45,697	45,697
ican	-	105,268	105,268	-	51,166	51,166
Kendal Women's Centres	-	63,956	63,956	-	65,223	65,223
Building Fund	-	150,253	150,253	-	-	-
Anything is Possible	-	49,047	49,047	-	-	-
Other	-	147,593	147,593	-	156,783	156,783
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,319,610</u>	<u>1,319,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,139,667</u>	<u>1,139,667</u>

3 Charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Other income	<u>164,233</u>	<u>13,792</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Heading #ac982 2024 £	Heading #ac982 2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	857,897	775,638
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Support	754,888	804,110
Governance	5,268	4,897
	<u>1,618,053</u>	<u>1,584,645</u>
Analysis by fund		
Restricted funds	<u>1,618,053</u>	<u>1,584,645</u>

5 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2024 Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £
Rent and rates	38,898	-	38,898	38,410	38,410
Premises costs	20,524	-	20,524	55,230	55,230
Insurance	4,203	-	4,203	3,443	3,443
Sub-contract costs	50,261	-	50,261	-	-
Telephone and IT	38,735	-	38,735	39,501	39,501
Postage and stationery	10,833	-	10,833	8,915	8,915
Client expenses	12,731	-	12,731	46,949	46,949
Activities expenses and equipment	373,001	-	373,001	400,951	400,951
Sundries	47,298	-	47,298	53,112	53,112
Professional fees	158,404	-	158,404	157,599	157,599
Accountancy	-	5,268	5,268	-	4,897
	<u>754,888</u>	<u>5,268</u>	<u>760,156</u>	<u>804,110</u>	<u>809,007</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>754,888</u>	<u>5,268</u>	<u>760,156</u>	<u>804,110</u>	<u>809,007</u>

Sub-contractor costs is in respect of the provision of services by other women's centres in Cumbria.

Professional fees includes £92,000 share of core costs grant passed on to other women's centres in Cumbria.

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,634 (2023- £2,442) for audit fees.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Governance	1	1
Charitable activities	36	34
	<u>37</u>	<u>35</u>

Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	772,386	698,540
Social security costs	56,679	52,236
Other pension costs	28,832	24,862
	<u>857,897</u>	<u>775,638</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

9 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	13,623	58,905
Accrued income	1,105	-
	<u>14,728</u>	<u>58,905</u>

The accrued income represents monies due from the HMPPS.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	433	-
Trade creditors	3,000	731
Accruals and deferred income	5,268	5,016
	<u>8,701</u>	<u>5,747</u>

11 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024 £	2023 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>28,832</u>	<u>24,862</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

12 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
	<u>743,680</u>	<u>1,556,238</u>	<u>(1,618,053)</u>	<u>681,865</u>
Previous year:				
	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
	<u>1,091,443</u>	<u>1,236,882</u>	<u>(1,584,645)</u>	<u>743,680</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	149,882	6,428	156,310
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	147,381	2,501	149,882
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	156,310	681,865	838,175	149,882	743,680	893,562
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	156,310	681,865	838,175	149,882	743,680	893,562
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Movements in restricted funds

	Fund balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Fund balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Love Barrow Together	33,890	106,995	47,945	(3,046)	89,894
BarrowFull	319,165	443,444	571,645	(48,369)	142,595
Pause, for thought	28,988	63,225	53,184	(10,386)	28,643
WCM BarrowFull	11,335	-	32,113	24,528	3,750
Time, for thought	23,135	58,444	55,121	(7,531)	18,927
#ican	8,787	105,268	36,722	877	78,210
#ibelieveyou	64,773	204,759	182,291	(12,480)	74,761
DA Champion's' Network	15,038	5,599	16,245	(1,290)	3,102
Building Fund	92,934	151,922	261,788	89,748	72,816
Kendal Women's Centres	3,148	63,956	54,587	(11,711)	806
WCM Sustainability	27,377	5,500	-	-	32,877
With Love We Can	16,767	18,063	23,535	-	11,295
With Love from Isabel	1,048	3,130	1,683	22	2,517
Poverty Truth Commission	5,000	(2,389)	2,611	-	-
Project 23	-	70	-	-	70
Project 22	7,014	-	-	193	7,207
AOCC	8,280	-	50	-	8,230
Communities Can	33,681	-	-	-	33,681
SE Project	17,300	40,240	40,805	(2,610)	14,125
DA Victims/Survivors Network	9,166	19,075	18,145	(9,691)	405
Women First	1,384	138,730	130,195	(9,919)	-
Project 31	2,260	-	2,238	(22)	-
Anything is Possible	9,210	54,415	25,963	(1,261)	36,401
Project 32	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Project 34	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Barrow and South Lakeland	-	10,271	9,425	(846)	-
Everything is Possible	-	12,254	3,506	(2,427)	6,321
Furness for You	-	23,767	27,136	3,369	-
NLCF KYN	-	24,500	21,120	2,852	6,232
	<u>743,680</u>	<u>1,556,238</u>	<u>1,618,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>681,865</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Related party transactions

T Irwin and L Piechura, trustees of the charity, are directors of TI Accountancy Limited. The charity purchased services of £2,894 (2023 - £2,894) from TI Accountancy Limited in the year.

The spouse of the Senior Officer provided services to the charity of £15,628 (2023 - £14,718) in the year.

17 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Deficit for the year	(55,387)	(345,262)
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	44,177	35,978
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,954	(2,030)
Cash absorbed by operations	(8,256)	(311,314)

18 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

Accounts

Charity registration number 1156492

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	R Teale - Chair	(Appointed 23 November 2022)
	A Burns - Vice Chair	
	T Irwin - Treasurer	
	E Williams	
	M Burrow	
	P Dilks	
	J Douglas	
	P Davey	
	L Piechura	
	H Khan	
	D Khan	
Senior Officer	R Robson	
Charity number	1156492	
Principal address	Nan Tait Centre Abbey Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1LG	
Auditor	Melville & Co Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre Furness Business Park Ironworks Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2PN	

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

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WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The purpose for which the Charity (the "Objects") is established and to which it is specifically restricted are to promote the following purposes for the benefit of women:-

To promote, protect and improve the safety of vulnerable women.

Advancing education in relation to issues affecting women, including (but not limited to) within the areas of criminal justice, addiction, domestic violence, financial poverty and poverty of opportunity.

Preventing or relieving sickness, disease or suffering in women in the area of benefit (whether emotional, mental or physical).

The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by (for example):-

- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion;
- b) Advancing education and raising awareness and equality and diversity;
- c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
- d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public;
- e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

To further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Trustees see fit from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

A summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the Charity's Objects are as follows:-

- **Working with education, training and employment** – working with Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service and other local organisations, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund, we supported vulnerable women move closer to the job market
- **Working with domestic violence and sexual abuse** – our *ibeliieveyou* project supported women and girls who had or were experiencing domestic/sexual abuse. The Domestic Abuse Champion's Network offered regular updates, information, and newsletters, alongside Champion's Training across the county. The Survivor's Network listened to the voices of survivors across the county, shared them with a range of partners, and took feedback from those partner agencies to survivors. Our ***The Light is Always On*** project supported victims and survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- **Working with the Criminal Justice System** – we continued delivering a contract for the Ministry of Justice to support women in the CJS alongside probation services and the other women's centres in Cumbria. We continued to support women who were at risk of becoming involved in the CJS
- **Working with young people** – the *Pause, for thought* project supported young women and girls aged 11-19; and the *Time, for thought* project supported vulnerable young men and boys aged 11-19
- **Working with health & wellbeing** – a range of projects supported an increasing number of women with their health & wellbeing throughout the year. The complexity of the support required increased significantly during this financial year. An increase in the frequency and variety of groups complimented the one-to-one support available
- **Working with poverty** – the *With Love from Isabel* supported families; one project supported families with school uniform and children's underwear; one project provided meals and household goods to families; one project provided support with Christmas, birthdays & funerals; and the Clothes Bank provided 27,044 items to 1,095 different families. A project new for 2022, *With Love We Can* offered a free warm meal twice per week.
- **Working for change** – one project continued to develop collaborative working with the other women's centres in Cumbria; one project supported beneficiaries to look at ways we can share our ethos of love, care, compassion and kindness alongside partners to other services; one project continued to grow the outreach service from Kendal Town Hall; and BarrowFull (formerly *Barra Culture*), Barrow's Creative People and Places Programme, delivered another year of wonderful projects to Barrow's communities.

Achievements and performance

The year 2022-23 seemed to both last forever and be gone in the blink of an eye. We have continued to see women, children, young people and families who are still living with the effects of the pandemic. This is in terms of their mental and physical health and wellbeing, their financial situation, and many other aspects of their family life.

Significantly for the charity in January 2023, our trustee, former Chair and cherished friend passed away. Ann was a big part of the everyday life of the Centre and is greatly missed by all the women, young people, staff, volunteers, and fellow trustees. We have renamed our Drop-in room where Ann spent so much of her time helping others, **The Ann Thomson Room** and were lucky enough to be joined by Ann's family to celebrate an official naming ceremony with cake. Ann remains in our hearts and our thoughts and evidence of all the love and care she brought is visible throughout the Centre.

How we deliver our services continues to be the most aspect of our work and not what we do. Women, young people, and families tell us this is what they value the most and why the support they receive helps them make long term changes and doesn't just offer a short-term fix. We deliver our services **with love, with care, with compassion, and with kindness** and are grateful to all our funders, supporters, partner agencies, volunteers, staff and fellow trustees for supporting us to work in this way.

We have continued to work with an array of wonderful partner organisations and local communities and are proud to be part of such a kind, compassionate, caring, and loving community.

3,307 different people were supported by the Charity in 2022-23. This figure is made up of **3,002** different adult women, **166** different young women/girls, and **139** different boys/young men. These numbers are the equivalent of the Centre supporting **1 in 10 adult women** within the borough (10.7% of 27,961 women aged 16+), **almost 1 in 20 of the young women/girls here** (4.8% of 3,423) and **almost 1 in 25 of the borough's young men/boys** (3.8% of 3,699).

Population figures are from 2020 and available online from Cumbria Observatory

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

A snapshot of some of the project achievements are as follows:

In 2022-23 the Clothes Bank supported women, men, young people and their families and gave out 27,293 items during the year, an average of 2,274 items per month. The scale of this project demonstrates the incredible generosity of the community as all of these items are donated with love by the community to be passed on to others. The generosity of the local community and the kindness this demonstrates to those who benefit cannot be underestimated. It means so much more when items come from those who care. A very big thank you to everyone who has supported the Clothes Bank.

As always, the organisation would not be here without the generous gift of time from the amazing volunteer team. They gave 4,386.5 hours of their time during the year. This takes their running total of time they have gifted (since September 2013) to 68,820.5 hours. At today's minimum wage of £10.42 per hour, this is a gift to the organisation amounting to £717,109.61. They are truly wonderful, and the organisation simply wouldn't be here without them. As well as their time, volunteers bring a warmth and care that money can never buy. A very big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers.

1,453 different women accessed support for domestic/sexual abuse, and 34 women and young people accessed our specialist provision around criminal and sexual exploitation.

Our Domestic Abuse Champions' Network delivered training to 379 people around the county; published monthly newsletters circulating them to more than 700 recipients; and regularly engaged with people on our social media platforms sharing news articles, campaigns, opportunities to take part in research, and survivor stories to give hope to those who are yet to start their own journey of recovery.

The newly formed Domestic Abuse Survivors' Network worked with 21 survivors from around the county listening to their voices and sharing them with a range of partner agencies. As the year progressed an increasing number of opportunities for survivors was built into decision making, multi-agency meetings and forums.

The Light is Always On project supported 34 different women and young people who have experiences of sexual or criminal exploitation. The project also offered ongoing regular support to 6 family members.

27 women accessed support with education, training and employment helping them move closer to the job market.

98 different women were supported via our outreach provision in Kendal based from a number of newly refurbished rooms in Kendal Town Hall. 84% of these women stated they had more purpose and meaning in their life as a result of the support they had been offered.

211 women in the criminal justice system were supported via our Ministry of Justice contract (58 WCM; 76 by sub-contractor G4W; 77 by sub-contractor WOW).

The ican programme supported 1,213 different women whose primary reason for accessing the service was their health and wellbeing. Almost all of these women accessed one to one support enabling them to identify the things in their lives they wanted to change and a plan for how they wanted to do that with support from staff, volunteers and peers. A range of activities, groups and activities provided opportunities to address different challenges and vulnerabilities. The activities available included Knit & Natter, Chinwaggers, Clothes Bank Crafters and Art Group. The courses/groups on offer included Beautiful Women, Beautiful Me, Community Connections, and Talking Minds.

The With Love We Can project expanded in November 2022 offering a warm meal and space to socialise, keep warm (or cool) and charge electronic devices. Between November 2022 and March 2023, the programme offered 2,599 meals to our community.

166 young women and girls reported improvements across many areas of their lives as a result of support from the Pause, for thought programme.

139 young boys/men engaged with the Time, for thought programme, many of whom demonstrated real improvement in their lives and continue to tell us they feel safer and more confident to talk about their worries and fears.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Love Barrow Together & The Barrow Way – we continued to work alongside a variety of statutory and third sector partners and the wider community during the year, to further develop our collaborative way of working.

Over the 12 month period we continued to see an increase in the complexity of mental health vulnerabilities women and young people accessing the service were facing. This is a national trend, and we are working with partners both locally and nationally to ensure we collectively use our limited resources as well as we can.

The cost of our service last year was £890,437. Having worked with 3,307 different people, that makes our **cost per person per annum, £269.26**. Our budgeted cost per person is £330 which demonstrates the continued additional work offered by staff to ensure no-one is left without the care and support they need.

NB total expenditure in 2022-23 exceeds the amount above as our total expenditure includes the BarrowFull Programme spend, a MOJ grant of which two thirds were passed to the other women's centres in Cumbria, kitchen refurbishment costs, and an amount paid to us in error and returned.

BarrowFull (formerly Barra Culture) is Barrow's Arts Council England funded Creative People and Places Programme. Women's Community Matters is the lead partner and accountable body for the programme working alongside 4 other consortium members. WCM employs the programme staff, and the budget is included in our overall accounts presented here. In 2022-23 BarrowFull engaged 7,290 people across a wide variety of artistic and cultural endeavours.

Financial review

The charity's income level for the year has decreased by £368,148 (23%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,239,383. Of this £1,236,882 relates to restricted funds, a decrease of £331,474 (21%) and £2,501 to unrestricted funds, a decrease of £19,175 (94%).

Expenditure has increased by £196,866 (14%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,584,645. All of this relates to restricted funds.

The total funds balance at the end of the year is £893,562, a decrease of £345,262, of which £743,680 relates to restricted funds and £149,882 to unrestricted funds.

The organisation's policy states, in line with sector best practice, that we aim to have 6 month's running costs in reserves. A 10-year plan is in place to help the organisation develop the reserves to this level. At the end of year 7 of this plan we are below our target to achieve this. Donations and fundraising were impacted by the pandemic and the focus continues to be on raising sufficient funds to deliver face to face work. Additional work was carried out by our Treasurer in 2022 to afford reassurance to trustees that the current level of reserves are sufficient to 'close down the business' should the need arise, and to ensure they present no financial risk to the organisation.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

R Teale - Chair	(Appointed 23 November 2022)
A Burns - Vice Chair	
T Irwin - Treasurer	
M A Thomson (Chair until 23 November 2022)	(Deceased 31 January 2023)
E Williams	
M Burrow	
P Dilks	
J Douglas	
P Davey	
L Piechura	
H Khan	
D Khan	

The trustees are people with considerable interest and experience in the objectives of the charity and are able to draw on their experience at a senior level to assist in achieving those objectives. New Trustees are elected at the AGM.

Whilst key decisions are made by the trustees, the day to day operation of the charity is entrusted to the Senior Officer.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

R L Teale

[R L Teale \(Nov 22, 2023 11:25 GMT\)](#)

R Teale - Chair

Trustee

Date: Nov 22, 2023

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Community Matters (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was capable of identifying irregularities, including fraud

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the trustees and other management, and from inspection of the charity's records. We discussed with the trustees and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance during the audit.

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related charities legislation), pensions legislation, taxation legislation and further laws and regulations that could indirectly affect the financial statements, comprising environmental, health and safety and employment legislation and safeguarding. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These procedures did not identify any potentially material actual or suspected non-compliance.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud we considered the opportunities and incentives and pressures that may exist within the charity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included: enquiry of trustees and other management to understand the high level policies and procedures in place to prevent and detect fraud, reading Board minutes and considering performance targets and incentive schemes in place for management. We remained alert to any indications of fraud during the audit.

As a result of these procedures we identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

- income recognition and in particular the risk that income is recognised in the wrong reporting period or that restricted income is incorrectly recognised as unrestricted income.

These risks may arise due to a potential desire to present weaker results due to an incentive to obtain further funding.

As required by auditing standards we also identified and addressed the risk of management override of controls.

We performed the following procedures to address the risks of fraud identified:

- identifying and testing high risk journal entries through vouching the entries to supporting documentation; and
- testing the recognition of income and in particular that it was appropriately recognised or deferred.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Other matters

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

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Melville & Co

Melville & Co (Nov 23, 2023 09:44 GMT)

Melville & Co

Nov 23, 2023
.....

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Melville & Co is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Notes							
Income from:							
Voluntary income - grants and donations	2	2,501	1,223,090	1,225,591	39,175	1,568,356	1,607,531
Charitable activities	3	-	13,792	13,792	-	-	-
Total income		<u>2,501</u>	<u>1,236,882</u>	<u>1,239,383</u>	<u>39,175</u>	<u>1,568,356</u>	<u>1,607,531</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	-	1,584,645	1,584,645	-	1,387,779	1,387,779
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		2,501	(347,763)	(345,262)	39,175	180,577	219,752
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		147,381	1,091,443	1,238,824	108,206	910,866	1,019,072
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		<u>149,882</u>	<u>743,680</u>	<u>893,562</u>	<u>147,381</u>	<u>1,091,443</u>	<u>1,238,824</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	9	58,905		94,883	
Cash at bank and in hand		840,404		1,151,718	
		<u>899,309</u>		<u>1,246,601</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(5,747)</u>		<u>(7,777)</u>	
Net current assets			893,562		1,238,824
Income funds					
Restricted funds	12	743,680		1,091,443	
Unrestricted funds		149,882		147,381	
	11	<u>893,562</u>		<u>1,238,824</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on Nov 22, 2023

R L Teale

[R L Teale \(Nov 22, 2023 11:25 GMT\)](#)

R Teale - Chair
Trustee

T. Irwin

[Tracy Irwin \(Nov 22, 2023 12:36 GMT+1\)](#)

T Irwin - Treasurer
Trustee

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	14		(311,314)		146,969
Net cash used in investing activities			-		-
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(311,314)		146,969
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,151,718		1,004,749
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			840,404		1,151,718

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

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

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Women's Community Matters is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Company Number CE001200; Charity Registration Number 1156492.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from government and other grants are recognised where the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for gross and when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the cost of all activities carried out, with the exception of costs incurred for governance purposes.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Voluntary income - grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Donations and gifts	2,501	83,423	85,924	4,975	37,725	42,700
Grants	-	1,139,667	1,139,667	34,200	1,530,631	1,564,831
	<u>2,501</u>	<u>1,223,090</u>	<u>1,225,591</u>	<u>39,175</u>	<u>1,568,356</u>	<u>1,607,531</u>
Donations and gifts						
Other	2,501	83,423	85,924	4,975	37,725	42,700
	<u>2,501</u>	<u>83,423</u>	<u>85,924</u>	<u>4,975</u>	<u>37,725</u>	<u>42,700</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
BarrowFull	-	433,278	433,278	-	506,368	506,368
Women First	-	125,000	125,000	-	264,983	264,983
ibelieveyou	-	162,923	162,923	-	160,122	160,122
Love Barrow Together	-	56,150	56,150	-	50,875	50,875
Pause, for thought	-	43,447	43,447	-	83,186	83,186
Time, for thought	-	45,697	45,697	-	67,726	67,726
ican	-	51,166	51,166	-	65,015	65,015
Kendal Women's Centres	-	65,223	65,223	-	52,025	52,025
Lloyds Foundation	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
Other	-	156,783	156,783	4,200	280,331	284,531
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,139,667</u>	<u>1,139,667</u>	<u>34,200</u>	<u>1,530,631</u>	<u>1,564,831</u>

3 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Other income	<u>13,792</u>	<u>-</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Charitable activities

	Support costs 2023 £	Support costs 2022 £
Staff costs	775,638	656,754
Share of support costs (see note 5)	804,110	726,249
Share of governance costs (see note 5)	4,897	4,776
	<u>1,584,645</u>	<u>1,387,779</u>

5 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Rent, rates and water	38,410	-	38,410	39,904	39,904
Premises costs	55,230	-	55,230	19,711	19,711
Insurance	3,443	-	3,443	3,391	3,391
Telephone and IT	39,501	-	39,501	65,970	65,970
Postage and stationery	8,915	-	8,915	20,125	20,125
Client expenses	46,949	-	46,949	137,924	137,924
Activities expenses and equipment	400,951	-	400,951	210,465	210,465
Sundries	53,112	-	53,112	39,453	39,453
Professional fees	157,599	-	157,599	189,306	189,306
Accountancy	-	4,897	4,897	-	4,776
	<u>804,110</u>	<u>4,897</u>	<u>809,007</u>	<u>726,249</u>	<u>731,025</u>
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>804,110</u>	<u>4,897</u>	<u>809,007</u>	<u>726,249</u>	<u>731,025</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,442 (2022- £2,372) for audit fees.

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Governance	1	1
Charitable activities	34	32
	<u>35</u>	<u>33</u>

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	698,540	597,735
Social security costs	52,236	39,303
Other pension costs	24,862	19,716
	<u>775,638</u>	<u>656,754</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

9 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	58,905	87,266
Prepayments and accrued income	-	7,617
	<u>58,905</u>	<u>94,883</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	731	-
Accruals and deferred income	5,016	7,777
	<u>5,747</u>	<u>7,777</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	149,882	743,680	893,562	147,381	1,091,443	1,238,824
	<u>149,882</u>	<u>743,680</u>	<u>893,562</u>	<u>147,381</u>	<u>1,091,443</u>	<u>1,238,824</u>

12 Movements in restricted funds

	Fund balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balance at 31 March 2023 £
Love Barrow Together	30,029	56,150	50,399	(1,890)	33,890
BarrowFull	552,754	463,875	649,464	(48,000)	319,165
ESF/NLCF BBO GCTW	2,370	37,105	36,865	(2,610)	-
Pause, for thought	46,338	53,453	60,858	(9,945)	28,988
WCM BarrowFull	10,537	14	30,494	31,278	11,335
Time, for thought	26,181	64,839	57,940	(9,945)	23,135
#ican	37,159	51,402	69,364	(10,410)	8,787
#ibelieveyou	76,815	179,860	179,084	(12,818)	64,773
DA Champion's' Network	32,345	-	16,017	(1,290)	15,038
Building Fund	112,490	32,446	139,874	87,872	92,934
Kendal Women's Centres	1	65,223	58,611	(3,465)	3,148
WCM Sustainability	16,494	13,483	-	(2,600)	27,377
With Love We Can	8,909	15,890	8,032	-	16,767
With Love from Isabel	1,721	-	673	-	1,048
Poverty Truth Commission	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
New kitchen	3,469	1,767	27,136	21,900	-
Project 22	1,013	6,000	-	1	7,014
AOCC	37,813	-	14,353	(15,180)	8,280
Communities Can	46,284	-	9,513	(3,090)	33,681
SE Project	18,180	41,260	38,330	(3,810)	17,300
DA Victims/Survivors Network	5,607	18,806	14,905	(342)	9,166
Women First	21,074	125,000	120,481	(24,209)	1,384
Project 31	3,860	600	2,200	-	2,260
Anything is Possible	-	710	-	8,500	9,210
Project 32	-	3,999	52	(3,947)	-
Project 36	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
	<u>1,091,443</u>	<u>1,236,882</u>	<u>1,584,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>743,680</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13 Related party transactions

T Irwin and L Piechura, trustees of the charity, are directors of TI Accountancy Limited. The charity purchased services of £2,894 (2022 - £2,996) from TI Accountancy Limited in the year.

The spouse of the Senior Officer provided services to the charity of £14,718 (2022 - £9,335) in the year.

14 Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(345,262)	219,752
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	35,978	(75,922)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(2,030)	3,139
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(311,314)	146,969

15 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1156492

Accounts

Charity registration number 1156492

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	M A Thompson - Chair A Burns - Vice Chair T Irwin - Treasurer E Williams M Burrow P Dilks J Douglas P Davey L Piechura H Khan D Khan	 (Appointed 30 November 2021) (Appointed 30 November 2021)
Senior Officer	R Robson	
Charity number	1156492	
Principal address	Nan Tait Centre Abbey Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1LG	
Auditor	Melville & Co Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre Furness Business Park Ironworks Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2PN	

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Statement of cash flows	12
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WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The purpose for which the Charity (the "Objects") is established and to which it is specifically restricted are to promote the following purposes for the benefit of women:-

To promote, protect and improve the safety of vulnerable women.

Advancing education in relation to issues affecting women, including (but not limited to) within the areas of criminal justice, addiction, domestic violence, financial poverty and poverty of opportunity.

Preventing or relieving sickness, disease or suffering in women in the area of benefit (whether emotional, mental or physical).

The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by (for example):-

- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion;
- b) Advancing education and raising awareness and equality and diversity;
- c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
- d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public;
- e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

To further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Trustees see fit from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

A summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the Charity's Objects are as follows:-

- **Working with education, training and employment** – working with Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service and other local organisations, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund, we supported vulnerable women move closer to the job market.
- **Working with domestic violence** – our *#believeyou* project supported women and girls who had or were experiencing domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Champion's Network continued to offer regular updates, information, and newsletters; and started delivering training once again across the county. The Survivor's Network began listening to the voices of survivors across the county.
- **Working with the Criminal Justice System** – in June 2021 we began delivering a contract for the Ministry of Justice to support women in the CJS alongside probation services. We continued to support women who were at risk of becoming involved in the CJS.
- **Working with young people** – one project supported young women and girls aged 11-19; and one project supported vulnerable young men and boys aged 11-19.
- **Working with health & wellbeing** – the majority of this work was face to face, with online and telephone support used by some people. An increase in the frequency and variety of groups and activities supported people's experiences of and recovery from the pandemic.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- **Working with poverty** – the *With Love from Isabel* supported families; one project supported families with school uniform and children's underwear; one project provided meals and household goods to families; one project provided activities to families; one project provided financial support to families with the impact of and recovery from the Covid-19; one project provided support with Christmas, birthdays & funerals; and the Clothes Bank provided 34,044 items to 979 different families.
- **Working for change** – one project continued to develop collaborative working with the other women's centres in Cumbria; one project supported beneficiaries to look at ways we can share our ethos of love, care, compassion and kindness alongside partners to other services; one project developed an outreach service from Kendal Town Hall; and *Barra Culture (known as BarrowFull from June 2022)*, Barrow's Creative People and Places Programme, delivered a variety of wonderful projects to Barrow's communities.

Achievements and performance

The year 2021-22 has been another year of challenge impacted greatly by the continued worldwide pandemic. The charity, like many others, has learned a great deal alongside navigating the difficulties we have faced. Many of the new and more flexible ways of working and ways of offering support have continued and thus improved our offer for the community. What continues to be most important is **how** we deliver our services and not what we do. Women, young people, and families tell us this is what they value the most and why the support they receive helps them make long term changes and doesn't just offer a short-term fix. We deliver our services **with love, with care, with compassion, and with kindness** and are grateful to all our funders, supporters, partner agencies, volunteers, staff and fellow trustees for supporting us to work in this way. We have continued to work with an array of wonderful partner organisations and local communities, and are proud to be part of such a kind, compassionate, caring and loving community.

3,702 different people were supported by the Charity in 2021-22. This figure is made up of **2,855** different adult women, **631** different young women/girls, **205** different boys/young men; and **11** men. These numbers are the equivalent of the Centre supporting **1 in 10 adult women** within the borough (10.2% of 27,961 women aged 16+), **almost 1 in 5 of the young women/girls here** (18.5% of 3,423) and **1 in 20 of the borough's young men/boys** (5.5% of 3,699).

Population figures are from 2020 and available online from Cumbria Observatory

A snapshot of some of the project achievements are as follows:

In 2021-22 the Clothes Bank supported women, men, young people and their families and gave out **34,044 items during the year**, an average of 2,837 items per month. The scale of this project demonstrates the incredible generosity of the community as all of these items are donated with love by the community to be passed on to others.

406 families received financial support from various pots of money (including government/local authority funds) to help alleviate the impact of Covid-19 and support their recovery.

1,284 families received support with Christmas, family birthdays, and attending funerals of close relatives.

As always, the organisation would not be here without the generous gift of time from the amazing volunteer team. They gave **5,141.5 hours** of their time during another very difficult year, so we were pleased they were finally able to celebrate their **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** once many of the pandemic restrictions had ended and it was safe for them to meet together. This takes their running total of time they have gifted (since September 2013) to **64,434 hours**. At today's minimum wage of £9.50 per hour, this is a gift to the organisation amounting to **£612,123**.

1,228 different women accessed support for domestic abuse, **379 women** accessed support for sexual abuse, and **32 women and young people** accessed our specialist provision around criminal and sexual exploitation.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Our Domestic Abuse Champions' Network delivered training to **163 people around the county**; published **14 newsletters** circulating them to more than **600 recipients**; and regularly engaged with people on our social media platforms sharing news articles, campaigns, opportunities to take part in research, and survivor stories to give hope to those who are yet to start their own journey of recovery.

All our groups had lower numbers in 2021-22 by design, as we were still responding to the pandemic and keeping people as safe as we could. **23 women** completed the Butterfly Group, all of whom reported an improvement in their Feelings of Trust & Safety by the end of the course. **28 women** attended a My Relationships & Me course with 96% of them reporting a significant positive improvement in all their relationships at the end of their course. **11 women** have attended *Talking Minds*, a peer support group for women struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. **23 women** completed *Beautiful Women* and **16 women** completed *Beautiful Me*, our 12-week confidence building and personal development programme.

A range of activities were also available during the year with frequency and numbers increasing in line with the lifting of restrictions. *Crafting for Recovery* offered a range of opportunities, including puppet making and upcycling, for women to become familiar with community spaces and others as they came to terms with the impact of the pandemic (83 attendances). An average of 6 women per week attended *Chinwaggers*; we had 38 attendances at the *Clothes Bank Crafters* group; 63 attendances on the *Community Connections* group; and by March 2022 the average number of women attending each drop-in session was 32.

A total of **1,246 different women** accessed support for their health and wellbeing, some of whom attended the groups mentioned above, and most of whom accessed one to one support.

631 young women and girls reported improvements across many areas of their lives as a result of support from the Pause, for thought programme.

205 young boys/men engaged with the Time, for thought programme, many of whom demonstrated real improvement in their lives and continue to tell us they feel safer and more confident to talk about their worries and fears.

The country as a whole continued to recognise the severe impact the pandemic has had on our children's mental health and wellbeing, and we have seen this reflected in the young people who have engaged with our programmes. We continued to see the increase in the severity and complexity of their traumas and struggles that we first recognised in 2020-21. The long-term wellbeing of our young people is of grave concern.

The cost of our service last year was £804,390. Having worked with 3,702 different people, that makes our **cost per person per annum, £217.29**. This is at a cost far less than previous years and demonstrates how hard the staff have worked, and the additional hours they have contributed to ensure no-one was left without the support and care they needed. For comparison, our budgeted cost per person is £330.

NB total expenditure in 2021-22 exceeds the amount above as our total expenditure includes the Barra Culture/BarrowFull Programme spend, a MOJ grant of which two thirds were passed to the other women's centres in Cumbria, and several grants that enabled us to provide financial support to families.

BarrowFull (formerly Barra Culture) is Barrow's Arts Council England funded Creative People and Places Programme. Women's Community Matters is the lead partner and accountable body for the programme working alongside 4 other consortium members. WCM employs the programme staff, and the budget is included in our overall accounts presented here. In 2021-22 *Barra Culture* (renamed BarrowFull) engaged 5,466 people in the borough.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Financial review

The charity's income level for the year has decreased by £116,724 (7%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,607,531. Of this £1,568,356 relates to restricted funds, a decrease of £135,899 (8%) and £39,175 to unrestricted funds, an increase of £19,175 (96%).

Expenditure has increased by £440,933 (47%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,387,779. All of this relates to restricted funds.

The total funds balance at the end of the year is £1,238,824, an increase of £219,752, of which £1,091,443 relates to restricted funds and £147,381 to unrestricted funds.

The organisation's policy states, in line with sector best practice, that we aim to have 6 month's running costs in reserves. A 10-year plan is in place to help the organisation develop the reserves to this level. At the end of year 6 of this plan we are below our target to achieve this. Donations and fundraising have been impacted by the pandemic and the focus has been on raising sufficient funds to deliver face to face work, particularly for those most affected by the pandemic.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

M A Thompson - Chair

A Burns - Vice Chair

T Irwin - Treasurer

E Williams

M Burrow

P Dilks

L Chambers

(Resigned 31 May 2021)

J Douglas

P Davey

L Piechura

H Khan

(Appointed 30 November 2021)

D Khan

(Appointed 30 November 2021)

The trustees are people with considerable interest and experience in the objectives of the charity and are able to draw on their experience at a senior level to assist in achieving those objectives. New Trustees are elected at the AGM.

Whilst key decisions are made by the trustees, the day to day operation of the charity is entrusted to the Senior Officer.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

M A Thompson.

.....

M A Thompson - Chair

Trustee

Dated: ..23/11/2022.....

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Community Matters (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was capable of identifying irregularities, including fraud

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the trustees and other management, and from inspection of the charity's records. We discussed with the trustees and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance during the audit.

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related charities legislation), pensions legislation, taxation legislation and further laws and regulations that could indirectly affect the financial statements, comprising environmental, health and safety and employment legislation and safeguarding. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These procedures did not identify any potentially material actual or suspected non-compliance.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud we considered the opportunities and incentives and pressures that may exist within the charity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included: enquiry of trustees and other management to understand the high level policies and procedures in place to prevent and detect fraud, reading Board minutes and considering performance targets and incentive schemes in place for management. We remained alert to any indications of fraud during the audit.

As a result of these procedures we identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

- income recognition and in particular the risk that income is recognised in the wrong reporting period or that restricted income is incorrectly recognised as unrestricted income.

These risks may arise due to a potential desire to present weaker results due to an incentive to obtain further funding.

As required by auditing standards we also identified and addressed the risk of management override of controls.

We performed the following procedures to address the risks of fraud identified:

- identifying and testing high risk journal entries through vouching the entries to supporting documentation; and
- testing the recognition of income and in particular that it was appropriately recognised or deferred.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

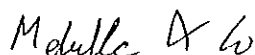
Other matters

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

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Melville & Co

2 December 2022

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Melville & Co is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Income from:</u>							
Voluntary income - grants and donations	2	39,175	1,568,356	1,607,531	20,000	1,704,255	1,724,255
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Charitable activities	3	-	1,387,779	1,387,779	-	946,846	946,846
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		39,175	180,577	219,752	20,000	757,409	777,409
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		108,206	910,866	1,019,072	88,206	153,457	241,663
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		147,381	1,091,443	1,238,824	108,206	910,866	1,019,072

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	7	94,883		18,961	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,151,718		1,004,749	
		<u>1,246,601</u>		<u>1,023,710</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(7,777)		(4,638)	
Net current assets		<u>1,238,824</u>		<u>1,019,072</u>	
Income funds					
Restricted funds	10	1,091,443		910,866	
Unrestricted funds		147,381		108,206	
	9	<u>1,238,824</u>		<u>1,019,072</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 23/11/22.....

M A Thompson

M A Thompson - Chair
Trustee

T A Irwin

T Irwin - Treasurer
Trustee

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	12		146,969		793,251
Net cash used in Investing activities			-		-
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			146,969		793,251
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,004,749		211,498
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,151,718		1,004,749

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

Women's Community Matters is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Company Number CE001200; Charity Registration Number 1156492.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from government and other grants are recognised where the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for gross and when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the cost of all activities carried out, with the exception of costs incurred for governance purposes.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2 Voluntary income - grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £
Donations and gifts	4,975	37,725	42,700	-	40,514	40,514
Grants	34,200	1,530,631	1,564,831	20,000	1,663,741	1,683,741
	<u>39,175</u>	<u>1,568,356</u>	<u>1,607,531</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>1,704,255</u>	<u>1,724,255</u>
 Donations and gifts						
Other	4,975	37,725	42,700	-	40,514	40,514
	<u>4,975</u>	<u>37,725</u>	<u>42,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,514</u>	<u>40,514</u>
 Grants receivable for core activities						
Barra Culture	-	506,368	506,368	-	499,737	499,737
Women First MOJ	-	264,983	264,983	-	-	-
ibelieveyou	-	160,122	160,122	-	53,131	53,131
Project 31	-	95,060	95,060	-	-	-
Pause, for thought	-	83,186	83,186	-	72,193	72,193
Communities Can	-	68,455	68,455	-	335,190	335,190
Time, for thought	-	67,726	67,726	-	49,406	49,406
ican	-	65,015	65,015	-	41,965	41,965
Cumbria Women's Centres	-	52,025	52,025	-	51,037	51,037
Lloyds Foundation	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-
Other	4,200	167,691	171,891	20,000	561,082	581,082
	<u>34,200</u>	<u>1,530,631</u>	<u>1,564,831</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>1,663,741</u>	<u>1,683,741</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3 Charitable activities

	Support costs 2022 £	Support costs 2021 £
Staff costs	656,754	462,948
Share of support costs (see note 4)	726,249	479,260
Share of governance costs (see note 4)	4,776	4,638
	<u>1,387,779</u>	<u>946,846</u>

4 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £
Rent, rates and water	39,904	-	39,904	39,904	-	39,904
Premises costs	19,711	-	19,711	29,772	-	29,772
Insurance	3,391	-	3,391	2,899	-	2,899
Telephone and IT	65,970	-	65,970	24,344	-	24,344
Postage and stationery	20,125	-	20,125	3,999	-	3,999
Client expenses	137,924	-	137,924	231,603	-	231,603
Activities expenses and equipment	210,465	-	210,465	40,719	-	40,719
Sundries	39,453	-	39,453	7,638	-	7,638
Professional fees	189,306	-	189,306	98,382	-	98,382
Accountancy	-	4,776	4,776	-	4,638	4,638
	<u>726,249</u>	<u>4,776</u>	<u>731,025</u>	<u>479,260</u>	<u>4,638</u>	<u>483,898</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>726,249</u>	<u>4,776</u>	<u>731,025</u>	<u>479,260</u>	<u>4,638</u>	<u>483,898</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,372 (2021- £2,256) for audit fees.

5 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Governance	1	2
Charitable activities	32	20
	<u>33</u>	<u>22</u>

Employment costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	597,735	417,636
Social security costs	39,303	31,636
Other pension costs	19,716	13,673
	<u>656,754</u>	<u>462,948</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

7 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	87,266	12,301
Prepayments and accrued income	7,617	6,660
	<u>94,883</u>	<u>18,961</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>7,777</u>	<u>4,638</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:						
Current assets/ (liabilities)	154,997	1,083,827	1,238,824	108,206	910,866	1,019,072
	<u>154,997</u>	<u>1,083,827</u>	<u>1,238,824</u>	<u>108,206</u>	<u>910,866</u>	<u>1,019,072</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10 Movements in restricted funds

	Fundbalance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balance at 31 March 2022 £
Love Barrow Together	102,359	50,875	117,413	(5,792)	30,029
BarrowFull	461,284	460,216	357,663	(11,083)	552,754
ESF/NLCF BBO GCTW	7,729	37,179	35,653	(6,885)	2,370
Pause, for thought	31,445	83,186	59,893	(8,400)	46,338
WCM BarrowFull	9,000	46,152	41,157	(3,458)	10,537
Time, for thought	15,289	67,726	47,954	(8,880)	26,181
#ican	21,644	65,015	40,380	(9,120)	37,159
Petals	7,386	-	5,896	(1,490)	-
#believeyou	15,794	160,122	85,625	(13,476)	76,815
DA Champion's' Network	25,513	15,000	7,178	(990)	32,345
Building Fund	55,627	15,204	39,601	81,260	112,490
Cumbria Women's Centres	-	52,025	50,199	(1,825)	1
Vision	6	2,500	1,753	(753)	-
WCM Sustainability	9,728	7,321	555	-	16,494
With Love We Can	2,705	6,204	-	-	8,909
With Love from Isabel	4,316	1,169	3,764	-	1,721
Children's parties	669	-	669	-	-
New kitchen	3,469	-	-	-	3,469
Project 22	8,020	7,850	12,892	(1,965)	1,013
AOCC	59,857	735	21,024	(1,755)	37,813
Communities Can	57,677	68,455	79,748	(100)	46,284
I will	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
SE Project	6,349	49,750	37,919	-	18,180
DA Victims/Survivors Network	-	11,629	6,022	-	5,607
Women First MOJ	-	264,983	238,621	(5,288)	21,074
Project 31	-	95,060	91,200	-	3,860
	910,866	1,568,356	1,387,779	-	1,091,443

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

11 Related party transactions

T Irwin and L Piechura, trustees of the charity, are a directors of TI Accountancy Limited. The charity purchased services of £2,996 (2021 - £3,018) from TI Accountancy Limited in the year.

The spouse of the Senior Officer provided services to the charity of £9,335 (2021 - £8,046) in the year.

12 Cash generated from operations	2022 £	2021 £
Surplus for the year	219,752	777,409
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(75,922)	13,504
Increase in creditors	3,139	2,338
Cash generated from operations	146,969	793,251

13 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1156492

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1156492

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	M A Thompson - Chair A Burns - Vice Chair T Irwin - Treasurer E Williams M Burrow P Dilks L Chambers J Douglas P Davey L Piechura nee Allonby
Senior Officer	R Robson
Charity number	1156492
Principal address	Nan Tait Centre Abbey Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1LG
Auditor	Melville & Co Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre Furness Business Park Ironworks Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2PN

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

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WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The purpose for which the Charity (the "Objects") is established and to which it is specifically restricted are to promote the following purposes for the benefit of women:-

To promote, protect and improve the safety of vulnerable women.

Advancing education in relation to issues affecting women, including (but not limited to) within the areas of criminal justice, addiction, domestic violence, financial poverty and poverty of opportunity.

Preventing or relieving sickness, disease or suffering in women in the area of benefit (whether emotional, mental or physical).

The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by (for example):-

- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion;
- b) Advancing education and raising awareness and equality and diversity;
- c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
- d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public;
- e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

To further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Trustees see fit from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

A summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the Charity's Objects are as follows:-

- **Working with education, training and employment** – working with Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service and other local organisations, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and ESF, we supported vulnerable women move closer to the job market.
- **Working with domestic violence** – our ibelieveyou project supported women and girls who had or were experiencing domestic abuse; and the Domestic Abuse Champion's Network continued to offer regular updates, information and newsletter to 600+ people throughout the pandemic.
- **Working with the Criminal Justice System** – one project supported women in the CJS alongside probation services; and one project supported women who were at risk of becoming involved in the CJS.
- **Working with young people** – one project supported young women and girls aged 12-19; and one project supported vulnerable boys aged 12-19.
- **Working with health & wellbeing** – a blend of face to face, online, and telephone support was offered throughout the year.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- **Working with poverty** – the *With Love from Isabel* supported families; one project supported families with school uniform and children's underwear; one project provided meals and household goods to families; one project provided activities to families; and the Clothes Bank provided 35,531 items to local families.
- **Working for change** – one project continued to develop collaborative working with the other women's centres in Cumbria; one project supported beneficiaries to look at ways we can share our ethos of love, care, compassion and kindness alongside partners to other services; and *Barra Culture*, Barrow's Creative People and Places Programme, began working with the community.

Achievements and performance

The charity, like many others around the world, had to adapt during 2020-21 like never before. The pandemic was a challenge but ultimately the charity is stronger and more resilient and has developed new and more flexible ways of working. We continue to our services **with love, care, compassion and kindness** and the community and partner agencies tell us that they recognise us for this and value our way of working. The pandemic has brought new partnerships that have improved the support and services available to local people and we are proud of our role in this.

2,251 different people were supported by the Centre in 2020-21. This figure is made up of **1,807** different women & girls, **213** different boys/young men; **29** men; **122** guardians; and **80** children who were siblings of those being supported by the young people's programmes. This is around 3.6% of Barrow's population, although not all of those we work alongside reside in the borough. In contrast to previous years, the majority of these 2,251 different people received one to one support. Historically a proportion of beneficiaries were supported through group work and activity. Due to the restrictions and increase in demand during the pandemic, almost all of these people received one to support.

A snapshot of some of the project achievements are as follows:

In 2020-21 the Clothes Bank supported women, men, young people and their families and gave out 35,531 items. This was an average 2,960 items being given out each month. Many of these were delivered as people were required to stay at home.

168 children received new school uniform (99 families); **165 women and children** (and their families) received weekly cooked family meals as part of our *Delivered with Love* project. Several thousand household items, baby supplies, toiletries, and sanitary products were delivered alongside the weekly meals. A total of **7,553 meals** were delivered.

As always, the volunteer team played a significant role particularly the 17 who gave **6,212.5 hours** of their time during the most difficult year. This takes their running total (since September 2013) to **59,292.5** hours. It is perhaps little surprise that they were awarded the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** in June 2020. They are the most amazing team of people that truly deserve this remarkable recognition. Unfortunately, we have not been able to celebrate, and the Queen's Garden Party was cancelled. We will be having a party in August 2021.

904 different women accessed support for domestic abuse in 2020-21, **600+ different people** across the county received **49 Domestic Abuse Champions' Network Newsletters** throughout the pandemic which contained a range of learning materials, news articles, campaigns and survivor stories. **16 women** completed the Butterfly Group, all of whom reported an improvement in overall relationships at the end of the course.

172 women were supported on the Petals programme, many of whom were adversely affected by the pandemic. All these women reported significant improvements across multiple aspects of their lives as a result of the support.

241 young women and girls reported improvements across many areas of their lives as a result of support from the Pause, for thought programme.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

213 young boys/men engaged with the Time, for thought programme, many of whom demonstrated real improvement in their lives and continue to tell us they feel safer and more confident to talk about their worries and fears.

Across the country it was recognised that young people's mental health suffered as a result of the pandemic. Locally, we saw an increase in the severity and complexity of the traumas and struggles our young people faced. In 2020-21 we began offering an increased level of support to the parents/guardians of young people on our programmes, and also to their siblings. We supported **122 guardians** and **80 siblings**. In addition, we supported **29 men** to support their children and families.

The cost of our service last year was £618,126. Having worked with 2,251 different people, that makes our **cost per person per annum, £274.60**. This is at a cost far less than previous years and demonstrates how hard the staff have worked, and the additional hours they have contributed to ensure no-one was left without the support and care they needed.

NB total expenditure in 2020-21 exceeds the amount above as our total expenditure includes the Barra Culture Programme spend and 3 multi partner grants WCM co-ordinated for organisations across the town.

Financial review

The charity's income level for the year has increased by £1,168,631 (210%) compared to the previous year to a level of £1,724,255. Of this £1,704,255 relates to restricted funds, an increase of £1,189,521 (231%) and £20,000 to unrestricted funds, a decrease of £20,890 (51%).

Expenditure has also increased by £490,548 (108%) compared to the previous year to a level of £946,846. All of this £424,531 relates to restricted funds, an increase of £522,315 (123%).

The total funds balance at the end of the year is £1,019,072, an increase of £777,409, of which £910,866 relates to restricted funds and £108,206 to unrestricted funds.

The organisation's policy states, in line with sector best practice, that we aim to have 6 month's running costs in reserves. A 10-year plan is in place to help the organisation develop the reserves to this level. At the end of year 5 of this plan we are below our target to achieve this. Donations and fundraising during 2020-21 supported our response to the pandemic.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

M A Thompson - Chair

A Burns - Vice Chair

T Irwin - Treasurer

E Williams

M Burrow

P Dilks

L Chambers

J Douglas

J Porter

(Resigned 21 July 2020)

P Davey

L Piechura nee Allonby

The trustees are people with considerable interest and experience in the objectives of the charity and are able to draw on their experience at a senior level to assist in achieving those objectives. New Trustees are elected at the AGM.

Whilst key decisions are made by the trustees, the day to day operation of the charity is entrusted to the Senior Officer.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



M A Thompson - Chair

Trustee

Dated: 10.04.2021

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Community Matters (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

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

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Melville & Co

Melville & Co

10-09-2021

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Melville & Co is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Voluntary income - grants and donations	2	20,000	1,704,255	1,724,255	39,377	514,734	554,111
Charitable activities	3	-	-	-	1,513	-	1,513
Total income		20,000	1,704,255	1,724,255	40,890	514,734	555,624
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	-	946,846	946,846	31,767	424,531	456,298
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		20,000	757,409	777,409	9,123	90,203	99,326
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		88,206	153,457	241,663	79,083	63,254	142,337
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		108,206	910,866	1,019,072	88,206	153,457	241,663

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	8	18,961		32,465	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,004,749		211,498	
		<u>1,023,710</u>		<u>243,963</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(4,638)		(2,300)	
Net current assets		<u>1,019,072</u>		<u>241,663</u>	
Income funds					
Restricted funds		910,866		153,457	
Unrestricted funds		108,206		88,206	
		<u>1,019,072</u>		<u>241,663</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

MA Thompson
 M A Thompson - Chair
 Trustee

T A Irwin
 T Irwin - Treasurer
 Trustee

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	13	793,251		131,816	
Net cash used in investing activities			-		-
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		793,251		131,816	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		211,498		79,682	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		1,004,749		211,498	

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Women's Community Matters is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Company Number CE001200; Charity Registration Number 1156492.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from government and other grants are recognised where the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for gross and when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the cost of all activities carried out, with the exception of costs incurred for governance purposes.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2 Voluntary income - grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £
Donations and gifts	-	40,514	40,514	9,177	32,113	41,290
Grants	20,000	1,663,741	1,683,741	30,200	482,621	512,821
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>1,704,255</u>	<u>1,724,255</u>	<u>39,377</u>	<u>514,734</u>	<u>554,111</u>
Donations and gifts						
Other	-	40,514	40,514	9,177	32,113	41,290
	<u>-</u>	<u>40,514</u>	<u>40,514</u>	<u>9,177</u>	<u>32,113</u>	<u>41,290</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Barra Culture	-	499,737	499,737	-	55,350	55,350
Communities Can	-	335,190	335,190	-	-	-
Love Barrow Together	-	184,059	184,059	-	71,661	71,661
AOCC	-	114,778	114,778	-	-	-
Building Fund	-	103,706	103,706	-	15,598	15,598
Pause, for thought	-	72,193	72,193	-	45,407	45,407
ibelleveyou	-	53,131	53,131	-	24,612	24,612
Cumbria Women's Centres	-	51,037	51,037	-	15,139	15,139
Time, for thought	-	49,406	49,406	-	40,859	40,859
ican	-	41,965	41,965	-	32,090	32,090
Other	20,000	158,539	178,539	30,200	181,905	212,105
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>1,663,741</u>	<u>1,683,741</u>	<u>30,200</u>	<u>482,621</u>	<u>512,821</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income
	2020 £
Charitable rental income	<u>1,513</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4 Charitable activities

	Support costs 2021 £	Support costs 2020 £
Staff costs	462,948	331,096
Share of support costs (see note 5)	479,260	119,713
Share of governance costs (see note 5)	4,638	5,489
	<u>946,846</u>	<u>456,298</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	-	31,767
Restricted funds	<u>946,846</u>	<u>424,531</u>

5 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
Rent, rates and water	39,904	-	39,904	38,342	-	38,342
Premises costs	29,772	-	29,772	5,906	-	5,906
Insurance	2,899	-	2,899	1,990	-	1,990
Light and heat	-	-	-	494	-	494
Telephone and IT	24,344	-	24,344	11,789	-	11,789
Postage and stationery	3,999	-	3,999	8,216	-	8,216
Client expenses	231,603	-	231,603	4,091	-	4,091
Activities expenses and equipment	40,719	-	40,719	18,989	-	18,989
Sundries	7,638	-	7,638	17,546	-	17,546
Professional fees	98,382	-	98,382	12,350	-	12,350
Accountancy	-	4,638	4,638	-	5,006	5,006
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	483	483
	<u>479,260</u>	<u>4,638</u>	<u>483,898</u>	<u>119,713</u>	<u>5,489</u>	<u>125,202</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>479,260</u>	<u>4,638</u>	<u>483,898</u>	<u>119,713</u>	<u>5,489</u>	<u>125,202</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £4,638 (2020- £nil) for audit fees.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Governance	2	2
Charitable activities	20	15
	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>

Employment costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	417,639	299,098
Social security costs	31,636	18,762
Other pension costs	13,673	13,236
	<u>462,948</u>	<u>331,096</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

8 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	12,301	32,465
Prepayments and accrued income	6,660	-
	<u>18,961</u>	<u>32,465</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	-	50
Accruals and deferred income	4,638	2,250
	<u>4,638</u>	<u>2,300</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:						
Current assets/ (liabilities)	108,206	910,866	1,019,072	88,206	153,457	241,663
	<u>108,206</u>	<u>910,866</u>	<u>1,019,072</u>	<u>88,206</u>	<u>153,457</u>	<u>241,663</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11 Movements in restricted funds

	Fund balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Fund balance at 31 March 2021 £
Love Barrow Together	17,624	184,059	99,324	102,359
Barra Culture	55,350	499,737	93,803	461,284
ESF/NLCF BBO GCTW	2,416	44,033	38,720	7,729
Pause, for thought	798	72,193	41,546	31,445
WCM Barra Culture	28,164	31,276	50,440	9,000
Time, for thought	4	49,406	34,121	15,289
#ican	3,921	41,965	24,242	21,644
Petals	-	30,530	23,144	7,386
#ibelieveyou	3,294	53,131	40,631	15,794
DA Champion's' Network	6,799	31,137	12,423	25,513
Monitoring, Evaluating and Learning	2,572	5,071	7,643	-
Building Fund	11,769	103,706	59,848	55,627
Cumbria Women's Centres	1	51,037	51,038	-
New Lives	-	14,736	14,736	-
Vision	-	12,156	12,150	6
Changing the World Together	1,252	2,212	3,464	-
WCM Sustainability	3,805	5,923	-	9,728
With Love We Can	2,705	-	-	2,705
With Love from Isabel	5,885	1,790	3,359	4,316
Children's parties	769	-	100	669
CO-OP Community Find	259	-	259	-
New kitchen	4,570	-	1,101	3,469
Project 22	1,500	8,840	2,320	8,020
AOCC	-	114,778	54,921	59,857
Communities Can	-	335,190	277,513	57,677
I will	-	5,000	-	5,000
SE Project	-	6,349	-	6,349
	<u>153,457</u>	<u>1,704,255</u>	<u>946,846</u>	<u>910,866</u>

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12 Related party transactions

T Irwin and L Piechura, trustees of the charity, are a directors of TI Accountancy Limited. The charity purchased services of £3,018 (2020 - £2,756) from TI Accountancy Limited in the year.

13 Cash generated from operations	2021	2020
	£	£
Surplus for the year	777,409	99,326
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	13,504	33,066
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,338	(576)
Cash generated from operations	793,251	131,816

14 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.